



KICKIN' NEWS

LOW DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Volume II Issue 6



AUGUST 2011

EDITOR'S LETTER

By; Chris Carr

This issue is filled with political news and comments, club news, some humor and contributing articles from members. We also have some greetings from Senator Edd Houck.

Now I know it's hot out there, yes in more ways than the temperature, (I employ a bit of sarcasm and am rolling my eyes!), but let's remember to stay involved and informed. We may be out numbered in this area, but staying active and going to meetings is important. As we keep growing and sharing our democratic ideas and principles, it will be a positive asset.

Remember if anyone wants to contribute to "Kickin' News", just let me know.

KICK IT ! DEMS !

BLUE POWER !

HISTORY QUIZ

1. What was the name of Robert E. Lee's favorite horse, which he rode during the Civil War ?

2. What marred the appearance of General Ulysses S. Grant's wife?

3. What did Lyndon B. Johnson name his two dogs?

4. What was Jackie Kennedy's maiden name?

5. In what Civil War battle did a Reb and a Yank find themselves taking cover in the same ditch, got so mad, they jumped out and had a fist fight? (Purpose: whoever won took the other prisoner.)

6. What first lady had a chair named after her, because she was so short? (Her husband cut the legs down for her comfort.)

I'd give a prize, but I bet you'll Google this !

STAFF

EDITOR : Chris Carr

ISSUES - Diane Sibley

MEANDERINGS - Lyn Nowakoski

CIRCULATION: Pat Drake

DEBT and DEFICIT

Well, it's happened. S . & P. lowered the credit rating of the U.S.A. After all the talk, saying 'no', preening and posturing, and airing out a ton of the country's dirty laundry, and Tea Party nonsense; a prediction can be made.

Somehow, some way, the "loyal" opposition will find several ways to try and place the blame on the President.

Think you've never seen anything like the state of affairs we are enduring? Put your seat belt on and wait for the campaign! The word "doozy" will not be a good enough description !

2011 CAMPAIGN SHIFTS INTO HIGH GEAR

By Senator Edd Houck

The dog days of August are upon us, and it is hard to believe that Election Day is three months away. However, November 8th will be here before you know it, and our campaign for State Senate is shifting into high gear. I want to extend a profound "thank you" to all who participated and helped us with the LOW 4th of July parade. It was great to see so many friendly faces and supporters, especially on such a warm day!

This year's campaign will be highly competitive once again, and I am running on my record of accomplishment for the citizens of the 17th District:

- Leading the fight to restore over \$500 million in proposed public education budget cuts
- Approving a transportation plan to relieve congestion and create jobs in our region
- Sponsoring the Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act to reduce tuition and prepare students for the top jobs of the future
- Balancing the state budget responsibly in these challenging economic times, without a tax increase

We have opened a campaign headquarters in Spotsylvania. If you would like to volunteer, call (540)-710-6383 or you can email us at senatorhouck@comcast.net. For the latest updates, visit the campaign website at senatorhouck.com. I hope to see you again soon on the campaign trail!



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ISSUES

By Diane Sibley

If you can get hold of the Sunday, 7/31 Issue of the Washington Post, there's a great article on "Virginia's budgetary gimmickry". It's the old Republican tactic of "promise them anything and let the next guy worry about it."

If I were to say "Hallelujah!" right now, I'm sure all of you would immediately think "Debt Ceiling Crisis is over." Actually, as I write this, the last card hasn't been played. So, I'm taking back my "Hallelujah!" and instead quoting Yogi Berra, who said, "It ain't over til it's over."

Is your Ed Houck bumper sticker on your car? Do any of your friends need a ride to the polls? Have you made your donation(s)?

Bumper stickers at meetings
or call Chris Carr - 0348

ISSUES (CONTINUED)

Quote of the Month:

"You know in this, uh, job.. I get to meet everybody - all these great movers and shakers and the thing I'm most struck by the lot of them is how second-rate they are.

Then you read all those debates over the Constitution - nothing like that now. Nothing."

John F. Kennedy

Please remember you can see many wonderful, colorful, well-composed photos of the Flag Day Picnic on June 15 and the Fourth of July Parade on July 2 on our club website.

www.lowdemocrats.org

And so many other items - just can't count them all !

Many thanks to our website creator and master -
Kerry Sipe

DEMS ON PARADE

By: Shirley Pfile

Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of the Fourth of July Parade.

To Chris Carr who did , flowers and signs, who opened up her home to sign makers and all her great advice.

To Kerry Sipe who was persistent in filling out and handing in our parade application twice, who marched and took great pictures.

To Lois Powell, whose red convertible made a great setting for Sen. Houck To the Becks for the use of their truck and their trouble. And mostly for making sure Uncle Sam was firmly on his motorcycle seat . To Diane Sibley for dressing her dog in red, white and blue and riding in the truck throughout the parade.

To Sharon Allen for the leis, flags, water, etc. To her family for marching and the kids who gave out tattoos along the way.

Also, if you know of someone who is ill or in need of cheering, call me at -3812 and I will send a card.



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GIVE THIS A THOUGHT

1. How has Grover Norquist become so powerful?
2. Why are Republicans falling all over themselves to sign his no tax pledge?
3. What is his threat that prompts this action?
4. Where does he get his money?
5. Who does he answer to?

Think of the deficit debacle - it's time for someone to dig deep and see what Grover is about. This is dangerous to our democracy and our country and we've already seen some results of this activity. They have not been positive. Furthermore, aren't our representatives supposed to be representing their constituents? We know the answer to that. Sure would like some answers and some exposure to this strange state of affairs.

GOOD COOKIN' GOOD LOOKIN'

NORQUIST NACHOS

- 2 c. shredded millionaire's tax forms.
- 1 c. tax pledges signed by GOP.
- Sprinkle with Fox News
- Pour over "NO NO NO Tea Party Nachos."

You will get an economy in the soup -but that's another recipe.

LAYERED FIESTA DONKEY DIP

- 2 avocados - smashed
- 1 -envelope guacamole seasoning
- 1 16 oz. jar salsa
- 8 oz. sour cream
- 2 plum tomatoes - diced

Combine first 2 ingredients
Spoon into a bowl.
Top with salsa.
Then sour cream, then tomatoes.

Serve with "We Care Tortilla Chips"

THEN - KICK IT DEMS !

ORCHIDS & ONIONS BY CARR

ONIONS TO: Eric Cantor for putting political opportunism and his dislike for the President over the good of the U.S.A.

ORCHIDS TO: President Obama for telling him, "Eric, don't call my bluff." and doing it.

ONIONS TO: the GOP for always saying the President should show leadership.

ORCHIDS TO: President Obama for having the bravery to lead, taking a chance and nailing OSAMA! (He was there for 6 years! Where were Cheney and Bush then?)

ONIONS TO: the Bachmanns for "praying away the gay"!

ORCHIDS TO: many voters, who would like to pray them away!



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"LOOK ! A BOOK"

By" DIANE SIBLEY

It's been a tough year for all of us who love nothing better than settling into a comfy chair with a good book and maybe a libation and time on our hands. The death knell for many a bookstore has sounded this year and while there are good things to be said about Kindle and its clones, Kindle can't get me a latte and a scone and that's a crying shame. I guess what I'm trying to say is "Get thee to a bookstore and save a few jobs even if you have to switch to plain coffee and a mere biscotti."

The book I have chosen for review this month has been a little bit of a trial. I'm a long ways from that time in my life where intellectual pursuits were a lot easier. Gore Vidal's "Inventing a Nation" copyrighted in 2003 is not the easiest read, but it's also not the longest at 189 pages. The book deals with Washington, Adams and Jefferson as they struggled with their often opposed views of what this new nation should look like.

Washington comes off as a far more wise and diplomatic man than the last few decades have opined. Adams is brilliant without a doubt, but often a small man in more than height. For example, Adams once told someone that Washington was chosen Commander in Chief because, "He was always the tallest man in the room." Adams once wrote Jefferson that "You are apprehensive of monarchy, I of aristocracy. I would therefore have given more power to the President and less to the Senate."

Vidal gives a great deal of time to praising Benjamin Franklin who he maintains has been reduced by academic histories to "the jolly fat ventriloquist of common lore, with his maxims for simple folk," instead of a "dark prophet" who predicted our government would become so corrupt" as to give birth to that Despotic Government which he foresaw as inevitable at our birth."

While Adams was the great Federalist, Jefferson was the inspiration of the Republican Party, that being closer to what is now the Democratic Party and about as far away from today's Republican Party as you can get. Those opposing political philosophies were often stirred by the influence of Alexander Hamilton to whom Vidal gives a great deal of time.

Other topics dealt with are the foundations of the political conflicts that would lead to the Civil War, the history of the Monroe Doctrine, major Supreme Court issues, etc. I struggled a little with Vidal in the beginning, but as the book went on, he seemed more approachable and the topic easier to get into. If you've got an interest in political history, this is a great read. Growing up two miles from Mt. Vernon I was happy to see Washington treated with more respect than he has been treated in these last many years. And it was good to see a side of Jefferson we seldom see even if he doesn't appear Godlike as we in Virginia learned in our youth. Adams, what can I say. He's from Massachusetts.



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GOP CONVENTION SCENARIO

By: Chris Carr

THE GOP, as we have seen plainly in the deficit talks, is totally dependent on the Tea Party. The T.P. does not want Romney or Pawlenty and have stated they want someone like Bachmann or Perry for the GOP candidate.

The Karl Rove's and the old GOP are terrified of this prospect, and this faction of the party will probably get its candidate nominated. Hot fun in Florida!

Would the T.P. in all its hubris - walk out of the convention and nominate their own candidate? Or, would they accept this, but have lukewarm support? Now, the other possibility, is the T.P. gets its way and nominates their candidate. Would the old guard support this person whole heartedly? Whatever happens, I wouldn't miss watching this happy gathering for anything.

For as Thomas Jefferson said, when you have a wolf by the ears, you don't want to let go, but you really hate holding on too.

FLAG DAY PICNIC

By: Chris Carr

If you weren't at the LOW Democratic Club Flag Day Picnic on June 15, you missed a really good time! The attendance was over one hundred and ten - our largest ever!

The hamburgers and hotdogs were grilled to perfection by Bruce Boyd, Bill Lanier and Kerry Sipe. The Special Events committee and other member volunteers, had so many side dishes, we used three long tables.

We pledged the flag, had great conversation, and then helped ourselves to red, white and blue cupcakes - topped with the American Flag.

The Demettes sang a ditty to "Hit the Road Jack." One memorable line was "Obama got Osama -ho ho!"

Senator Edd Houck attended, chatted with many of his constituents, and gave the crowd a wonderful talk.

So, if you were there, you agree with these words, if you weren't - try to attend next year. The Dems know how to have a good time!

MEANDERINGS

By: Lyn Nowakoski

What has happened to the GOP? Where have all the adults gone? I remember that in "the old days", Republicans had the reputation of being solid, serious citizens. President Eisenhower, whether or not one agreed with his politics, was liked, respected, and considered almost like everyone's favorite uncle.

I wish that Sarah Palin and Michelle Bachmann would settle down long enough to read at least one book of U.S. History.

Sarah Palin's recent account of Paul Revere's ride was almost the opposite of what really happened!

Michelle Bachmann stated that the Battle of Lexington and Concord took place in New Hampshire. Tell that to three of my ancestors who died in that Battle when it was in Massachusetts.

The next thing that we know, Sarah or Michelle will tell us that the Battle of the Alamo took place on the Maine-Canadian border!



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HUNSICKER ANNOUNCES

David E. Hunsicker has announced he is a candidate for the Democratic nomination in the Virginia, Seventh Congressional District. He believes the incumbent Congressman, Eric Cantor, has embraced the far right ideological agenda, has sold out to corporate America and has a sense of entitlement for self imposed personal power.

The truth is Mr. Cantor has lost touch with American values and his constituency. Hunsicker thinks the forgotten men and women of this county deserve rational representation from their leaders in Congress. He will not turn back the clock on Medicare, Medicare or Social Security. However, he believes the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services should be able to negotiate lower over all prescription drug prices with pharmaceutical companies to lower costs, which is presently prohibited by law.

Hunsicker also believes removing the Social Security Tax cap, currently at \$106,000, would insure

SUBMITTED BY- DAVE

financial solvency for the system into the out years.

As to the economy, he believes in a shared participation, progressive tax policy, including citizens and corporations, which historically has served us well. He says every successful business owner knows, for a company to grow, it needs to manage expenses and increase revenue.

The Republicans want to balance the budget off the backs of seniors and working class people and let the wealthy get a free ride. To Hunsicker, this is down-right un-American. The notion of "no taxes" adopted by the Republicans is just pure nonsense and an example of corporate propaganda.

Mr. Cantor talks about "Cut and Grow." Hunsicker says when you cut a person's job, eight other jobs are impacted negatively. So, you cut and you don't grow.

Cantor says he wants to create jobs, but his actions

HUNSICKER

attack union rights, women's rights and civil rights.

For the record, Hunsicker says "The rich don't create jobs. We the people create jobs by having money in our pockets to spend."

David Hunsicker is a graduate of Virginia Tech, served twenty years in the United States Air Force as a Viet Nam combat pilot and Pentagon staff officer. He has a master's degree in public administration. David and his wife, Mirtes, live in Lake of the Woods community in Locust Grove, Virginia. Visit David's website - hunsickerforcongress.com

SOMETHING TO PONDER

Before President Obama had the first dance at his Inauguration - the Republicans were saying they wanted him to fail. Seems all their actions since then, have proven their words were horrible, but true.