

KICKIN' NEWS

LOW DEMOCRATIC CLUB

APRIL 2013

Page 1

EDITOR'S LETTER

Hope everyone had a Happy Easter ! Spring is on the way and it's not too early to think about the Governor's race in Virginia. The GOP candidate is so far to the right, he makes the present Republican Governor look like a blue dog Democrat. When called - let's step up and get to work for Terry McAuliffe.

My plan for a new section in "Kickin' News" - DEMS SPEAK, an Op.Ed. Column for members received one response, a poem submitted by our Secretary, Pat Drake. Come on - folks, I sure would like some contributions from members. Only a few lines.

Eg. "A GOP Senator stated that limiting 30-60 round gun clips was like gay marriage. Still haven't remotely figured out this madness, but I now know for sure that crazy has no limits in the GOP."

See? Just a few lines.

I'm asking one more time!

BLUE POWER !!!!!

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

By: Shirley Pfile

Wow ! April has arrived and the club is rolling along. A big "thank-you" to all who helped make our February Sunday program a success. We had about 80 people attend and received lots of good feed back.

If you missed Tracy Dippert at the March meeting, she is planning to attend our Flag Day picnic in June.

If anyone has suggestions for future programs, call me - 972-3812. Keep up the good work and get the word out on Tracy's candidacy.

"I see faith as more than just a comfort to the weary or a hedge against death. It is an active, palpable agent in the world. It is a source of hope."

President Barak Obama

GUN VIOLENCE AND SAFETY PROGRAM

By: Chris Carr

This February special program was attended by over 80 people, who came to hear Lori Haas speak on gun safety and violence. After her daughter was shot at Virginia Tech, she took up this worthy cause. We received information accompanied by moving and thoughtful words.

Many in the audience had questions and comments. Ms. Haas handled them all with knowledge and aplomb. She is no idealist, but her reality, experience, and dedication were an inspiration.

Ms. Haas has also been on the Chris Matthews Show and many others promoting her cause.

The refreshments, provided by the Special Events Committee were delicious and well presented. You can be very proud of our club for scheduling this very special Sunday afternoon event.

KICKIN' NEWS

LOW DEMOCRATIC CLUB

APRIL 2012

PAGE 2

VIRGINIA - Data AND PRIORITIES

By: Chris Carr

The JLRAC is the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission. This is an annual publication that shows how Virginia ranks relative to other states in fiscal and other areas. Data is from the U.S. Census Bureau and other data collection sources.

In the category of "per capita income", Virginia's average is \$46,469.00 and ranks 8th among all states. In unemployment, Virginia's average is 6.2% and ranks 42nd. In percent of population in poverty, Virginia's average is 11.5% and ranks 43rd.

In per cent of state expenditures for public assistance, Virginia's average is 18.4% and ranks 39th. In state education per pupil funding, Virginia's average is \$10,574 and ranks 21st among all states.

Statistics are dry, but stick with me!

In per capita state and local

taxes, Virginia's average is \$3,855 and ranks 24th. In per capita local taxes the average is \$1840.00 and the rank is 14th. The infant mortality rate averages 7.26% and the rank among all states is 17th.

There are many more categories in this report, I have just pulled some of the most pertinent. Also, they are accompanied by an up or down arrow to show how this data has increased or decreased in Virginia.

Personal income, state and local revenue are up. Poverty has also increased. State and local school funding is down and infant mortality is also up.

This collected information is designed to be a reference tool for legislators.

Looking at our schools, our food bank and the state of affairs in Virginia, I truly believe this data is important and thought provoking.

We live in such a beautiful state that has so much to offer. However, it appears as Virginians we need to make our legislators do better. Taxes are quite low here as compared to other states. Income is high, yet poverty and school funding are woefully behind. It appears priorities are a bit skewed.

One outstanding example in this data is income ranks 8th among all states - quite impressive, yet per pupil funding for education ranks 21st among all states. 21st is not at all impressive.

So, when one wonders about our schools or aid to the poor, there it is in numbers. If this information contains any category of interest to you, it might be time to call a legislator.

"If you would have a lovely garden, you should have a lovely life."

Shaker saying

KICKIN' NEWS

LOW DEMOCRATIC CLUB

APRIL 2013

PAGE 3

LOOK! A BOOK

BY: Diane Sibley

I know we are all campaigned out, but a good friend recommended "Game Change" in such an enthusiastic way, I had to read it and Chris was right. It's fantastic! While the election is over, the struggle of Democrats everywhere continues. Reading "Game Change" is a painless way of staying enthusiastic, learning more about the game of politics and frequently lifting our spirits with a good belly laugh, usually at the expense of the Republican Party.

Authors John Heilmann and Mark Halperin, both noted political authors and analysts, explain their writing strategies in the authors' note at the front. Due to their use of direct quotes and non attributed quotes, it is important that you read their introductory note, so you will be comfortable with their style.

The book follows the Obama/McCain campaign, and all its strategies and

personalities, bringing the months before the election alive. From John Edwards' crash and burn to McCain's stubbornness, personalities played a major role in the ups and downs of the polls. If you're a Bill Clinton lover, NO, not that kind of a lover, your fervor may be slightly dampened by his twin obsessions to hog the limelight and at the same time overplay his support for Hillary in the primaries. And all the while "No Drama, Obama" lets the horror and the hoopla swirl around him, punctuated with the occasional "F" word when things really get frustrating or when he feels betrayed.

While we're talking personalities, we cannot omit Joe Biden. For those of us who love him, we're smart enough not to place him on a pedestal. He's not perfect, but he's ours and we love him. He makes the occasional gaffe, but you come out of this respecting him as a pretty good guy and a savvy, but fair politician.

As you read along, you wonder how the system will survive with the growing influence of the media, and then as you learn more about John Edwards and Sarah Palin, you're thanking the media powers that be, which informed you of their unfitness for office. The chapter on Sarah Palin was hysterical, even though the authors really tried to be fair. While Palin's immaturity was hers to own, the responsibility for her selection lay directly with McCain. How could a leader who loves his country as much as McCain put a person of Palin's background in such a position?

Whenever I read about politics, I am always amazed at both the incredible heights of intelligence reached by some in the game and the abysmal depths in which others wallow. And that goes for both parties sometimes. But being a Democrat, hope springs eternal. Let's hope the future Changes to the Game continue Leaning Forward.

KICKIN' NEWS

Publisher LOW DEMOCRATIC CLUB

APRIL 2013

PAGE 4

ONIONS & ORCHIDS

BY: Chris Carr

ONIONS TO: The GOP for taking 14 long months to pass the Violence Against Women Act.

ORCHIDS TO: Democrats, the President and women for pressing and embarrassing them politically into doing it. (Oh yeah, the GOP is changing!)

ONIONS TO: Jeb Bush for defending his brother's record on all fronts as President.

ORCHIDS TO: Voters who did not forget a huge deficit, a near Depression and two very unnecessary wars, and "Wanted - Dead or Alive."

Can we all say, "WHO GOT OSAMA?"

ONIONS TO: Rep. Don Young of Alaska for saying "my father had a ranch and we used to hire 50 to 60 "wetbacks"...

ORCHIDS TO: Anyone under 40 who ever heard of that derogatory term. Say what? Last time I heard it was in "Flower Drum Song" a movie made in the 1960's. And I bet anyone under 40 never heard of the movie either!

(The GOP still yearns for yesteryear, alas!)

ONIONS TO: Paul Ryan for stating part of his grand budget plan would be to repeal Obama Care.

ORCHIDS TO: Chris Wallace of Fox News, of all ironies, for looking him straight in the face and saying, "That's not gonna happen!"

(INCREDULOUS is the adjective of choice here.)

ONIONS TO: the GOP for doing an autopsy on their party in a fact finding tour into why they lost so many votes and the election. The plan was good, but they never found the answer.

ORCHIDS TO: Democrats, who knew all along it was their message people weren't buying. (Probably should have sent flowers)

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

BY: Norma Lanier

Our club is now volunteering at the Food Pantry once a month (on the Wednesday before the last Saturday of the month.) We began on January, 2013, using 5 to 7 volunteers each month. The Lion's Club sponsors the Food Pantry under Betty Beck's direction. Donalda Lovelace is our contact person from the Lion's Club.

The list of families in need has grown recently, causing the additional day to have the Pantry open to them. It is a worthy project for the LOW Democratic Club. Currently we have a list of nineteen volunteers and we could use more people.

The Pantry is located on Route 20, in two trailers behind the Locust Grove Center. We arrive at the Food Pantry at 4:45 p.m., and it closes at 7:00 p.m.

(continued) pg. 5

KICKIN' NEWS

LOW DEMOCRATIC CLUB

APRIL 2013

PAGE 5

COMMUNITY PROJECTS (CONTINUED)

Our duties are not difficult as we help people collect the food they need.

Our other Community project is at the Orange County Free Clinic in Orange. A few of our Club members volunteer there, as well.

If you would like to volunteer, please call Norma Lanier at 972-3219 or Jan Moore at 972-9355.

MARCH MEETING

BY; Chris Carr

Tracy Dippert, candidate for the 30th District seat in Virginia's House of Delegates, spoke at our March meeting. She is running against Ed Scott. She was well-received and answered many questions about herself and her plans to be our voice in Richmond. She is an elementary teacher and lives in Culpepper. She has been invited to the Flag Day Picnic. Let's all support her when she attends !

UNLIT & UNTRIMMED - A LOCAL NOTE -ON THE LAKE

BY: CHRIS CARR

Remember the one day storm, followed by a day or several here without power? Many here went unlit for five

or six days. I discovered by talking with two supervisors, for over 40 minutes each, that Rappahannock Power had to wait a day and a half for Dominion Power to remove their debris from Rappahannock's broken equipment.

I also learned from six linemen that there are some here at the Lake who go outdoors, screaming at the tree trimmers in such a hostile and bellicose fashion, that the sheriff must be called ! Protecting "life and limb" no doubt!

When one buys property, they know there is an easement of 20 or 30 feet.

There is a forester in Culpepper, who takes calls about tree branches near wires. Unfortunately, even a wind can jiggle the wires and cause a transformer to blow.

One can call this forester and report addresses where trees need to be trimmed.

The linemen told me this happens so often here, that they're loathe to trim trees. I say "Power to the People"!

Go to the website myrec.coop - you will find much information about who to call and also get answers.

"Spring has returned, the earth is like a child that knows poems."

Raner Maria Rilke

KICKIN' NEWS

LOW DEMS

PAGE 6

POLITICS ! POLITICS !

BY: C. Carr

Ever asked yourself why or how our country has gotten so political about everything? Food and soft drinks are political. The restaurant you like = political. The movies you prefer = political.

Don't even be seen with the President, have your picture taken with him, and Good Heavens - refuse all invitations.

Does the general public think this childish behavior is acceptable now? Democrat blue, Republican red! I know of two groups who do this with those colors. The Crips and the Bloods !

However, there might be some good news here. To many, this nonsense in getting very old and very unproductive. The word "fringe" is being used more often.

In fact, the people spoke this last November, believing after they did so, there would be some awakening.

Whether it happens sooner or later, I recall what my mother always said in these situations. "The rottener it is, the harder it falls." This goes for fruit and politics.

Straighten up and fly right
GOP ! There's another election around the corner !

GOOD COOKIN" GOOD
LOOKIN"

GOP DIM the LIGHTS
COCKTAIL

4 c. stop Dems from voting
juice

2 c. drown women's rights
vodka

1 c. oppose the "black guy"
brandy- YES a GOP legislator
said that!

4 c. poop on the Dream Act
pop (soda)

GARNISH - cherry bomb Fox
News lies

Don't drink it - intelligence
will explode !

DEMS LIGHT the LIGHTS
COCKTAIL

4 c. cranberry juice

2 c. Vodka

1 c. Cherry Brandy

4 c. Pepsi

Combine 1st 3 - slowly add
Pepsi. Serve over ice - Garnish
with cherries.

ENJOY - DEMS LIKE TO PARTY

STAFF

EDITOR: Chris Carr

ISSUES: Diane Sibley

PUBLICATION - Pat Drake

MEANDERINGS _ Lyn

Nowakoski (on hiatus)

BLUE POWER !

The Ambulance Down in the Valley

Pat Drake

I heard this poem many years ago as part of an engineering seminar on quality control. However, it stuck with me and I recently found several versions. As you read it, think of the cliffs of the 21st century: homelessness, hunger, poverty, economic and social injustice, inadequate education, global warming — and think, not only about the fences and ambulances, but how we might tear down the cliffs rather than simply building more fences or volunteering to drive ambulances.

'Twas a dangerous cliff, as they freely confessed,
Though to walk near its crest was so pleasant;
But over its terrible edge there had slipped
A duke and full many a peasant.
So the people said something would have to be done,
But their projects did not at all tally;
Some said, "Put a fence 'round the edge of the cliff,"
Some, "An ambulance down in the valley."

But the cry for the ambulance carried the day,
For it spread through the neighboring city;
A fence may be useful or not, it is true,
But each heart became full of pity
For those who slipped over the dangerous cliff;
And the dwellers in highway and alley
Gave pounds and gave pence, not to put up a fence,
But an ambulance down in the valley.

"For the cliff is all right, if you're careful," they said,
"And, if folks even slip and are dropping,
It isn't the slipping that hurts them so much
As the shock down below when they're stopping."
So day after day, as these mishaps occurred,
Quick forth would those rescuers sally
To pick up the victims who fell off the cliff,
With their ambulance down in the valley.

Then an old sage remarked: "It's a marvel to me
That people give far more attention
To repairing results than to stopping the cause,
When they'd much better aim at prevention.
Let us stop at its source all this mischief," cried he,
"Come, neighbors and friends, let us rally;
If the cliff we will fence, we might almost dispense
With the ambulance down in the valley."

"Oh he's a fanatic," the others rejoined,
"Dispense with the ambulance? Never!
He'd dispense with all charities, too, if he could;
No! No! We'll support them forever.
Aren't we picking up folks just as fast as they fall?
And shall this man dictate to us? Shall he?
Why should people of sense stop to put up a fence,
While the ambulance works in the valley?"

But the sensible few, who are practical too,
Will not bear with such nonsense much longer;
They believe that prevention is better than cure,
And their party will soon be the stronger.
Encourage them then, with your purse, voice, and pen,
And while other philanthropists dally,
They will scorn all pretense, and put up a stout fence
On the cliff that hangs over the valley.

Better guide well the young than reclaim them when old,
For the voice of true wisdom is calling.
"To rescue the fallen is good, but 'tis best
To prevent other people from falling."
Better close up the source of temptation and crime
Than deliver from dungeon or galley;
Better put a strong fence 'round the top of the cliff
Than an ambulance down in the valley.

-- Joseph Malins (1895)