

KICKIN' NEWS

LOW DEMOCRATIC CLUB

AUGUST 2015

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EDITOR'S LETTER

BY: CHRIS CARR

The "Meet and Greet" for Ned Gallaway, candidate for Virginia State Senate, was held in June. It was well-attended and Ned took many questions. He is well-spoken, well-informed and a candidate we should support. The Picnic in July was another huge success.

Now we have one more major effort in 2015. Phone banking for Ned Gallaway.

We have already had one session and are planning more. Please give an hour or two. You can call me -0348, and volunteer, or I may be calling you.

We are not a PAC, but our major purpose is to elect Democratic candidates.

(8 pages in this issue)

Grass roots, that's what gets things accomplished.

STAY INVOLVED !!!!!!!!!

BLUE POWER !!!!!!!

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

BY: SHIRLEY PFILF

Here it is, the middle of August and election day will be here sooner than we think. I hope all of you will be familiar with the name Ned Gallaway and what he stands for. He is one of the best candidates, since Edd Huck, that we have had.

We need to take back the Virginia Senate ! If we pull together and get to work for Ned, we can achieve our goal. Talk to your neighbors and friends about this outstanding candidate.

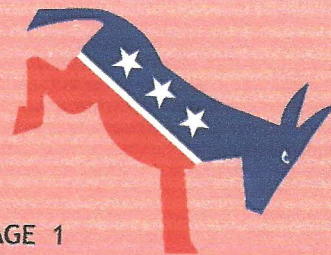
We have three more meetings before the end of the year. Our programs have been outstanding, so mark your calendars for the third Thursday afternoon and enjoy the programs.

JUNE & JULY EVENTS

BY: C. Carr

In June the club hosted a meet and greet for Ned Gallaway, candidate for Virginia State Senate. Ned spoke about his background, reasons for running, and took many questions from the audience. The finale of the event was a \$500,00 check given to him by our club.

In July we held our annual picnic. Food was delicious, prepared by Special Events and many members. A beautiful arrangement was donated by the Flower Cottage as a door prize. There were over 40 raffle prizes. The Demettes read an original political poem. We were cool (aren't we always ?) in the Community Center. Two great events that should make our members proud. If you weren't there, try for next year.



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THE DARK SIDE

BY: C. Carr

Sen. Ted Cruz called Sen. Mitch McConnell a liar right on the Senate floor! Donald Trump says Mexican immigrants are rapists. Gov. Scott Walker says if elected he will bomb Iran. Mike Huckabee declares the Iran deal is allowing Pres. Obama to open the doors of the oven to Israel. One of these candidates called President Obama the terrorist in chief !

No Republicans are denouncing these statements, although now and then Jeb voices a mild rebuke about immigrants. I am not surprised, for there is a reason for this behavior.

The GOP has spent years ratcheting up its base with birtherism, otherism, racism, and take my country back. It is stamped in the mind. They did a thorough job of it. Now, as they try to return to some track of sanity, it's too late.

What has been joyously created and gleefully used to win elections is out of control and turning on them. Enter - Donald Trump. The rogue elephant, who could run as an Independent and send the whole mess crashing down.

No serious political debate or election should sound like this. A Republican pundit who worked in the Reagan administration opined that the best that could happen would be Trump wins the nomination and loses in a landslide. Then they could take the party back from tea party folk, the uninformed and low education voters. I did not say this, a Republican of some credibility said it.

So, there is the real dark side. This is not good for the GOP, the Democrats or our democracy. Alas, what a tangled web we weave -you know the rest.

KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES POSITIONS NOW NED!

BY: C. Carr

BACKGROUND:

Former high school teacher
Chair of Albermarle School Board

Currently working in business in Charlottesville

EDUCATION: Protect and expand education funding

Supports SOL reform (current regulations focus on tests, should be focused on teaching and meeting individual student needs, rather than teaching to a test)

REEVES POSITION

Consistently votes to take money out of public education to fund private schools - at detriment to middle class to benefit the wealthy

JOB

Supports a minimum wage increase

Supports paid sick leave

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KNOW NED (CONT.)

GUN VIOLENCE

Is a gun owner who respects and supports responsible gun ownership

Responsible ownership means we need to have measures in place to keep them out of the hands of criminals, mentally ill and domestic abusers

Strong supporter of universal background checks

HEALTH CARE

Supports Medicaid expansion in Virginia - would extend coverage to over 4000,000 and create an estimated 30,000 jobs

WOMENS ISSUES

Equal rights and equal pay for equal work

Supports repeal of extreme anti-choice legislation Eg. Intrusive, medically unnecessary ultrasound requirements prior to an abortion

(REEVES POSITION)

Voted to uphold these ultrasounds in 2015

Voted against bills that would strengthen women's economic security

Voted against ERA in committee

Vote against domestic violence and gun bill

ENRGY & ENVIRONMENT

Need to move toward alternative and renewable energy

Need to rein in carbon emissions

Opposes Atlantic coast pipeline

(Ned presides over the first county school board in Virginia to approve installation of solar panels on schools)

ELECTIONS & VOTING

Supports early voting

Supports appointment of a non-partisan commission to take responsibility for redistricting - voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around

LGBT EQUALITY

Supports efforts to ban discrimination in public employment and housing

Supports swifter and stricter action on hate crimes

Supports a ban on conversion therapy

www.gallowayforsenate.com

Now you know -use these points to discuss this candidacy! Information is a wonderful tool !

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LOOK ! A BOOK !

BY: DIANE SIBLEY

Ever start a project and after a few hours wonder what the proverbial "H" you were thinking of ? Well, how about reading almost 4,000 pages of a series of books on a subject you didn't heretofore really care all that much about.. Namely, Winston Churchill, who wrote a six volume series of books entitled "World War II, the first one copyrighted in 1946 Over the years I kept seeing it in used book stores and each time I saw it I wanted it, but told myself I'd probably never read it, so why spend the money. Then I found five of the six books at a bargain price in paperback and thought I might read it, so what the heck. I started the first book and was hooked. The volumes were sold individually on Amazon and I was able to pick up the missing book. So, here I am a few weeks later, a lot smarter, much more aware of how much more there is to learn, still able to see relatively well with tired eyes

and happy to give my fellow Democrats a recommendation.

Churchill's personal history is fascinating. His mother was an American, and he was very proud of that, but make no mistake ,he was an Englishman ! His love of country was readily evident in everything he did, and although a man of the aristocracy, he understood his people from the Royals to the rustics.

As Prime Minister and Minister of Defense who came up through the ranks of the Government with a strong military background in the Navy, he understood both sides of the political issues that arose. His diplomatic skills were constantly tested. No one tested them more than Stalin, yet no one aggravated him more than DeGaulle.

His books are structured around hundreds of messages (often l-o-o-o-ng messages) he received and responded to, and messages he initiated and received answers to. There were messages to and from

FDR, Stalin, both houses of Parliament, the generals, etc. His personal commentary in addition to the back and forth of the messages, kept things from being too dry or too military strategy oriented. He had the patience of Job, the wisdom of Solomon and the physical constitution of a much younger man. While he had not always been a great student, the education he received and his towering natural intellect completed the picture. He was a man of destiny - certainly not a god. But all the more amazing for his humanity.

World war II came alive in those books. Even though my father-in-law loved to talk about his experiences in the war, I never understood so many of the various aspects of the war in North Africa, how the Balkans fell under the Soviet yoke, why Japan hated us, why the English and the French had their difficulties, why it was so necessary for us to ration when we had plenty of food for our citizens and soldiers, etc.

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BOOK (CONT.)

Now I begin to see. And while I don't expect anyone to read 6 books just because I recommend them, you can recommend them to your college history or political science oriented grandchildren. There's an awful lot to learn in those messages and memories.

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FACT TO GOP CANDIDATES

Planned parenthood already participates in a government program called Title X, and it is barred from using government funds for abortion. Will someone send them a memo and ask them to check the Hyde Amendment!

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SOMETHING TO PONDER:

A person with a reservoir of knowledge is not well educated unless he knows when to turn the spigot on and off.

ONIONS & ORCHIDS

ONIONS TO: - One half the GOP candidates for doubling down on ("No abortions for rape or incest)

ORCHIDS TO: Megan Kelly who asked it twice, because she could not believe her ears! * Oh ! Oh ! Do not ask about Ms. Kelly's ears, nose, eyes or...) She says it's a tough business and stickin' to her guns. Good for her !

ONIONS TO: Good old Huckabee, who pointed out that pimps cheat on their taxes.

ORCHIDS TO: Anyone who knows a pimp - they don't even file taxes ! (Not a good thing, but come on Huck-Buck - get in reality!)

ONIONS TO: The last GOP debate question "How will God influence your Presidency?

ORCHIDS TO: The Constitution - Church and state are separate and religious beliefs have no pertinence in running for office! (Hey - bean heads - ISIS is a theocracy - how's that workin' out over there?

ONIONS TO: GOP voters, who are not even considering Gov Kasich of Ohio - he's your John Anderson and your chance to win.

ORCHIDS TO: the Tea Party and haters - are the Dems gonna watch them screw it up again? Ah, echoes of Sara are ringing in the ears !

SOMETHING TO PONDER:

" The thinking you do before you start a job will shorten the time you spend doing it."

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THE FLAG

BY: Chris Carr

The rebel flag, which is really the battle flag of the Army of Northern Virginia, commanded by Robert E. Lee, is not the flag of the Confederacy. Despite this historical error, this flag has had quite a history. It has been used as a symbol of segregation, intimidation, and hatred - a flag of insult and fear to many of our fellow Americans.

When Lee surrendered at Appomattox, he told his troops to sign the amnesty, go home and furl the flag. He wanted them to put the war away ; he wanted to heal the country. Lee refused to be buried in a Confederate uniform . After the war he was regaled with offers to make money off his role and fame. Even to the point of R.E. Lee cigars, picturing him in uniform on the box. Cigars were big sellers back then. He refused all, and this was a man who could have used the profits. Just a little history.

Now we are here today - this hate and so-called heritage has been taken down in South Carolina. It should be down in five other states that incorporate it into their flag. We all know the horrible tragedy of nine lives being taken to bring this small step about

To be frank, the Civil War was a war of rebellion and treason against the United States of America. This talk that it was not about slavery is nonsense. Although only 10% of whites owned slaves; there was a dirty little secret. "I may be dirt poor, uneducated, and have no social standing, but I'm white. Someone has to say 'Yes, Sir,' to me."

It was about slavery when trying to get the Constitution signed. Remember five eighths of a person? The seeds of the Civil War were sown then.

Yes, this is all history. How must we move forward and have a conversation that is not tainted with false beliefs and facts? There was wrongdoing love of state and country, money and power on both sides.

I suggest this - read the letters of the soldiers, North and South. They all write home "I miss you, I love you, how are the children? The battle was horrible." Not said, "I escaped death today." Oh, the glory and pride in war ! Wouldn't it be a blessing if we could talk to the soldiers, women left at home, the nurses and doctors. Gettysburg stank for a year from the dead, wounded and thousands of slain horses. A year after the Wilderness bodies laid rotting. Where were the hot heads yelling for war then?

So, when we have this conversation, we must not listen to flag wavers, firebrands, false historians and big talkers. This is the recipe that brought us the Civil War.

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ISSUES - FOLLOW THE MONEY

BY: Jim Donovan

In the next year we will be hearing from both sides of the political spectrum. Here are a few tips that have helped me separate the facts from fiction.

Many candidates love to talk about "fixing the economy". The question we should ask is - HOW? First, there are those who feel if we take care of "big business", they will take care of us (trickle down theory). On the other side are those who feel any real changes must come from our government. (big government) I feel the truth is in a balance of both. The current problem seems to be that our leaders, Congress, want an all or nothing approach to our economy. Leaving us to pay more for any efforts, or letting our country's economy linger while they fight their political battles.

While I understand the fear of too much power in big government, what options does the other side offer? Allowing "big business" to run our economy! Is this not against the very principles of our democracy? Should we give them the power of the people who pay the taxes to fund the government and country we love?

How is it fair to give the tax breaks to corporations to develop the product they sell back to us at a profit? And yet there are those who get upset about government programs to help those who are in need.

If history is to help us in the decision making process, let us take note. Our country has faced two economic crises. One in the Depression of 1929 and recently in 2008. Both efforts to help our country were led by Democratic Presidents. The other side would help put us into bankruptcy and allow

"big business" to pick up the pieces on their terms! Sound familiar? There is no human approach to "big business", economic principles. Enough - Billionaires, Big money - big power!

So, still can't find the truth? "Follow the Money". In our constant effort to control our lives, we seem to lose control. It is easier to say than do! Let your money do your talking. While our democratic process seems flawed, the American consumer has greater influence than you may know. My spouse has always said, "This is a great country, if you can afford it." "The American consumer does have a voice at the cash register. Spend wisely!!

One more thing - never forget to vote! Vote! Vote! Before they take that right away.

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One more page -of Kickin'

Read On!!!

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MEANDERINGS

BY: LYN NOWAKOSKI

Hopefully Donald Trump has given his last blast. He is rude and crude. With his remarks about women, he has "ripped his britches", as they used to say in the Air Force. If women unite to squash his candidacy, he will think he has run into a great big buzz saw. Now would be a good time for him to retire into the comfort of his fourteen billion dollars - or is it only four billion ?

Hillary slipping in the polls is of concern. The latest talk is that Joe Biden is seriously considering running for the nomination. Our ticket might be Clinton and Biden, or maybe, Biden Clinton.

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If Hillary is so crooked, how did she survive as First Lady of Arkansas, First Lady of the U.S. and Senator? She performed all these duties with intelligence, grace and boldness. She was a groundbreaker . Maybe that's it. Too bold, not enough cookies baked.

POESY

This issue contains poems with a bit of sarcasm, irony, Thoughtfulness and humor. Oh yes, it can be applied to politics, if you think about it.

MEDITATIO

When I carefully consider
the curious habits of dogs
I am compelled to conclude -
That man is the superior
animal

When I consider the curious
habits of man,
I confess, my friend, I am
puzzled.

Ezra Pound

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MEANDERINGS - Lyn
Nowakoski
CIRCULATION _ Pat Drake
Kerry Sipe

ON THE UNITY OF EARTHLY GREATNESS

The tusks that clashed in
mighty brawls of mastodons,
are bowling balls.

The sword of Charlemagne
the Just, is ferric oxide, known
as rust,

The grizzly bear whose
potent hug, was feared by all,
is now a rug.

Great Caesar's dead and on
the shelf.

And I don't feel so well
myself.

Arthur Guiterman

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Remember, "Kickin' News" is
your newsletter - feel free to
submit an article or any item
that would be interesting,
thoughtful, informative or just
plain humorous.