



November 2015 NPRC Newsletter 10th Edition
North Pinellas Republican Club

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Next Meeting The meeting will be November 19th @ 6:30 PM at Leo's Restaurant US 19 North, Palm Harbor 33286. This month's meeting will feature a talk by Frank Wuco who is CEO of Red Mind Solutions, a high tech firm. Lieutenant Commander Wuco is a 28 year veteran of the Navy and an expert on the Middle East. He has appeared on numerous news and opinion shows including Fox News. His topic will be relevant to many aspects of today international affairs. Come and enjoy conversation, exchange of ideas, and education.

Last month's meeting was a change from previous meetings. The presenter, G. David Howard is a renowned comedian in the Tampa Bay area who is also a Republican. He combined the two and provided a laugh filled routine. Tim Bryce introduced Mr. Howard with an interesting fact: Mr. Howard has a spot in the Guinness book of World Records

for sixteen hours of telling jokes without repeating one. After listening to his routine for thirty minutes I can well believe Tim's statement. Mr. Howard's comedy presentation was followed a little over a week later by the World famous ...

Chili Cook-Off. Rachelle Warmonth and her staff labored long and hard to make this event a success, and they were certainly successful. Kim and I arrived 15 minutes after the start and it was difficult to find a parking space. It was great to see so many members local politicians attend the event along with all of us members. There was plenty of food including, of course, chili and salsa. The competition for the prize of best Chili and best Salsa are epic. Much thanks to Bob and Lauralee Gualtieri for allowing us to use their lovely home for the event.



Picture of G. David Howard courtesy of Ron Walker



Photo by Hickman



Photo by Hickman



October's book club meeting. We had a very active discussion on "New World Coming" by Nathan Miller. Thank you, Ron, for leading this discussion. While the focus of the book was on the 1920's and the making of modern America, it was clear to see the cyclical nature of the boom and bust periods of the 1920's, the 30's and, actually, up to today. The

discussion touched on the Presidency of Harding and all of the scandals and corruption from his administration after WW1. Then the group discussed the comparison of Mrs. Harding to Hillary Clinton since both husbands were famous for their affairs. Next, the boom period started and accelerated with Coolidge. This period saw a huge culture shift with the influence of a host of writers such as F. Scott Fitzgerald. It included the ascendancy of the automobile and the end of the horse and buggy, as well as the changeover from coal to electricity and the rise (yes, I see the pun) of the airplane. The 1920's saw the influence of Margaret Sanger whose ideas of abortion and eugenics are still discussed today. The Scopes trial was an American legal case in 1925 in which a substitute high school teacher, John Scopes, was accused of violating Tennessee's Butler Act, which made it unlawful to teach human evolution in any state-funded school. The trial was deliberately staged in order to attract publicity to the small town of Dayton, Tennessee, where it was held. Debate continues to this day about Evolution, Creationism and Intelligent Design. Today we are see in a similar number of world changing trends, inventions and cultural battles. Under Hoover there were high tariffs whereas the push under Clinton was the passage of NAFTA, or free trade and reduction of corporate taxes under Reagan. Obama, of course, is leading us back to bigger government, higher taxes and more regulations. Thank you Helena Nunn for your minutes of the meeting — ed.

For the next meeting, participants should read either John Galbraith's "The Great Crash" or Amity Shlaes "The Forgotten Man". The discussion will be led by Jim Downes and will be held at Bill and Joanne Hickman's home. Everyone, please RSVP the Hickmans at 727-374-8610. This will allow them to leave your name at the gate and ease entry. Club president Pam MacAloon will send specific instructions on how to get to the Hickman's house. If you are not a regular participant, please call the Hickman's for directions. **THIS MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11 RATHER THAN THE USUAL THURSDAY.**

Tim's Corner

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHERIFF - by Tim Bryce
- and all other Law Enforcement Officers (LEO). How can we show our appreciation?

Law enforcement officers (LEO) have had a rough year. Between their normal duties and responsibilities, which vary greatly and can be dangerous, they have had to deal with riots, such as in Baltimore and Ferguson, threats by the Black Panthers, Nation of Islam and Black Lives Matter, and officer executions. I like to believe the American public overall supports our men and women in uniform; only the "crazies" want to see them destroyed so anarchy can flourish. Perhaps it is time for the "Silent Majority" to reaffirm their support for the police and sheriff departments around the country. One might ask, "What can I do to show my support?" Plenty. Here are a few ideas:

First, why not buy an officer a cup of coffee or breakfast? The only danger here is that it might be construed you are trying to bribe the officers for small favors. To overcome this problem, buy a gift card for coffee or breakfast and anonymously donate it to your local police station. If you give cards to the sheriff or police chief, I'm confident they would distribute them equitably.

Another movement catching on, particularly in our northern and western states, is the "Coffee with a Cop" program whereby a civic organization or a radio station arranges for citizens to meet with law enforcement officers at a coffee house. This provides an opportunity for residents to ask questions and share concerns, and in the process, build relationships. These "Coffee with a Cop" events are catching on rapidly. Buying a cup of coffee may seem like a small gesture, but on a cold morning it is very much appreciated, as is the support from the public.

Second, for many years, our local Masonic Lodge has held a program for "Deputy of the Year." Working through the sheriff's office, a deputy is selected by the department to receive recognition. The Lodge then hosts a dinner where the deputy and his/her spouse are recognized for their service and given a small token of appreciation. The deputy then makes a

few comments thanking the group for the award and recognizes the support of his family and unit. It is a very touching and appreciated award.

Third, Christmas is approaching and I know of schools who have invited the family and friends of law enforcement personnel to a special holiday program featuring choral units. Both children and adults particularly enjoy such personal entertainment.

I'm sure there are dozens of other ideas you may have to thank law enforcement for their efforts. It doesn't have to be a lavish affair either.

Just a genuine expression of gratitude, such as young students writing "thank you" cards to local police, or invite LEO to meet and talk with students. A simple hand shake will also do.

Maybe the best way to show your appreciation is to simply obey the law. In this day and age where the nation has been exhibiting a general lack of respect for law and order, it would be refreshing to see people abide by the law. In the process, it would make the job of a law enforcement officer a lot easier.

No, LEOs are certainly not perfect, but we must remember, they are human and are on our side. They are the ones we call when we are in trouble or need protection. It's a dangerous job, which is why an occasional "thank you" works wonders in cementing relations between the community and law enforcement.

Keep the Faith!

MORALE IN THE MILITARY - by Tim Bryce
- Lowest since the Carter Administration.

I happened to have lunch recently with a friend in the military, a captain in the Air Force. In the course of our conversation, he complained about the state of morale in the military. A few days later I happened to talk with another military friend, a captain in the Army, who also spoke of the

growing morale problems in his branch of the military. The similarities of their separate remarks surprised me.

As captains, I look upon them as "middle management" in the military, charged with instructing their men under orders from their superiors.

Remarkably, both painted a dismal picture, not at all what the general public perceives as the state of our military. What I heard was a dog-eat-dog world where there is little teamwork or cooperation, a cover-your-ass mentality, and people bailing out of the service as opposed to making it a career. They described a very bureaucratic world with an inordinate amount of paperwork impeding progress. There is also a lack of leadership, and you are discouraged from taking charge. In other words, there is no longer a culture of "improvise, adapt and overcome" as characterized by the Marines. Instead, it appears the military is suffering with a bad case of "Theory X," a top-down autocratic form of management best characterized by the expression "micromanagement."

I was also told the millennials coming into the service are "soft" as they feel entitled to promotions without having to earn it. This is alarming to people just ten years their senior.

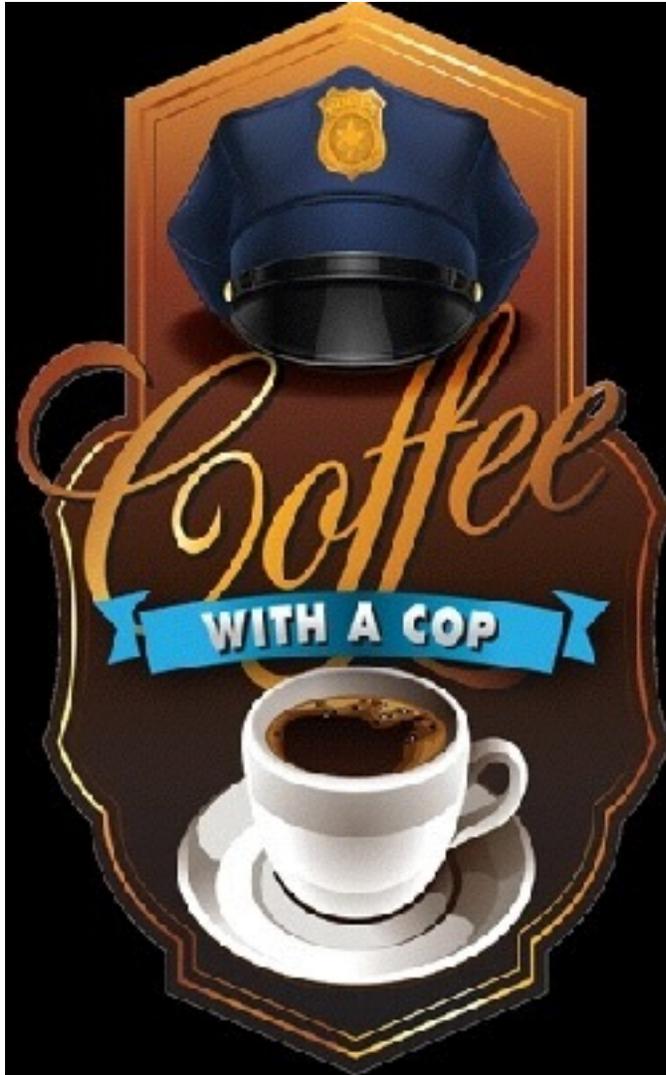
After speaking with the captains, I was reminded of the military culture under President Jimmy Carter, which was perhaps one of our lowest points in recent memory. This all changed for the better when President Ronald Reagan became Commander-in-Chief.

Following these discussions, I decided to do a little investigation to see if these were legitimate grievances. It didn't take me long to validate their stories. This past December, the "Military Times" ran a story titled, "America's Military: A force adrift" which described a worsening morale crisis. The Times surveyed 2,300 active-duty troops and from this, "found morale indicators on the decline in nearly every aspect of military life. Troops report significantly lower overall job satisfaction, diminished respect for their superiors, and a declining interest in re-enlistment now compared to just five years ago. Today's service members say they feel underpaid, under-equipped and under-appreciated, the survey data showed."

The survey goes on to report, "active-duty troops reported a stunning drop in how they rated their overall quality of life: Just 56 percent call it good or excellent, down from 91 percent in 2009" (at the start of President Obama's administration).

All of this follows years of deep cuts in the military and tens of thousands of troops pink slipped. Unfortunately, most soldiers do not see the military getting better any time soon, hence the growing disenchantment. From this perspective, the parallel to the Carter years is uncanny. What is most troubling is the American public has no idea of the problem and prefer to think everything is rosie in the military. The truth is, it is not. It should make us all wonder what kind of leadership we'll have in our next armed conflict, and if anyone will follow.

Keep the Faith!





Upcoming Events

Book Club will be held on Wednesday (note change from usual Thursday) November 11 @ 6:30. Participants have choice of two books, “The Forgotten Man” by Amity Shlaes or “The Great Crash” by John Galbraith. The meeting will be at Bill and Joanne Hickman’s home. Please call 727-942-1979 to RSVP.

General Meeting will be on November 19 @ 6:30 (conversation) and 7:00 (meeting). The speaker will be Frank Wuco. The venue will be Leo’s Restaurant, 33286 US 19 North, Palm Harbor 33286.

Director’s Meeting will be held Thursday 12/3 @ 6:30. It will be at Jim Downes’s house as usual. This meeting combines November and December’s meetings.

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