

The Trumpeter

July 2015

NPRC Newsletter

7th Edition

North Pinellas Republican Club

There will be no General Meeting in July

Last Meeting

The most recent meeting was held, as usual, at Leo's Restaurant. President Jim Downes presided, He covered recent events such as the Spring Fling and the book club, and thanked members for their support and participation. He introduced Sue Berfield to present the speaker for the evening. She provided us with background on Mr. Evelio Otero, known as "EJ". He is a retired Air Force colonel who was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico. His father was Cuban and fled Cuba after the communist revolution. EJ attended Iowa State University and earned a double major in political science and journalism. He helped establish the original Central Command in Qatar. He was a major player in United States intelligence operations for years.

Col. Otero spoke about the new U.S./Cuba relations as well as the Cuban-American community in Florida. He, as so many of us, is greatly concerned the United States is willing to provide Cuba recognition and probably significant aid as part of President Obama's legacy. We are willing, he fears, to take these actions with no *quid pro quo* — no human rights improvements and no reduction in terrorist activity. Cuba is a third world country which little reason for offers little reason for trade. If anything, in their desperate search for hard money, they will probably take a chunk of the tourist industry from Florida. Interestingly, Cuba requires all money paid the employees of companies in Cuba be paid to the Castro government which distributes a small amount to the workers.

Concerning the Cuban American community in Florida, he reports that as the original refugees decrease in number, the strongly anti-communist stance of the community is becoming less dominate. He provided an example of changing times. A recent Cuban diplomat with significant human rights violations was feted

in Tampa and given all the honors of an officially recognized diplomat. This indicates how desperate the Tampa government is to woo Castro's Cuba. What does the Tampa area have to gain? According to EJ, very little. A consulate full of spies which will be close to Central Command? Is this to our area's benefit? Club member's asked so many questions President Downes was forced to step i and limit the questions or the meeting might have gone on into the night. It was a very interesting meeting with an outstanding speaker. If you missed it, you missed a compelling presentation by EJ who is, by the way, a recent Republican candidate for congress in Tampa.



Pictures of June's meeting featuring Col. Evelio (EJ) Otero

Editorial by Larry Marlin

Recent decisions by the supreme court have elicited concern and some pretty good jokes. I especially enjoyed a letter to the editor appearing recently in *The Tampa Tribune*. The writer said that the government has shown a significant improvement in efficiency: it used to take 535 members of Congress to consider and pass a law. Now it just takes five black robed supreme court justices.

However, the decisions are serious and will have a major affect on our country. Short of ignoring the decisions, as President Obama has done several times in the past and will probably do with decision limiting EPA's overreach, we will be saddled with bad laws driven primarily by personal opinions.

It reminded me that too often, at both local, state, and national levels, Republicans have chosen squishy party members for appointed positions. The result is people such as Justice Kennedy and former Justice Souter who make decisions based on their liberal inclinations. These Republican appointees are easily swayed by Democrat lawyers. We must keep an eye on all appointees and demand our representatives be vigilant.

Notable Quote: "Be not intimidated...nor suffer yourselves to be wheedled out of your liberties by any pretense of politeness, delicacy or decency." John Adams as quoted in Forbes magazine.

Tim's Corner

OUR CONTEMPT FOR AUTHORITY - by Tim Bryce

- Why do we dislike our leaders?

If you watch television news, you no doubt have recently seen numerous examples of contempt for authority, be it in the streets of Baltimore and Ferguson, our distrust of politicians, as well as in business. We also show contempt in the nonprofit organizations we participate in, be it homeowner associations, clubs, the coaches, umpires and referees in youth sports, even

God and religion. It would be hard for me to think of an institution not undergoing criticism of some kind and it seems we are about to boil over at any second.

I tend to believe a lot of this is due to living in a heterogeneous society mixing different religions, races, and cultures. We are also taught to value individuality over teamwork, and not to respect our elders, particularly teachers. This is the opposite of countries like Japan, which is a homogeneous society embracing cooperation. We can also blame declining moral values and common courtesy for our sense of contempt.

When it comes to government, our country is split along ideological lines, which explains why there are low approval ratings for our Congress and President. I trace our contempt in the modern era back to President Lyndon Johnson and the Viet Nam War, a difficult war that was not supported by the American people. Then there was Richard Nixon and Watergate, an ugly affair where the president made some mistakes and was hounded out of office by the media. Prior to this, we respected the office even if the president didn't belong to our party. Sure, we often disagreed with a president's position or policy, but there weren't the visceral attacks like we have today.

Our elected officials are so berated they are now showing signs of contempt for American voters, thereby taking them for granted and only approaching them at election time for money and votes.

Today, black rioters show little respect for the rule of law, claiming instead to be victims of slavery and inequality. Whites scratch their heads in bewilderment. According to today's standards, a person is presumed guilty until proven innocent in the court of public opinion.

In business, workers look at managers with disdain, thanks in large part to micromanagement. Likewise, nonprofits suffer from leaders on an ego trip as opposed to solving real problems.

When you consider our contempt for authority, we are basically saying to our superiors, "You haven't got your act together." It is difficult to respect an authority figure if they cannot demonstrate leadership of any kind, be it your boss or government officials. People have become so frustrated, they seek to undermine them at any chance they get, such as what we witnessed in Baltimore.

Some institutions do not permit contempt, as in the military, where the chain-of-command must be maintained otherwise anarchy and mutiny will ensue, and lives will be lost. Interestingly, in the military, they are taught the duties and responsibilities of the next officer in charge. This is done in the event a superior officer is killed or incapacitated, thereby the next person in line must be put in charge without losing momentum. This is also done in other parts of the government, but not so much in nonprofits or business. As an aside, the earmark of a good leader is to prepare his subordinates to succeed him in the event of a calamity. Failure to do so is an expression of contempt for your subordinates.

Whether you are the boss, a government official, a member of the clergy, or whatever authority figure you can pronounce, it is simply a matter of leadership. In this country, it is our Achilles' heel. I believe the American people are desperate for true leadership and are frustrated one cannot be found in our government, not just now but in the foreseeable future. Maybe such people no longer exist, which would be a tragedy.

It is not easy being the leader, particularly in an institution where the person is not properly trained. Quite often people rise above their level of competency, aka "The Peter Principle," making them ineffective as a leader. Companies who do not properly train their managers in leadership are simply inviting contempt to flourish among their workers.

There are several facets to leadership, but in a nutshell, a leader must be fair, determined, know how to motivate their subordinates, work with people, and above all else, demonstrate they know what they are doing. Unfortunately, we see little of this in today's world which explains why contempt is so prevalent.

Think about it, is this why we no longer trust our government? Or why we loathe the boss, or all the other people in a position of authority, even youth sports?

Isn't it a matter of people failing to demonstrate they know what they are doing? Anytime you see a budget running in the red, if we cannot live within our means, people feeling ignored or in need, or the affairs of our enterprises are not being properly managed, these are all indicators of ineffective leaders, and an expression of contempt.

However, let's hold those people in contempt who truly deserve it, not just because of misinformation and lies.

It's not a matter of answering a single question right or wrong, but a leader's overall body of work in the aggregate.

Upcoming Events:

Book Club Meeting. July 9th at 6:30 PM, Ken and Adele Crompton's home, 2940 Country Woods Lane, Palm Harbor. Phone 727-637-2743 if you get lost. The book to be discussed is *Sleepwalkers* by Christopher Clark or alternative selection *The Guns of August* by Barbara Tuchman. Ron Walker will lead the discussion.

General Meeting. There will be no meeting in July. The next meeting will be on August 20th and will be previewed in the next Newsletter. No July Meeting. The next general meeting at Leo's Restaurant.

Chili Cook off Notes. The Chili Cook off is scheduled for October. This is a major fundraising event for the club. If you would like to help, please contact Sue Berfield at at berfields@verizon.net or 727-443-7316.

July
No Meeting

August 20
Leo's Restaurant

September 17
Leo's Restaurant

North Pinellas Republican Club Officers and Directors:

President - Jim Downes - [813-714-4530](tel:813-714-4530) - j1downes@verizon.net

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PINELLAS COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday July 13, 2015 (2nd Monday of Every Month)7:00 PM
Banquet Masters 13355 49th St N, Clearwater, FL 3376