



July 2016 North Pinellas Republican Club 7th Edition

Save the date: The Chili Cook-off will be on October 1st!!!!

If you pay your 2017 dues by November 1, 2016, you will be a member for all of 2017 as well as November and December 2016. Please make check (\$20 single/\$30 couple) payable to NPRC and send to Ron Walker, Treasurer, NPRC 2524 Marina Key Lane, Clearwater, FL 33763. Ron Ogden plans to have a new directory available for the July meeting Yes!

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Congressman Gus Bilirakis' Article



Congressman Gus Bilirakis started serving as a congressman in 2007. Previously he served in the Florida legislature. He is hardworking, thoughtful, and a good friend of the North Pinellas Republican club.

Here is Congressman Bilirakis' article for the Trumpeter:

I greatly appreciate everything the North Pinellas Republican Club does for our community. You all are true patriots and I'm proud to represent you here in Congress.

As Republicans and patriots, we have great pride and respect for our military and our Veterans. As Vice Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, our Veterans are my top priority. Our community is home to

so many of our nation's heroes, and I am honored to serve them and all of you who help support them.

Last month, I held my 10th Annual Veterans' Fair and gained some very valuable insight from our local Veterans and community members. I get most of my ideas from events like these.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has been a mess for a long time now. As I am sure you have heard, our Veterans face significant delays and issues when it comes to accessing the care they have earned and deserve. One of my top priorities in Congress is to ensure that these heroes are supported and cared for. To do that, we must ensure that the problems within our VA are addressed.

Through the Veterans' Affairs Committee, we have held hearings, discussed potential legislation, and hosted roundtables on ways to identify and resolve barriers impacting Veterans.

I have introduced multiple bills for this Congress to address on the issues my constituents, our local heroes, discuss with me. The goal is to improve the lives of our Veterans by providing them with the services and tools they need to further their education, transition into the workplace, and more.

Congress enacted the Veterans Access, Choice & Accountability Act to better care for our Veterans. Through the tireless work of our Committee, we were able to come together in a bipartisan manner, pass the bill, and get it signed into law. This law was designed to improve the access, quality and delivery of health care for all Veterans - of all eras - both now and in the future.

Last year, my COVER Act passed the House. This bill aims to address the issue of mental health and encourage alternative care for Veterans. The COVER Act provides a pathway forward that will eventually allow Veterans to have a range of options for mental health treatments such as outdoor sports therapy, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, accelerated resolution therapy, and service dog therapy.

While traditional forms of therapies may work for some, tailoring personalized therapies and finding the balance of traditional and

complementary alternative treatments could be the difference in saving lives.

I also recently introduced legislation that will help Veterans' by promoting safety, patient advocacy, and better access to quality care.

My PROMISE Act will increase safety for opioid therapy and pain management, demand more transparency at the VA, encourage more outreach and awareness of the Patient Advocacy Program for Veterans, and help provide alternative forms of care to address our heroes' health needs.

These important bills will help make a difference in the lives of our Veterans, our true American heroes. Supporting and respecting our Veterans is truly something we all can agree on. I am grateful for your work to support our Veterans, our military, and our great nation.

Please, do not hesitate to reach out to my office for any questions, help, or more information on the work I'm doing for FL12 and the country. God bless all of you and God Bless America!.



State Representative Latvala address North Pinellas Republican Club

June Meeting. As usual, the meeting was held on the third Thursday of the month at Leo's Restaurant on US 19 N. The meeting began with

President Downes recognizing the elected officials present as well as candidates. He also announced the Chili Cook-off will be on October 1st. I know we'll be hearing more about that from Past President Rachelle Warmouth who has kindly agreed to once again handle the arrangements for this major event. Jim then introduced Sue Berfield who introduced the speakers. The first speaker was Senator Jack Latvala. She noted the senator was club founder back in the very early '80s. His resume could fill a library, but Sue boiled it down to the major elements of his political career. Senator Latvala spoke on a wide range of topics from the recent legislative session (he felt it was more productive and organized than before) to national political events (he believes we must support Trump. Clinton simply is too awful to imagine). He noted Mr. Trump has numerous strong qualifications including avoiding political correctness.

Sue then introduced State Representative Chris Latvala. Chris, Jack's son, is a freshman representative so he obviously does not have as extensive a resume as his father, but it includes introducing several bills adopted by the legislature. He was especially proud of a bill he sponsored concerning high school course requirements. Two students helped develop it and then worked with Chris to get it introduced. It was approved by the legislature and is now law.

Ron Ogden announced a really neat program he is working on for the club. He is arranging a conceal carry course for any members who would like to attend. If you pass the course (you will) you can then apply at the court house to purchase your concealed carry permit. It costs about \$112.00 for the permit. If you chose not to apply for the concealed carry permit, the course will be well worth the price just to get a chance to learn gun laws and gun safety, shoot a gun (they have rentals if you wish), and see a truly magnificent facility called Reload Gun Range in Tarpon Springs.

Next Meeting. The next meeting will feature Barb Haselden. Barb is the woman who, with strong support from a dedicated cadre of volunteers, defeated both newspapers, most county politicians, several well funded PACs, and the transportation bureaucracy. Barb was head of "No Tax for Tracks" which resisted the light rail project Greenlight Pinellas. How did a business owner and regular citizen pull this off? Come to the July meeting and hear her story. She also explain why it was so important we defeat

this political cartel. We need to learn how a dedicated individual such as Barb can win in a landslide through dogged determination and the truth. We are seeing a similar movement on the national scene. Some politicians are getting it, but many (mostly Democrats) are not. If you feel overwhelmed by political correctness, this is the meeting you need to attend.

Book Club Notes. On June 9th, the NPRC book club meeting was held at Mary and Jim Downes's house . Many beverages and foods provided fuel for a lively meeting. The book was Peggy Noonan's classic concerning Ronald Reagan and is appropriately titled "When Character was King". The discussion was wide ranging with participants recalling personal events during President Reagan's time in office. It was a fun meeting with wide participation.

Our next book club event will be held June 14th, 6:30 p.m., at Adele and Ken Crompton's house (2206 Gulf View Blvd., Dunedin). We will be discussing George W. Bush's book titled "Decision Points". The book gives us a bird's eye view of the life of our 43rd President. There are plenty of copies available through our library system. Come join us. Bring a friend!!

Sincerely,
Pam McAloon , Chairman

Tim's Corner

THE 2016 PARTY CONVENTIONS - by Tim Bryce

- A windfall for the press.

The party conventions are just around the corner. The Republicans will meet July 18-21 in Cleveland, followed by the Democrats in Philadelphia on July 25-28, and they both will be "*huuuge!*"

Many years ago, a political convention was a big event covered by all the television networks, radio, and printed press. Speeches were given, platforms adopted, and a candidate selected as the party nominee. In 1968, the Democratic convention in Chicago was perhaps the most

controversial of all time when the Yippies rioted. Since then, the American public has become bored with the conventions and viewership declined rapidly. They were all but forgotten until this year when Republican Donald Trump and Senator Bernie Sanders, running as a Democrat, caused heightened interest in party politics by creating controversy.

Interest in both conventions will reach new heights this year, likely going well beyond 1968, representing an advertising bonanza for the media. In a way, it will be reminiscent of the 1975 World Series between the Reds and the Red Sox, often touted as "the series that saved baseball." Likewise, Cleveland and Philadelphia will likely save the concept of the political convention.

According to Nielson, 30.3 million people watched the final night of the 2012 GOP convention in Tampa. This was down from 39.9 million people in 2008. As for the Democrats, 35.7 million viewers watched the 2012 convention, down 2.7 million viewers from 2008. In all likelihood, the 2016 conventions will far surpass the 2012 editions and set new records, maybe as high as 50 million people each.

Higher convention viewership will also mean higher voter turnout in November. Traditionally, Republicans have lower viewership than the Democrats. However, if the 2016 GOP convention garners more viewers than the Democrats, look for a major Republican turnout and victory in the Fall.

All of this has the television networks salivating as they know this will generate millions of dollars for their coffers. Such a cash infusion will make them stronger and more obnoxious than ever.

Perhaps the biggest difference between the two conventions is simply: there will be more police OUTSIDE of the Cleveland convention, and more police INSIDE the Philadelphia convention. Whereas there will likely be anti-Trump protestors in Cleveland to disrupt the convention, the Democrats will be fighting among themselves over the platforms of Hillary Clinton versus Bernie Sanders.

Stay tuned, it will be great political theater. Keep the Faith!

Upcoming Events:

Book Club. July 14th, 6:30 PM @ Ken and Adele's home 2940 Country Woods Lane, Palm Harbor. The book to be discussed is "Decision Points" by George W. Bush.

General Meeting. July 21st, 7:00 (Pre-meeting conversation at 6:30) @ Leo's Restaurant, 33286 Highway 19 North, Palm Harbor 33286. The speaker will be Barb Haselden, the woman who defeated the Pinellas political cartel.

Gun Course. No date set yet. Ron Ogden is arranging for a certified trainer to teach the required course for concealed carry. It will cover the laws and allow you to practice shooting a gun at the range. Great for anyone, gun owner or not. You are not required to apply for a concealed carry, but this course will fulfill the requirements you need to apply. More information coming.

Chili Cook-off. October 1st. The venue is not yet set. This an announcement so that you can save the date. More information will be out shortly.

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