



October 2016 North Pinellas Republican Club 9th Edition

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. New Directory available, and, we are already working on a new one for 2017. Join and get your name in it.*

Items will appear in this order:

Rep. Sprowls' comments

September General Meeting

October General Meeting

Book Club Notes

Amendments and Referendum on Ballot

Suggested Ballot Votes

Tim Bryce's Corner

Upcoming Events

Officers and Directors

Representative Sprowls' Comments. Representative Sprowls represents a large number of our members. He attended USF and Stetson University, receiving his law degree in 2009. He worked as Assistant State Attorney ultimately prosecutor in Gang Unit and Veterans Treatment Court. He was elected to the Florida House in 2014 and must be reelected in 2016!



Conservative ideas for healthcare are better suited to lower costs, provide options, access and care for those who need it.

There are those on the left that like to say the Affordable Care Act and eventually a single-payer system is the only way to provide access to care. This narrative is wrong. There are many conservative ideas that maintain competition, freedom and individual choice in healthcare. These ideas put consumers in the driver's seat—not government. These ideas are designed to protect the most vulnerable in our community. By growing prosperity, it affords us the ability to care for those who truly cannot care for themselves. For a nation who is over 19 trillion dollars in debt, that

prosperity is in grave danger. I'm proud that we've begun that fight in Tallahassee, and we will push for more reforms like you saw last session.

Two bills allowed for a competitive marketplace in healthcare. The first, gave consumers information and transparency in pricing. Patients have a right to compare the best quality, value and price in healthcare just like any market. Patients should also be protected from surprise medical bills by receiving costs up front—our bill has now made that so. When you are armed with information, you are able to make the best choice for you and your family.

The second bill brings healthcare rights to you. Imagine walking into a pharmacy and being able to sit down at a computer and have a conversation with a doctor, have your vitals taken, and have a prescription filled in one trip--this is the essence of TeleHealth. This will save time, lower the overall cost of care and provide access to underserved populations. Telehealth also provides convenience for disabled veterans and the elderly. There are plenty of conservative ideas for healthcare that will give access, lower costs and cut wait times.

This is what happens when you give freedom and choice, rather than regulation and mandates. As conservatives, our healthcare solutions are better and more sustainable and have the ability to truly protect our most vulnerable. I look forward to continuing this fight in Tallahassee. My goal—and the goal of the Florida House of Representative-- is to give freedom, options and competition in not only healthcare, but across a multitude of sectors. When we break down barriers and allow smart, consumer-driven policies to take hold---everyone benefits. Creating a robust, competitive marketplace is in the best interest of all Floridians.

All my Best,

Chris

September General Meeting. As usual, the club met at Leo's Restaurant 33286 U.S. Hwy 19 N. The room opened at about 6:25 P.M. for those who wanted to catch up with others, talk politics, and order a meal. At 7:00 PM, Ron Ogden, standing in for President Jim Downes, called the meeting to order. Ron started the meeting by singing. Yes, we have candidate for "The Voice" at our club. Ron is quite good. That got the audience's attention. Ron Walker provided the the invocation. After the Pledge, Ron Ogden called Jackie Brownhill to the front to introduce the guests as well

as the office holders. About 50 people attended the meeting. Ron mentioned Jackie had been a citizen for 26 years and a very active Republican, filling many leadership positions. Rachele Walmouth spoke about the next social event. **The Chili Cook-off will be on October 1st, 5:00 PM at Lauralee Westine and Sheriff Gualtieri's home, 165 Annwood Road, Palm Harbor.**



Barb Haselden, Speaker

Next Larry Marlin introduced Barb Haselden, speaker for the evening. Barb is a very influential citizen activist. With no pay, she keeps a close eye on our government. She made an eye-opening presentation concerning the sewage dumped into the bay. She was especially critical of St. Petersburg's Democrat Mayor, Rick Krisman. It seems the mayor wants to blame his city's failures on climate change. Barb also pointed out how a small number of people have gained power in county government by making sure they are selected to powerful unelected boards. She named 19 very powerful boards and pointed out that some people are on three to four of the boards, while others are on as many as 17. She said the county is about equally divided between Republican and Democrat registered voters, yet the Democrats have been taking over the government. One culprit she mentions is the nonpartisan races. Without the (R) or (D) after the names many people are misled. It was a powerful, fact-filled presentation. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

October Meeting. The meeting will take place at the usual place and time: Leo's Restaurant, 33286 US 19 North, Palm Harbor The formal meeting will start at 7 PM. Conversation and ordering dinner starts at 6:30. The Speaker will be County Clerk Ken Burke. He will speak on the Charter Amendments up for a vote in the November election. These are important votes and many voters (including me) do not know what they are really voting for or against. The amendments are often written in legalese or

seem to be written to confuse the voter. This is an important meeting. Ken Burke is a solid Republican who will provide insight into the amendments and answer our questions. Please attend this meeting and be a really informed voter. **See sample ballot below.**

Amendment and Referendum Items Appearing on the 2016 Ballot.

This may be a bit of overkill, since you will read them on your ballot, but I thought it might be a good idea to present them as it may raise some questions you want to ask our speaker.

NO. 1 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE X, SECTION 29

Rights of Electricity Consumers Regarding Solar Energy Choice

This amendment establishes a right under Florida's constitution for consumers to own or lease solar equipment installed on their property to generate electricity for their own use. State and local governments shall retain their abilities to protect consumer rights and public health, safety and welfare, and to ensure that consumers who do not choose to install solar are not required to subsidize the costs of backup power and electric grid access to those who do.

The amendment is not expected to result in an increase or decrease in any revenues or costs to state and local government.

YES NO

NO. 2 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE X, SECTION 29

Use of Marijuana for Debilitating Medical Conditions

Allows medical use of marijuana for individuals with debilitating medical conditions as determined by a licensed Florida physician. Allows caregivers to assist patients' medical use of marijuana. The Department of Health shall register and regulate centers that produce and distribute marijuana for medical purposes and shall issue identification cards to patients and caregivers. Applies only to Florida law. Does not immunize violations of federal law or any non-medical use, possession or production of marijuana. Increased costs from this amendment to state and local governments cannot be determined. There will be additional regulatory costs and enforcement activities associated with the production, sale, use and possession of medical marijuana. Fees may offset some of the regulatory costs. Sales tax will likely apply to most purchases, resulting in a substantial increase in state and local government revenues that cannot be

determined precisely. The impact on property tax revenues cannot be determined.

YES NO

NO. 3 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE VII, SECTION 6
ARTICLE XII

Tax Exemption for Totally and Permanently Disabled First Responders
Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize a first responder, who is totally and permanently disabled as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty, to receive relief from ad valorem taxes assessed on homestead property, if authorized by general law. If approved by voters, the amendment takes effect January 1, 2017.

YES NO

NO. 5 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE VII, SECTION 6
ARTICLE XII

Homestead Tax Exemption for Certain Senior, Low-Income, Long-Term Residents; Determination of Just Value
Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to revise the homestead tax exemption that may be granted by counties or municipalities for property with just value less than \$250,000 owned by certain senior, low-income, long-term residents to specify that just value is determined in the first tax year the owner applies and is eligible for the exemption. The amendment takes effect January 1, 2017, and applies retroactively to exemptions granted before January 1, 2017.

YES NO

NO. 1

COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENT

Lowering Signature Percentage and Expanding Time Period for Petition Drive to Propose County Charter Amendments

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to lower the number of signed petitions necessary to propose an amendment to the Pinellas County Charter from ten (10) percent of the registered voters in the county to eight (8) percent, and to expand the length of time during which petitions can be gathered from 180 days to 240 days?

YES NO

NO. 2

COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENT

Financial Impact Statement for Proposed Charter Amendments

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to provide that for each proposed charter amendment placed on the ballot, a brief financial impact statement prepared by the county auditor shall be placed after the ballot summary for the amendment, estimating the increase or decrease in revenues or costs to the county resulting from approval of the proposed charter amendment?

YES NO

NO. 3

COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENT

Creation of County Redistricting Board

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to create a County Redistricting Board, appointed by the County Commission every ten years after the Census, to provide advisory recommendations to the County Commission on redrawing county commission districts, and providing parameters for such recommendations, including not favoring political parties or incumbents, not denying racial or language minorities equal opportunity for political participation, and where feasible, consideration of unincorporated areas and municipal boundaries?

YES NO

NO. 4

COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENT

Selection, Termination, and Annual Review of County Attorney by County Commissioners and Constitutional Officers

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to provide that the County Attorney shall be selected by, serve at the pleasure of, and be subject to annual review by, a committee consisting of the seven county commissioners and the five county constitutional officers (sheriff, tax collector, property appraiser, supervisor of elections, clerk of the circuit court and comptroller) rather than the board of county commissioners alone?

YES NO

NO. 5

COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENT

Charter Review Commission Members Residence Requirements

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to specify that each of the seven county commissioners shall nominate to the Charter Review Commission a member who resides in the commissioner's district?

YES NO

NO. 6

COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENT

Pinellas Charter Cleanup Amendment

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to remove certain provisions found unconstitutional by court ruling, remove certain transitional provisions that have since occurred, revise certain references to be consistent with Florida Statutes, and remove references to certain organizations that no longer exist?

YES NO

REFERENDUM QUESTION

Approval of the Continuation of One-Half Mill Ad Valorem Tax for School District Operating Expenses

Shall the Pinellas County School District ad valorem millage of one-half mill per year be continued beginning July 1, 2017 and ending four fiscal years later on June 30, 2021, for necessary operating expenses including funds to recruit and retain teachers, preserve reading programs and music and art classes; and provide up-to-date textbooks and technology, with oversight of these expenditures by an independent citizens financial oversight committee?

YES NO

Individual Elections. These are my opinions after researching the candidates (*Larry - editor*). Some are obvious (those who are Republican). The judges' vote is retain (Yes) or don't retain (No).

President

Trump

Senator

Rubio

Congressman

Bilirakis

State Senator

Latvala

State Representative **Sprows, Latvala** One of these names will appear on your ballot

Sheriff **Gualtieri**
Property Appraiser **Twitty**
County Commissioner **Mikurak**

Supreme Court Retention vote:

Charles Canady	vote to retain (Yes)
Jorge Labarga	vote to not retain (No)
Rickey Palston	vote to retain (Yes)

Court of Appeals Retention vote:

John Badalcementi	vote to retain (Yes)
Marva Crenshaw	vote to retain (Yes)
Nelly Khouzam	no recommendation
Matt Lucas	vote to retain (Yes)
Robert Morris	no recommendation
Stevan Travis Northcutt	vote to not retain (No)
Samuel Salerio	vote to retain (Yes)
Craig C. Villanti	vote to retain (Yes)
Douglas Alan Wallace	vote to retain (Yes)

School Board **Both seem equally bad. I'm not voting in this one.**
God help our Children.

Book Club. The book club met at Luba Silverman's house. First Helena would like to thank Luba on behalf of the entire book club for hosting and providing such delicious refreshments. Second, thanks to Ron Walker for leading the group, and for all who participated in the discussion of *Night* and other issues derived from the book and suggested readings. *Night* by Eli Wasserman provided a dramatic read for those interested in how religious persecution can become the systemic destruction of a race. Using this basis, the participants delved into other examples of genocide, especially the Soviets' killing of millions of individuals. In November 1918, Felix Dzerzhinsky, founder of the Cheka, published an article in the journal *Red Terror* in which he instructed:

"We are not waging war against individual persons. We are exterminating the bourgeoisie as a class. During the investigation, do not look for evidence that

the accused acted in deed or word against Soviet power. The first questions that you ought to put are: To what class does he belong? What is his origin? What is his education or profession? And it is these questions that ought to determine the fate of the accused.”

One wonders if this is a pretty good explanation for the Holocaust as well as the Pol Pot killing fields in Cambodia and the Chinese “Great Leap Forward”. Also discussed was the involvement of the Press in covering up atrocities of socialist governments. The most notorious example is Walter Duranty’s work for the *New York Times* concerning the Soviet Union, but you see it repeated in the liberal media’s coverage of the previously-mentioned communist dictatorships as well as Venezuela, Cuba, Argentina, North Korea, Iran and others.

The next NPRC book club meeting will be held at Sheila Waller's home, located at 468 Lakeview Dr., #19, Palm Harbor, FL 34683. She said that because she has very limited parking directly on Lakeview Dr. by her place, to park instead along the road running perpendicular to Lakeview Dr. It is named Woodcutter Lane. The next book club meeting will be held Oct. 13th at 6:30 pm. The book chosen to be discussed is *If You Can Keep It: The Forgotten Promise of American Liberty* by Eric Metaxas.

Contributors to Chili Cook-off Auction. Please patronize the businesses who contributed:

Donors to Silent Auction

BJ’s Restaurant

Back to Business

Congressman Gus Bilirakis (donating dinner with him)

Rep. Jamie Grant (donating lunch with him)

Tiffany’s Restaurant

Peluso Chiropractic Center

Palm Harbor Chick-fil-A

Lemongrass Spa

Dunedin Country Club

Wilna Varley

Tim's Corner.

Why I'm Voting for Donald Trump - by Tim Bryce
THREE REASONS



I have been following and reporting on Donald Trump since he threw his hat in the presidential ring in June of last year. Prior to this, I had little

interest in his activities which included his television series. I also followed the campaigns of the other sixteen Republican candidates who, one by one, dropped out of the race. I listened to the GOP debates, heard many speeches, and finally settled on Donald Trump as the candidate I am willing to support. Now he faces Hillary Clinton, the Democratic candidate, in the November contest, but I will not dwell on her foibles as I believe it is irrelevant for the purpose of this article.

When it comes to presidential elections, we typically vote for the lesser of two evils. I did this in 2008 and 2012. This year, it is different for me. Now, for the first time in a long time, I am an active proponent of a candidate, and would like to express my reasons.

First, as Mr. Trump has articulated, I believe we have many problems in this country, including the economy, immigration, security, jobs, trade, energy, morality, the military, a bureaucratic government inhibiting business, and much more. We are also moving dangerously closer to socialism and away from capitalism, thereby creating a dependency state we cannot afford. As such, it is my opinion our quality of life is deteriorating, our Gross Domestic Product is declining, the Federal Debt is out of control, and our nation is stagnating due to a lack of responsible leadership.

Second, Mr. Trump is neither a community organizer or professional politician. Instead, he is a businessman who understands competition and possesses such skills as negotiation, risk management, managing by objectives, finance, labor relations, human resources, recruiting, project management, and other related skills. This means he understands the necessity of organization, discipline, ethics, accountability, and productivity. This is something we have not seen in the White House since General Dwight Eisenhower in the 1950's when America flourished. True, Mr. Trump possesses a "Type A" personality which tends to rub some people the wrong way, but it is well suited for establishing an entrepreneurial spirit and a resourceful "can do" mentality.

Third, it is time to take back America. As **Rasmussen** has reported for several years now, the American people believe the nation is headed in the wrong direction. In Mark Leibovich's 2013 book, "***This Town***," he makes it clear our nation's capitol is about money and power and little else. While the rest of the country suffered through the recession, Washington's

unemployment rate was one of the lowest in the country and the city became a money-making engine for its residents, which is unusual for a town without any major industry (aside from politics and press).

In his book, Leibovich reveals the true culture of DC, where an incestuous relationship exists between Government, Journalists, and Lobbyists (which I refer to as, *"The Three Pillars"*). All scratch each other's backs in order to climb their respective totem polls and grab as much money as possible along the way. He paints a picture of unadulterated collusion and makes it clear Washington exists not to solve the problems of the country but to line the pockets of the residents there.

It is now apparent, Americans no longer trust its politicians, lobbyists, and particularly the media. According to the **Associated Press**, only 6% of the American people have a lot of confidence in the press, and **Gallup** reports only 13% approve of the job Congress is doing.

Enter Donald Trump, an outsider willing to take on the establishment, which explains why they are viciously trying to undermine him. However, Trump has the populace on his side who realize it is time for some massive changes to our country. One indicator of the people's attitude is BREXIT, whereby the people of the United Kingdom voted recently to withdraw from the European Union. This means they are rejecting globalization and returning to nationalism, a trend which is also happening in the United States.

This is all reminiscent of the 1976 movie, *"Network,"* where the anchorman, played by Peter Finch, goes on camera to encourage people to say, *"I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!"* Such an attitude, should make "The Three Pillars" nervous in terms of losing control. Consequently, Mr. Trump is vilified from all three sides. No, he is neither a racist or a xenophobic; these are just clever subterfuges to cloud his message. He has simply raised the ire of the establishment who fears for its life. Make no mistake, the animosity against Trump was created by the establishment he hopes to correct.

Finally, I am disturbed by the thought of what this country would be like if the progressives command the Supreme Court and the other federal benches. This would certainly mean the country would be embracing socialism. I am more confident of Mr. Trump's ability to select nominees

than any other presidential candidate. The selection of justices is critical and will impact our country for years to come.

So, before you let the establishment make the decision for you. Consider, these Trump position papers and speeches:

America First Economic Plan

America First Energy Plan

Child Care Plan

Economic Vision

Health Care

Immigration Reform

Immigration Speech

Law and Order

Pay for the Wall

Radical Islam

Strengthening the American Military

Veterans Administration reforms

Frankly, I am not interested in what the press or the politicians say about Mr. Trump, they have lost all credibility with me. I am voting for Donald Trump because I believe it is time we elect a person who possesses the common sense needed to turn this country around and head it in the right direction. No, we do not need another community organizer or professional politician. We need an outsider who is not afraid to roll up his sleeves and tackle the true problems of the country. To my way of thinking, Donald J. Trump is the most qualified person to get the job done. Period.

Keep the Faith!

*Mr. Bryce is a correspondent for **News Talk Florida** and located in the Tampa Bay area of Florida.*

For Tim's articles on Donald Trump, see <http://timbryce.com/trump/>

*Like the article? **TELL A FRIEND.***

Upcoming Events:

Chili Cook-off. *October 1st, 5:30 PM @ Lauralee Westine and Sheriff Bob Gualtieri's home, 165 Annwood Road, Palm Harbor. \$30 Per Person (\$25 with Pot of Chili or Salsa and Chips). \$50 per couple (\$45 with Pot of Chili or Salsa and Chips). Silent and Traditional Auction.*

Book Club. *October 13, 6:30 PM @ Shiela Waller's home @ 468 Lakeview Dr., #19, Palm Harbor, FL 34683. She said that because she has very limited parking directly on Lakeview Dr. by her place, to park instead along the road running perpendicular to Lakeview Dr. called Woodcutter Lane. Book discussed will be "If You Can Keep It: The Forgotten Promise of American Liberty" by Eric Metaxas.*

General Meeting. *October 20th, 6:30 PM Conversation and Dinner, 7 PM meeting @ Leo's Restaurant 33286 U.S. Hwy. 19 N. The speaker is County Clerk Ken Burke who will discuss Amendments on the General Election Ballot.*

North Pinellas Republican Club Officers and Directors:

President - Jim Downes - 813-714-4530 - j1downes108@gmail.com

VP Programs - Sue Berfield - berfields@verizon.net

VP Membership - Ron Ogden - rogden2@outlook.com

Secretary - Helena Nunn - [hnunn47@yahoo.com](mailto: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 - Immediate 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