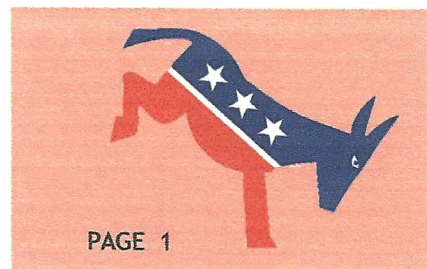


KICKIN' NEWS

Publisher LOW DEMOCRATIC CLUB

AUGUST 2016



PAGE 1

EDITOR'S LETTER

Time is getting shorter - in less than 4 months - we choose a new President. Members are already phone banking and hopefully writing checks. We have work to do. This election is absolutely critical !

We must not go backward. A short list of what is at stake: fracking, women's rights, civil rights, immigration policy, international relations, common sense gun laws, the Supreme Court. Bet you can add to it ! Watch your e-mail - there are things you can do. If you can't spare a little time for this - I just sigh.

There are articles in this issue that give you information to use. Speak up when you hear factless or feckless comments.

BLUE POWER !!!!!

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR

BY: Shirley Pfile

The summer heat will soon be over and the campaign will heat up. We have plans to do voter registration, phone banking, and of course, bumper stickers and yard signs. We really need to get Eileen Bedell's name out there.

We will be hosting a fund raising event in September. Read the details in this issue.

Hope you all are getting excited about having a woman President.. History will be made in November. Until next time, hope to see you out there working.

SOMETHING TO PONDER

"Great minds must be ready not only to take opportunities, but to make them."

FLAG DAY PICNIC

BY: Chris Carr

The picnic was well attended, about 80 folks. A short movie was shown ' "The Producers" Same cast, except they ran Trump for president. It was very funny and just what we needed.

The door prize, a beautiful arrangement, donated by The Flower Cottage, was won by Lois Powell. The two baskets, one wine, one Italian were won by Jan Moore and Connie Lemay.

Food was delicious, as usual. Great job Special Events and many members. Each guest received a "VOTE DEMOCRAT" fan.

Eileen Bedell, who is running against Bratt, was our guest, and spoke to the group at length. She is personable, smart and determined. We must back her strongly.

To finish the event, chair, Shirley Pfile, presented her with a check for \$500.00.

KICKIN' NEWS

PAGE 2

LOOK! A BOOK!

BY: Diane Sibley

As a confirmed bibliophile, I know I've read at least two books a week these last nine months Gary and I have been in Newport News. I'll admit many of them were mind candy, but this one was an amazing surprise and will be one that will be read over and over.

The book was published just last year and is the story of the Armed Services Editions (ASE) program to provide books to World War II service men. This book is so inspiring, I could quote from almost every paragraph, but then you wouldn't experience the joy and pride you're sure to feel as you tear through these less than 200 pages. So, I'll give you some points and quotes.

A. 1933- Book burning, author denigration, and persecutions began with a vengeance in Berlin.

B. When Helen Keller's books were burned, she wrote to

book burning student organizations: "History has taught you nothing if you think you can burn ideas."

C. 1940-early 1941. American librarians decided the best defense against the Nazi War on Ideas were books themselves and encouraged Americans to read more. Book donations were solicited and were soon being donated at an amazing rate.

D. Even before the U.S. entered the war, books were often the only entertainment available as the troops built training camps and later as they trained and waited for action.

E. Pleasure reading, even comics, textbooks, and technical books were solicited and thousands of books were collected.

F. The American Librarians Association created and secured funding for the National Defense Book Campaign.

G. As the war went on, American Services Edition (ASE) were published in reduced size to meet the requirements of paper shortages and ink shortages.

H. Servicemen's feedback was always welcome when books were chosen and their response to the donations was incredible.

I. Thousands of books were printed every month and the families and friends put up with shortages of paper and ink so their loved ones overseas could have free books.

Dog-eared and moldy and limp from the humidity those books go up online. Because they are what they are, because they can be packed in a hip pocket or stuck into a shoulder pack, men are reading where they've never read before.

KICKIN' NEWS

PAGE 3

SEPTEMBER MEETING

BY: Chris Carr

Mark your calendar -
September 15 - Community
Center 1:00. Eileen Bedell -
our candidate for Virginia
Senate will be joining us.

She was at the picnic, but
only received a few checks. We
have a good chance of getting
this seat ! Many are fed up
with Bratt and his "say no" -
no compromise tactics. We
have been redistricted in Dems
favor. Wouldn't it be great to
give the Governor a
Democratic Senate ? Things
would get done then.

Hillary is going to take
Virginia- let's have Eileen take
our district!

The meeting a "Conversation
with Eileen". Open to all.
Beverages and fancy pastries
will be served. Please attend.

"When books would come
into the PX, libraries and duty
stations, bundles were opened
and books dumped into big
bins or containers. Soldiers
lined up as soon as the word
got out. And if they did not
immediately grab a book, the
other men in line would urge
each other on with the
refrain, "No time to shop and
look for titles. Grab a book,
Joe. And keep going. You can
swap later.

J. Politics entered the scene
in 1944 when the Taft brothers
tried to censor certain titles
they thought might promote
the reelection of Roosevelt to
a fourth term. The
Republicans became so
paranoid that they threatened
the entire ASE program.
Republican censorship
demands soon entered the
realm of the frightening, and
legislation eventually was
adopted to return things to a
reasonable outcome.

I hope these hints will whet
your appetite for more info on
this incredible program.
When the war ended, millions
of men had become
enthusiastic readers. With the
help of the GI Bill, millions
more went to college and
created educational
opportunities for their
children. And Joes and
Joannes are still grabbing
those books, and passing the
knowledge up the line. Give
this one a try. I promise you
won't be disappointed and
you'll be reminded how easily
our hard won freedoms cost.

+++++

SOMETHING TO PONDER

"So long as enthusiasm lasts,
so long is youth still with us."

KICKIN' NEWS

PAGE 4

WHERE ARE THE LINCOLN REPUBLICANS ?

BY: LOIS GRIFFIN POWELL

"Where are the Lincoln Republicans ?" When I heard Senator Tim Kaine say this, it hit me like a ton of bricks. He was quoting his father-in-law, who was a Republican Governor of Virginia many years ago. He was the governor who integrated the public schools in Virginia. But he didn't stop there. He enrolled his children into those integrated public schools. WOW !!!! I was so impressed and emotionally moved.

This election is carrying much controversy and conflict. We have Donald Trump who is saying and doing things that we've never, ever witnessed by a presidential candidate. Yes, we can't stop freedom of speech, but what's frightening is that he has many followers who think like he does. We always knew they existed, but now they have a voice in a presidential candidate.

Does that scare me? You damn right it does and I'm hoping it scares you too.

We have Bernie supporters who continue to support him. I don't have a problem with that. For many of these young people, this is their first foray into serious politics. They were and are on fire. I can relate to that. That's how I felt about John F. Kennedy. That was my first foray into politics. I was in my freshman year of college and was finally getting serious about the world I lived in.

I was born in Connecticut. My father had his own business that did well. My mother was a secretary in the public school system. I could go wherever I wanted to go and no WHITE person could stop me. I grew up in Milford, Connecticut which was 99% white. There were 359 students in my graduating class and I was the only BLACK student.

I had two sisters and one brother who also had the same experience. Then I went to college in Virginia, because my parents wanted me to experience what was really going on in the world. I relate this, so you can see why John F. Kennedy was so important to me. He was important, because of what I witnessed and became a part of in Virginia. I saw and experienced things I never saw in Connecticut. Yes, I became one of those people out there picketing. I believed John F. Kennedy would start to change all of this prejudice.

That's why I understand why Bernie had such a strong following with the young people, and many others. He was opening their eyes and making them realize that they can be part of the many changes that are needed here in the United States. They are excited, They are on fire and don't want to let go.

KICKIN' NEWS

PAGE 5

So, Hillary Clinton is making promises. She said she will pick up the gauntlet for many of the issues that the Bernie supporters are fighting for. So, what should they do now? What they need to do is support Hillary and make sure she gets elected. Then they can hold her feet to the fire and not let up. Stay close and stay tuned. Turning against her is not the way to go. Working with her is the way and gives them a better chance of accomplishing their goals.

I write this, because of the way I feel about Republicans. There was a time when Republicans and Democrats did work together on very important issues that helped make this country as great as it is. No, they didn't always agree and that's a good thing. Who wants to be in a relationship where everyone always agrees? No One ! That's also not realistic; not real life. If Donald Trump becomes our President. There will be no other opinion. There will be one opinion - his.

So, I ask, just as Senator Tim Kaine's father-in-law is asking. Where are the Lincoln Republicans? When are they going to stand up and bring in another opinion to this presidential race? When are they going to say, "Enough of Donald Trump. We aren't going to be silent anymore. This is not our Lincoln Party. We are having various opinions in The Democratic Party. Bernie supporters are bringing other opinions to the floor, which is a good thing. When are the Republicans going to do the same? As of now, it hasn't happened. Maybe it will. I'm hoping many of these frustrated Republicans will go to the polls and vote saying what they want to say. They are disillusioned and upset and can't believe Trump is representing their party. Now is the time for Lincoln Republicans and Democrats to come together once again and agree.

That is why we must go out and register those voters. Make those calls. Ring those bells. We must do this for Hillary and for us.

Yes, Hillary, our 2017 President and for all the Democratic candidates who are fighting to get elected.

Well, that's all for now folks. This is Lois Griffin Powell signing off. Plan to see you soon. How about at the Hillary victory party?

Oh Yeah !

KICKIN NEWS

PAGE 6

POLLS - POLLS- POLLS

BY: Chris Carr

Sick of polls? They're everywhere, every day, every hour. Are they close, are they true? Just to see how it works; I conducted my own poll.

I asked many women friends, who are "R's", "I's" and "D's". They are old friends, and we can be honest with each other; sometimes too honest.

There were 10 categories: Social Security, Medicate/Medicaid; Terrorism; Women's Rights; Civil Rights; Immigration; Deficit ;Jobs; Gun Laws. They were rated 1 - 5 (5 being lowest; 1 being highest.) Most of the average scores were 2.5 - 3. I did discover Terrorism was a 3. So, the sky is not following as the GOP says. Of most important were: Gun Laws, Medicare and Women's Rights. Immigration and jobs were low. The GOP screams terror and jobs. Hmm.

Maybe if the question is gun laws and not gun control, it makes a difference. Another point; all of these women are college educated and most had careers So, now you're probably sick of my poll.

Just a little experiment. I think I'll e- mail it to Hillary. Maybe the Republican Witch Hunt Committee would like to check it for top security. I'll add P.S. - PPPHHHTTT !!!!!

CAMPAIGN -TRUMP STYLE

Donald Trump's campaign headquarters and websites are interesting. On investigation, there are 4 headquarters in Virginia. One is in a building he owns, so he is paying rent to himself. Huffington tried phone numbers in all 50 states. Some didn't work, e-mails were left, no response. Those who did answer, said they weren't up yet.

The state of Washington had one office. Fourteen were in Trump Tower. He needed 200 staffers in Ohio, as of two weeks ago, he had fifty.

6 million in campaign funds were used to pay his own family and for events and wine at Mira Lago. The wine is from Virginia; he puts his label on it. Do you see a nefarious pattern here ? Hillary has more than 100 offices just in 14 states.

Looking for this information was not easy. Some sites were blank; some almost froze up my computer. Ah yes, such business like organization. Can we think - tax returns ?

SOMETHING TO PONDER

"This will be a better world, when the power of love, replaces the love of power."

KICKIN' NEWS

PAGE 7

THIS IS OUR COUNTRY ?

BY: Jim Donovan

It never seems to amaze me that many of our Presidential elections tend to look more like sporting events. Somewhere between the polls and the T.V. ads we seem to fail to get the real political questions of the day. I remember my grandmother noting, " Politicians will tell you only what you want to hear, not what you need to hear.

Now, I have no illusions that all Americans have their own personal interests at heart. But if given a choice between their own interest and their country, they will choose their country. What concerns me is, how many members of Congress do not feel the same way. It would seem like attacking their own country is O.K. as long as long as it is in their own political interest. In the past we could count on our political leaders to come together after an election for the common good of our country.

After all, this is not part of the oath they take after election day. We need to elect people who stand on issues that have all Americans in mind, not just the few. In my own experience, the best agreements made are when neither side comes away with all they wanted. Keeping their country moving forward. It doesn't take a mathematician to figure out if we all pay into our system (big Government) we all get the best tax return on our tax dollars.

Fortunately, we as Democrats, have a candidate who has our country's best interests in mind. As she has pointed out many times, she is not only running for the country today, but for the country's future. All Americans can stand up to the corporate bullies who seem to think our country is for sale. Our interests may seem the same, but let's not forget candidates of the past. Some tried to hold our country captive, financially as well as

politically. This is my opinion about the right to lead our country forward with our candidate - HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON !

POESY

A PORTRAIT

A face devoid of love or grace
A hateful, hard, successful
face,
A face with which a stone,
Would feel as thoroughly at
ease,
As were they old
acquaintances -
First time together thrown.

Emily Dickinson

Written over 150 years ago-

Remind you of anyone ?

KICKING' NEWS

PAGE 8

ONIONS & ORCHIDS

BY: Chris Carr

ONIONS TO: Trump who will
save the economy, the
military, racial issues and
health care- ALL by himself !
"The Great White Hope"

ORCHIDS TO: The polls -the
verdict is:

"The Great White Dope"

ONIONS TO: Fracking coming
to Virginia.

ORCHIDS TO: The insurance
companies - pay up for your
earthquake coverage !
(And get ready to shake"
your booties" !)

ONIONS TO: Five nude
statues of Donny missing a
vital part.

ORCHIDS TO: Taking them
down not only did the emperor
have no clothes New York City
called them "an illegal
erection."

(Can it get any crazier?)

ONIONS TO: "The election
will be rigged -the only way I
lose is if they cheat !"

ORCHIDS TO" President
Obama, who referred to this
mess as a child in a sandbox.

(Can baby bratty Donny say
anything else to undermine
our Democracy?)

ONIONS TO: Dave Bratt, who
answers his constituents by
bland e-mail or not at all.

ORCHIDS TO: All the people
who are op-eding to the
newspaper - telling on him!

(GO EILEEN !)

ONIONS TO: Trump boring
bumper stickers.

ORCHIDS TO: Let's print up-

Trump is Palin on steroids!

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Thanks to Lois Powell for
always contributing an
informative thought piece.

+++++

Remember - election -
PLEASE join us in electing our
candidates !!