



June 2016 North Pinellas Republican Club 6th Edition

Club dues are due. Dues are \$20 for an individual and \$30 for a couple. Please make check payable to NPRC and send to Ron Walker, Treasurer, NPRC 2524 Marina Key Lane, Clearwater, FL 33763. We are trying to get a new directory out by the end of June (honestly), so it is important you let us know you are a member.

Items will appear in this order:

Senator Latvala's Article

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Article By Senator Jack Latvala. This month's guest article is from Senator Jack Latvala. Jack founded the North Pinellas Republican Club in 1980. He is also a state Senator who has served two separate times in Tallahassee. He served as 19th district Senator 1994 - 2002, the 16th 2010 -2012, and the 20th (2012 - present) Jack was voted the Best Politician by readers of *Tampa Bay Magazine* for 2016. Hope you enjoy his spot-on article.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Trumpeter! I look forward to this chance for myself and other local elected officials to reach out to their constituents and have a platform to talk about the issues of the day. In March, Republican Floridians resoundingly made the decision to support Mr. Donald Trump in his candidacy for president. In regards to this, I would like to expand on a message that you may have seen me post to my Facebook page:

"I think it's time for Republican leaders to start acknowledging the valid issues driving Donald Trump's supporters. The simple fact is that many Republican voters are worse off now than they were a decade ago and the ones who are better off don't see the same opportunities available for their children or grandchildren..."

I went on to talk about the type of winners and leaders Americans deserve and should expect from our President and how I hope that comes

to fruition, but the message that I would like to focus on today is how elected officials and voters can respond to the outcry of our nation's public. There is a well-known saying that "all politics is local," and I would like to delve into that and how it relates to what voters are currently seeking in a candidate.

People feel like they are being lied to and/or tricked by many establishment candidates, and it seems to me that Republicans in particular feel as if they are being abused by the other party. After losing the last two presidential elections, we have turned to a fresh face who is not practiced in the political jargon voters so often feel is overwhelming their media. Donald Trump's supporters are supporting someone who is not concerned with being politically correct, will answer questions, and will be up-front with their stance on issues and policies.

So how do we respond as local elected officials to this public outcry? By being real and listening to the public, by losing the elevator speech and instead directly answering questions, and, most importantly, by taking care of our citizens and making sure their liberties are not at stake. I see these characteristics in my colleagues throughout the state, and I trust this is why they have been elected by you, the voter, as their representatives.

Here in Pinellas County and throughout our state, I truly believe that we are represented by some of the best minds in the country. I implore voters to become active in politics and research the decisions the people you put in office have made for you. The White House may be 820 miles from my district office, but the impact of the decisions made in Washington, D.C. can be felt right here. Our nation was founded on the belief that we should not be taxed without having a vote. We have the opportunity to make our vote count, so make sure you know how your vote will affect you.



May General Meeting. The meeting, as usual, was held at Leo's Restaurant on US 19 North. Several candidates were present seeking names on petitions so they could get on the ballot for various offices. It is a positive sign to see so many potential Republican candidates getting ready to run. President Jim Downes started the meeting at about 7 PM. He lauded those who worked on and attended the Kentucky Derby Party. Several suggested we have a party for each event of the triple crown, but those who worked their hearts out quickly said *no mas*. See party review below. Ron Walker reported the treasury had a bit over \$5,000. He will have better figures after he meets with Kim Berfield and gets the Derby party results. Sue Berfield introduced the guest speaker, Mike Mikurak. Mike is running for county commission at large seat 3. During Mike's talk, he stressed that Pinellas has many strengths when attracting business. These include the right-to-work laws, the tax rate, and the fact that Florida is paradise. He suggests that educating people in needed fields could make the area unbeatable. Mike has a long history of high-level business experience, and stressed his ability to put his business experience to use in making the county government more productive. The meeting ended at about 8 PM.

June General Meeting. The next meeting will be, as usual, at Leo's Restaurant 33286 U.S. 19 N., Palm Harbor. Sue has contacted Chris Sprowls, Chris Latvala, and Jack Latvala. We believe one, or maybe all three might attend. No matter what, we will have a great time listening to them. We will probably get updates from the last legislative session. Both Chrises are state representatives. Jack is the state senator from our area. Come early and catch up on the latest political talk with other members of the club.



Book Club Meeting. The book club met at Joanne and Bill Hickman's home. The meeting officially started at 6:30, but several people arrived early and sat around discussing the book and politics in general. The food layout was to die for and probably contributed to the length of the meeting. I had to leave at 8:20 PM, and the meeting was going strong. The book discussed was Donald Trump's *The Art of the Deal*. Although the book was 30 years old, it provided significant insight into why The Donald handled the campaign as he has. It is also a look into the way he negotiates his deals. John Halpin did a great job as the discussion leader. More than any book club meeting I've been to, everyone entered the discussion. Maybe because the writer is on everyone's mind, but also because of the enthusiasm for the meeting. It was a lively discussion not only about Trump, but also many recent political activities.

Our next book club meeting will be Thursday, June 9th, 6:30 p.m., at Jim Downes's house. We will be discussing "When Character Was King", by Peggy Noonan. The book is a bio of Ronald Reagan. There are several copies of the book available in our Pinellas county library system. Please reserve your copy now.

Jim Downes's house is located at: 5730 Stag Thicket Lane
Palm Harbor...

Please RSVP to me at pmaloo@aol.com so we will have plenty of refreshments for all to enjoy.

Again it is NOT a requirement for you to have read the book in order to attend the discussion.

Bring a friend!!

Sincerely,
Pam McAloon, Chairman

The following pictures are provided by Bill and Joanne Hickman. They told me to choose the ones I liked best. I liked them all. Sorry if I overdid it, but I could not resist putting in all the pictures. (ed)







Kentucky Derby Party. The party took place on Saturday, May 7th at Carlos and Patricia Thomas's. By the way, Carlos is running for Tax Collector. Can't think of a better person for the job. The crowd was large and enthusiastic throughout the evening. The food was great as were the specialty drinks. Although the event gave ample time for chatting with friends, there were many events going on: the race, of course; the hat contest; and the awards ceremony. Roses were everywhere. Kim Berfield headed up party arrangements, and did a stellar job. She coordinated the several activities including race winners and the ladies' hat parade as well as the food and decorations. We are certainly lucky to have her as a member. She asked the following information be put in the newsletter:

Committee: Shelia Waller, Sue Berfield, Rachelle Warmouth, Helena (who graciously donated the evening's prizes).

The contest winners were:

Hat contest - Mrs. Hickman

Dessert contest - Mrs. Eggers

Many thanks to Carlos & Patty Thomas for opening their beautiful home.

Tim's Corner

HILLARY: 0 X 0 = 0



Unaccomplished & Shady

Whenever the topic of voting for Hillary Clinton comes up, her supporters will not tout her presidential policies or plans, probably because they do not know what they are. Instead, you will hear such things as:

"It's her turn" - And here I always thought it was about qualifications. Silly me.

"She has experience" - It is true she has held titles such as First Lady, Senator from New York, and Secretary of State, but what did she accomplish during this time? I must have missed the memo.

"She is a woman" - I didn't realize gender was a prerequisite.

"She'll carry Obama's Legacy Forward" - along with a \$19 trillion debt, a weak military, open borders, the Unaffordable Care Act, and much more. Not a convincing argument if you ask me. She should be running on her own platform, not that of an unpopular president.

Aside from proposed legislation, which may or may not come to fruition, there should only be two items to consider in formulating a voting decision, performance and credibility.

In terms of performance, during the White House years, her big initiative was the Clinton health care plan which failed to pass Congress, representing a major defeat. As Senator, she served on a variety of committees. Following 9/11 she voted to support military action in both Afghanistan and Iraq. Domestically, she voted against President Bush's tax cut packages, which passed in spite of her objections. And during her second term she voted against the 2007 troop surge in Iraq.

It was under her watch as Secretary of State, in 2011, when the "Arab Spring" began which ignited political tensions and upset the balance of power in the Middle East. It also led to the Libyan Civil War where America was accused of "leading from behind" in deposing the Gaddafi dictatorship. Her career in the State department essentially came to an end following the 2012 9/11 attack on the American diplomatic mission in Benghazi where four Americans were killed, including Ambassador Chris Stevens.

So, in terms of accomplishments, she bats a zero (0).

In terms of credibility, there have been numerous polls showing she is not trustworthy. An ABC/Washington Post Poll revealed less than four in ten Democrats think of Mrs. Clinton as honest and trustworthy, and this is her own party.

As Secretary of State, her credibility is marred by Benghazi and the ensuing e-mail server scandal, a case which is still under investigation. For our younger readers though, they should be reminded of the other scandals over the years, such as the Whitewater controversy, Madison Guaranty, Travelgate, Filegate, and the apparent suicide of White House counsel Vince Foster. All of this, coupled with the president's Monica Lewinsky scandal, which led to Bill Clinton's impeachment, and left a dark cloud over the Clinton administration. Somehow though, the Clintons always found a way to wiggle out of problems, which is why she can best be described as "shady." This might attract the "Felon Criminal" vote the Democrats are eager to use, but not law-abiding citizens.

Click for a VIDEO recapping her scandals.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kypl1MYuKDY>

So, in terms of credibility, she bats a zero (0).

I haven't heard any imaginative ideas emanating from her camp, other than to maintain President Obama's agenda. Surely "women's rights" is not all she has. So, what does she bring to the table other than a hunger for power? The reality is Hillary is nothing but a symbol, not an effective manager. True, Bill will be there to help her in making decisions, but she won't be able to stand on her own two feet.

In the final analysis, Mrs. Clinton lacks both accomplishments and credibility, and from where I come from:

$0 \times 0 = 0$

Keep the Faith!

Upcoming Events

Book Club Meeting. June 9th at 6:30 PM. Venue will be the Downes's home at 5730 Stag Thicket Lane. Jim Downes will lead a discussion of the book "When Character was King" by Peggy Noonan.

General Meeting. June 16th at 7:00 PM (6:30 for Dinner). Venue is Leo's Restaurant 33286 U.S. Hwy 19 North, Palm Harbor. Meeting will feature Senator Jack Latvala, Florida Representative Chris Latvala and Representative Chris Sprowls. Not sure all will be able to make it, but the meeting will probably feature a legislative update from all or one. Come early at 6:30 PM for dinner and individual discussions.

North Pinellas Republican Club Officers and Directors:

President - Jim Downes - 813-714-4530 - j1downes@verizon.net

VP Programs - Sue Berfield - berfields@verizon.net

VP Membership - Ron Ogden - rogden2@outlook.com

Secretary - Helena Nunn - hunn47@yahoo.com

Treasurer - Ron Walker - ronwalker209@gmail.com

Directors:

Debbie Buschman - dbuschmanpr31@gmail.com

Heather Johnson - heather.j.johnson@hotmail.com

Tim Bryce -Communications - 727/786-4567 (O/C) - timb001@phmainstreet.com

Rachelle Warmouth - Past President - rwarmou1@tampabay.rr.com

Committee Chairs:

Pam McAloon - Chairman, Book Club - pmaloo@aol.com

Larry Marlin - Editor, Trumpeter Newsletter - lpmarlin@yahoo.com -
727-784-7795