



KICKIN' NEWS

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Issue 7 January 2012

EDITOR'S LETTER

2012 - a new year, a new beginning. Since "Kickin' News" began three years ago, we have seen many changes. President Obama was elected and we have seen him guide our country in the right direction. Our dear friend, Senator Edd Houck lost by a narrow margin and we now have doubts about the direction of our state.

Elections do have consequences and this year is so very important to our beloved country. We must all become involved and work in whatever capacity we have to get President Obama re-elected. We also have Tim Kaine running for U.S. Senate and an opponent in the race with Eric Cantor.

I know those words got your attention! Our chairs are ready to go!

KICK IT DEMS !!!

NEW THAIRS 2012

CHAIR: Shirley Pfile

SECRETERY - Pat Drake

TREASURER- Gary Sibley

COMMUNITY PROJECTS - Norma Lanier & Jan Moore

ISSUES - Diane Sibley

HOLIDAYS & SUNSHINE -Anne Humphrey & Libby Kridler

HISTORIAN - Chris Carr
MEMBERSHIP -Mary Berger

PROGRAMS - Martha Keyes, Nancy Arnold, Jim Donovan, Kerry Sipe

PUBLICITY - Kerry Sipe

SPECIAL EVENTS - Chris Carr & Lois Powell

PARADE - Betty & George Beck

The NEWT
By: Chris Carr

Newt Gingrich has no apologies for wanting children to clean schools, including toilets.

As a teacher of 30 years - here's the real story. Bathrooms are filthy and germey. In inner city schools, the toilet paper is chained down. The office phone is for business. If a parent calls and a student is not at school, does a kid handle this serious problem?

An office contains student grades, files, budgets, computers. Think students might take a peek? As Sarah said, "You betcha!"

What about after school supervision and protection? I would not like students in my classroom on their own. This also puts many custodians out of work.

Nice job Newt - race baiting and union busting in in one fell swoop !That's the NEWT and the GOP loves him !



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LETTER FROM CHAIR

By: Shirley Pfile

I want to thank you all for the privilege of serving the Lake of the Woods Democratic Club as your chair in 2012. This is a year of challenges for Democrats - country wide. I believe that as a club, if we pull together and persevere, we will win.

I am excited about this year. We have wonderful meetings on the agenda, including one in March, featuring information and discussion on the Health Reform Act. An important event, which will be held on a Sunday afternoon.

Watch your e-Mail and go to our website, so you may stay informed.

Let's stand together and get the job done !

CLUB NEWS

By: Chris Carr

If you missed the Christmas luncheon at Bonefish Grill, you missed wonderful food and good friends. The afternoon event was well attended, and as usual, many wore red or green and Christmas jewelry. (Sorry, guys - we all know you didn't wear jewelry!)

New officers were announced and a photo taken. Steering is already looking forward to a busy year. The February meeting will feature three journalists and discussion. Politics - politics! Please try to attend.

Also DO NOT FORGET, dues is due. This is a year of many important campaigns and events, so the treasury needs to be in readiness !

Dues paid to: Gary Sibley -

TREASURER

STAFF:

EDITOR: Chris Carr

ISSUES: Diane Sibley

MEANDERINGS: Lyn
Nowakoski

CIRCULATION: Pat Drake

FREQUENT CONTRIBUTING
WRITER : Lois Powell

Any club member is more than welcome to contribute. This is OUR newsletter. Have news? A point of interest? Send it in.

All comments or
contributions ----
Call - Chris Carr.

President Obama "It's NOT class warfare - it's common sense!"

Dems do have common sense, yet sometimes I wonder if the GOP has lost theirs !

ISSUES

BY: DIANE SIBLEY

The Number 1 issue from now until November is **Election 2012!** For this month's Issues reminder I will shamelessly borrow from a recent column by Katrina Vanden Heuvel, editor and publisher of the Nation magazine. Ms. Vanden Heuvel put forth 3 issues that she believes could decide the election.

First, she has noted several efforts among the states to restrict voting rights with the goal of making it more difficult for certain groups (most notably minorities and young people) to vote. Examples:

- Requiring government-issued ID cards
- Limiting or ending early voting
- Disenfranchising citizens with criminal records

Second, Ms. Vanden Heuvel cites the rise of super PAC spending, a direct consequence of the 2010 *Citizens United* ruling. The ruling precludes the direct coordination of the PAC with the individual campaign but, that prohibition is virtually impossible to monitor and enforce.

Examples: John Huntsman's father bankrolled his campaign,
President Obama's super PAC is run by his former press secretary, Bill Burton who left that job to get involved with the 2012 campaign

Third, The Nation's editor puts forth her belief that the media is so obsessed with achieving balanced coverage that they are providing an atmosphere where no matter how flagrant the abuse of truth and fairness is by the Right, the media still feels obligated to find something bad about a Democrat. She calls this "false equivalence."

My conclusion: Of the above 3 issues, I believe the one we can do the most about is the first. Be on the lookout for any and all efforts to disenfranchise your fellow citizens. Make your voices heard wherever you believe someone is trying to silence someone else's. Make your dollars count and let your friends and family know that if they want to believe attack ads they might be better served by watching PBS. They could learn something and not have to suffer through the commercials. What a concept!

State Issues The original redistricting plan was passed by the House of Delegates, but a lawsuit has been filed asking the Justice Department to do it. You can track the progress at VPAP.org.

Book Suggestion: Watch this month's "Kicking News" where I'll do a review of "The Tipping Point." By Malcolm Gladwell. A very easy read that teaches a lot about things, people and ideas and how they reach a point where they take on an almost epidemic progression.

Founding Fathers: This month I'll include a longer than usual quote. This is in the spirit of "The more things change the more they remain the same." This is from a letter written by John Jay to Thomas Jefferson, Oct 1787.

John Jay was the first U.S. Supreme Court Justice. (1789 – 1795)

“The inefficacy of our government becomes daily more and more apparent. Our treasury and our credit are in a bad situation; and it is probable that either the wisdom or the passions of the people will produce changes. A spirit of licentiousness has infected Massachusetts, which appears more formidable than some at first apprehended. Whether similar symptoms will not soon mark a like disease in several other States is very problematical.

The public papers herewith sent contain everything generally known about these matters. A reluctance to taxes, an impatience of government, a rage for property and little regard to the means of acquiring it, together with a desire of equality in all things, seem to actuate the mass of those who are uneasy in their circumstances. To these may be added the influence of ambitious adventurers, and the speculations of the many characters who prefer private to public good, and of others who expect to gain more from wrecks made by tempests than from the produce of patient and honest industry. As the knaves and fools of this world are forever in alliance, it is easy to perceive how much vigour and wisdom a government, from its construction and administration, should possess, in order to repress the evils which naturally flow from such copious sources of injustice and evil.

Much, I think, is to be feared from the sentiments which such a state of things is calculated to infuse into the minds of the rational and well-intended. In their eyes, the *charms of liberty will daily fade; and in seeking for peace and security, they will too* naturally turn towards systems in direct opposition to those which oppress and disquiet them.

them.

If faction should long bear down law and government, tyranny may raise its head, or the more sober part of the people may even think of a king.

In short, my dear sir, we are in a very unpleasant situation. Changes are necessary; but, what they ought to be, what they will be, and how and when to be produced, are arduous questions. I feel for the cause of liberty, and for the honour of my countrymen who have so nobly asserted it, and who, at present, so abuse its blessings. If it should not take root in this soil, little pains will be taken to cultivate it in any other.”



Let's Remember Hope and Change!

By Chris Carr

This year - 2012 - is one of the most important elections in modern history. The outcome will affect our beloved country for years to come. Let us not have short memories.

Review eight years of Bush :

1) A war fought on lies and scare tactics. Over 4,300 Americans killed and three times that many Iraqis. It was fought on borrowed money that wasn't even added to the total of the deficit.

2) A total lapse of involvement in the Israeli/Palestinian peace process. Iran has become emboldened. Israel periodically threatens to bomb them and now the President is left to pick up the pieces.

3) A Medicare prescription drug bill, unfunded, that is costing billions more on the deficit.

4) An economy totally run amok that almost brought our country to its knees. Houses foreclosed, jobs lost and the Republicans still fight any type of regulation or reform.

Our President has ended the war in Iraq, which will save countless lives and stop the out of control spending on that front.

Our President has eliminated Osama Bin Laden and in a strategic way, helped Libya and under his command many wanted terrorists are gone. These actions are all positive for Israel.

Our President has made sure all Americans can have health coverage and closed the drug loop hole for many seniors. Contrary to the "woofing pack" this program is funded and will save much money and many lives.

Our President saved the U.S. Auto Industry, The GOP said let it fail. The money is all repaid and Detroit is working. selling and hiring!

Continued

Then the mid-term election and the anger and hatred of the Tea Party. This group of ideologues has done nothing to create jobs or bolster the middle class. They disrupt and clog the governing process, all the while stating that "Hope and Change" never occurred !

President Obama has tried compromise; he has walked the extra mile. This earned him more stubbornness and deliberate lack of cooperation.

Now, many Democrats were not pleased that he tried for bipartisanship. Wanting everything right now, they had negative words and much advise for the President.

Yet, through all this heated rhetoric, contentiousness and lack of support from many sides, the President persevered. This an intelligent man, who thinks strategically. He can see beyond the "now" to "tomorrow."

The country has not been attacked, the economy is coming back. Corporate profits are at an all time high! The unemployment rate is dropping and housing is coming back.

Those who want to dismiss him, do so at their peril. Now that you've thought back - think forward. This election is a serious business. Democrats must get in the same stride, get in a straight line and face the enemy. Not in a circle facing each other!

I'm keeping a bright light on for us

It's still the beacon of hope and change!

I believe that most people have experienced fear sometime in their lives. While growing up there were probably several situations that we feared. As a child maybe it was being in the dark. When we started school there were probably several incidents that we feared such as the class bully, a new teacher, taking tests, trying out for a particular activity, just to name a few. As we matured and reached adulthood, we hoped that fear would no longer be a part of our lives but, unfortunately, that didn't happen. When we entered adulthood we may have experienced fear toward our boss or something related to our job. When we became parents we feared for our children in certain situations. Did we ever say, "Be careful crossing the street; don't speak to strangers; be careful when you're driving."? I could go on and on. We can't get away from fear no matter how we try. It doesn't keep us from functioning but every once in awhile it will raise its ugly head.

The Webster New Collegiate Dictionary defines fear as: a feeling of alarm caused by expectation of danger; a state of dread; an unpleasant often strong emotion caused by anticipation or awareness of danger; dread; fright; alarm; panic; trepidation. I say that fear is the anticipation of the unknown. When we find ourselves in unknown territory and don't know what to expect that fear will creep in.

So, why am I giving you a lesson of fear? I am talking about fear because it has never been quite so strong as it is now in our United States since the election of Barack Obama. From the moment he was sworn in as our 44th president of our United States, fear has raised its ugly head and continues to do so. Many people say that the opposite of love is hate. I disagree. I believe the opposite of love is fear. Fear of the anticipated unknown and because we can't control the fear it turns to hate. How many times have we said, "I hate this feeling." We now have states changing the voting requirements to make it more difficult for people to vote. Why now? Was it just since 2008 that we had fraud related incidents related to voting? I don't think so. We have Republicans who are dealing with fear. They want to do all that is possible to keep President Barack Obama from winning and becoming our 45th president of our United States.

In Indiana the law case reached the U.S. Supreme Court. The court upheld the law although it left it open for the possibility of a future challenge. Who will be affected by these new laws? Many older people who no longer have a photo ID or who have never needed one. Many older citizens can't obtain a birth certificate because they were born at home and their birth was never officially recorded. Some were born before it was required to record a birth. Many minorities and college students who were big supporters when President Obama ran the first time.

According to AARP, the new photo ID laws could make voting difficult for 3.2 million voters in Kansas, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin, if the new law stands according to the Brenner Center. A lawsuit is challenging the Wisconsin law. My, my, Wisconsin is certainly having problems this year. The Justice Department is

reviewing the law is Texas and South Carolina for compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act. In November, Mississippi voters approved an amendment requiring a photo ID, but it must be implemented by the legislature and would not take affect until 2014.

AARP also states that seventeen states require voters to show non-photo ID at the polls. Documents that are acceptable are voter registration, Social Security card, utility bill or gun permit. These states are: Alaska, Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Utah, Virginia, and Washington State. There are twenty-one states that require no ID. No, I'm not going to name all of those states but you can determine who they are since I already named the other states. The Obama reelection campaign, the Congressional Black Caucus, and Democratic groups are working diligently to fight the new voting laws. There are much litigations challenging these laws as I'm sure you are aware. But, we must be aware because we have been and probably will be involved in voter registration. When we do register a new voter, we must make that person aware of the requirements for the state of Virginia.

Fear is a terrible thing to have to deal with and this election has opened the Republican fear to be exposed for all to see. Now all of us must deal with this fear. Many people are involved in the fight for fairness. If we all do what is necessary by fighting for what is right for all, we can turn the Republican fear into our win.



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POLITICS OF THE SUPER BOWL

By: Chris Carr

The Super Bowl will be held in Indiana on February 5th. There's quite a political connection. The Governor of Indiana and the GOP legislature is again trying to get rid of all union bargaining rights. They want a right to work state. The Democratic legislators fled the state and many others are protesting. They're in the streets, just like Wisconsin and Ohio. There are signs, cameras and buttons.

Now, imagine the chagrin if the Sunday the Super Bowl is played - the protests are on for all the world to see !

The NFL just escaped a long strike and lockout. NO football? Yikes ! The NFL players union has issued a statement in support of these teachers, fireman, policeman, office workers. The list of people affected- is too long. Just say middle class. This could be quite a sight! Root for your team ! Root for the workers !

MEANDERINGS"

BY: Lynn Nowakoski

Some months ago, when I first saw and heard the Republicans who were considered to be the front-runners for their party's nomination, I thought that Jon Huntsman was the only adult in the room. I still think so.

Although, now Huntsman has left the race for lack of support, he would still be the obvious choice for an intelligent group not controlled by the Tea Party. How could the Tea Party approve of Huntsman when he has said, "Our President is a good man?" That global warming is a real problem and that we should listen to our scientists? That evolution is not a theory, but part of God's plan? Now, if Huntsman ever says that he believes the earth IS round, he would really be off the Tea Party's list !

A few weeks ago, I received a phone call from a man who identified himself as a member of the Tea Party in Richmond. The conversation was off to

a bad start when he said, "Carolyn, because you have been such a loyal and generous member of the Tea Party for over two years (? !), I thought you would like to give \$1000.00 to the Tea Party.

I answered that I am a Democrat and have never donated to any part of the Republican Party. And NEVER shall ! My last comment was when I said that some of my ancestors were in the real Tea Party in Boston in the 1770's and that I very much resented a bunch of malcontents appropriating that name.

Note: Republicans in Richmond are proposing a law to make those on unemployment & welfare get drug tested at their own expense to receive benefits!

Reason : It will keep them "clean" to get a job! What it will do is debase citizens and cost the state millions in processing! WRITE or E-MAIL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE!

AAAARRRGGGHHH !!!!!

Look! A Book by: DIANE SIBLEY

This month's book review will be on The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell. This is a study of how major changes in society so often appear to happen suddenly and unexpectedly. Many ideas, messages, etc. can actually start off slowly and suddenly reach a threshold of acceptance or perception of need that fuel an intense acceleration of popularity. That threshold is the "tipping point."

While a great deal of the book deals with products and why they suddenly become so much in demand, the concept of a tipping point also applies to social situations. Ideas can spread like a social epidemic. Gladwell maintains that ideas have contagiousness, some ideas are more "sticky" than others and that other ideas need to be put into the right context for the tipping point to be realized. He also suggests that little causes can have big effects.

An example how a tipping point might be reached is the situation that brought Barack Obama to the public eye. When a young Barack Obama spoke at a Democratic Convention, listeners were impressed and talked to each other and the word spread. A dramatic point was soon reached that put him in the spotlight enough to be considered as a potential candidate for the presidency. A tipping point turned into a groundswell

Another proposal of Gladwell's is that there is a "Law of the Few." There are people he calls "connectors" who have some combination of curiosity, self-confidence, sociability and energy which allow them to span many different "worlds."

A fascinating segment of the book discusses a study that was done in 1984 on how people are influenced by television. The three major network news anchors were observed as they spoke about Reagan and Mondale. While the words were truly unbiased, the facial expressions of the anchors showed "significant and noticeable bias." Later voters were polled as to how they voted. Viewers who watched the two network anchors who looked about the same when they spoke about either candidate tended to vote in proportional numbers for each candidate. But viewers of the one network anchor whose facial expression lit up when speaking of Reagan voted in a very disproportional number for Reagan. Are we as voters that pliable?

There are many more studies in the book that are just as interesting, but you'll have to read the book. Based on what I read, I sure hope our campaign advisors and the powers that be already had that pleasure.



KICKIN' NEWS

LOW DEMS CLUB VIRGINIA

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FAILED LEADERSHIP ?

"Obama caved!: "He's on the ropes !" His leadership is a failure !" "He appeases our enemies !" Blah, blah, blah. The opposition has pulled out so many talking points and talking heads, it's a wonder we haven't seen the reprisal of Kukla, Fran and Ollie ! We've seen Beulah the witch. (Fill in the blank)

Then, don't forget the insidious comment, "He's your President." The inference - He's still "the other", that guy from where? BIRTHERS !

Filibuster every bill that helps the middle class. Demean every positive action our President makes. Get Osama Bin Laden? Oh no - It was the Navy Seals only. And, yes our pride in them is tremendous ! Bring the Iraq war to a close? Oh no - we must stay! He doesn't understand war and the military. Keep unemployment insurance for those in need ? Oh No-He's raising the deficit!

We weren't crazy about George W. , but it was not said, our mission was to see that he failed. The President fails, the country fails. And President Obama is not failing.

CONTINUED

There is nastiness, code words, outright name-calling and hate. But those folks grandly underestimate our President.

We have one of the smartest, caring, global thinking, articulate Presidents that we could elect. He cares about the country and all the American people and that is shining through.

QUICK QUOTES

"Don't set your wit against a child." Jonathon Swift

"Don't limit a child to your own learning, for he was born in a different time."

Rabbinical saying

"I hear and I forget.
I see and I remember.
I do and I understand."

Chinese proverb

ONIONS TO ORCHIDS

ONIONS to: Super Pacs and the Supreme Court.

ORCHIDS to: The GOP candidates for using them against each other. (poetic justice, baby!)

Onions to: Gov. Jan Brewer of Arizona for disrespectfully poking her finger in the President's face and then saying she felt threatened!

ORCHIDS to: Even some Republicans who said it was wrong. (Wrong? What's next?)

Onions to: the Pittsburgh Steelers loss to Broncos.

ORCHIDS to: The Patriots for whippin' the Broncos! (Sorry, that one was for all Steeler fans!)

Keep fightin' the good fight - DEMS !!!