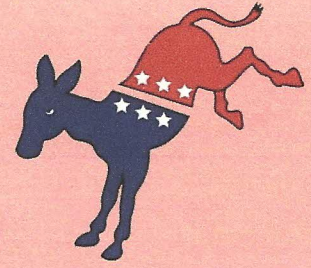


# KICKIN' NEWS

LOW Democratic Club

January 2014



## EDITOR'S LETTER

Happy New Year Members!  
This is the first edition of the fifth year of "Kickin' News" Hope you're all still reading and enjoying the issues.

Now that we have elected the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, it's really time to mean it when we say Virginia is a purple state. This should make all members renew their energies in 2014.

Hope to see many of you at the meetings. We now have two program chairs, and look forward to their contributions.

Don't forget dues is due, and can be sent to Gary Sibley, 103 Creekside Dr. Better yet - give it to him in person at the next meeting!

Remember "Kickin News" is our publication and all articles and opinions are welcome. Get involved!

The strength and viability of any group depends on the willingness of its members to participate. Not only come to meetings, but be a meaningful and helpful participant. DON'T be a "LOOKIE LOU" - be a "DEBBIE DO"!

BLUE POWER !!!!!!!

## WORDS FROM THE CHAIR

BY: Shirley Pfile

The year 2014 has started and another election year is before us. We know Mark Warner is a strong candidate and rumors are flying about the possibility of a Democrat opposing Eric Cantor. This club has shown in the past that we will work hard for Democratic candidates. So, prepare yourselves now , as we are turning Virginia blue !

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NEWS STAFF: \*\*\*\*\*

EDITOR: Chris Carr

ISSUES & BOOK:  
Diane Sibley

MEANDERINGS:  
Lyn Nowakoski

PUBLISHING: Pat Drake

WEBSITE: Kerry Sipe

MEETINGS - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of  
month - 1:00 meet & greet  
1:30- meeting - Lower Level  
Clubhouse

## OFFICERS FOR 2014

CHAIR - Shirley Pfile

SECRETARY - Pat Drake/  
Diane Sibley

TREASURER - Gary Sibley

PROGRAMS - Pat Ivey/  
Lolli Omar

PUBLICITY/WEB - Kerry Sipe

MEMBERSHIP - Angie Turvey/  
Mary Berger

SPECIAL EVENTS - Chris Carr

HISTORIAN - Chris Carr

COMMUNITY PROJECTS -

Norma Lanier/Jan Moore

HOLIDAYS & SUNSHINE -  
Special Events

ISSUES /BOOK REVIEW -  
Diane Sibley

WEBSITE:  
[www.lowdemocrats.org](http://www.lowdemocrats.org)  
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# KICKIN' NEWS

LOW DEMOCRATIC CLUB

January 2014

PAGE 2

## OUR NEW GOVERNOR BY: C. CARR

Two days after being sworn in, Governor McAuliffe appeared before a joint session of the Virginia House and Senate. He spoke of expanding and diversifying Virginia's economy. He stated he wants to expand Medicaid, and voiced support for the Dream Act, gay rights, and abortion rights. Although not in the speech, he has been quoted, "I will be a brick wall on abortion rights."

He has goals of preserving 400,000 acres of farmland and open land, taking broadband to rural areas, and stressing that partisan politics must be removed from redistricting.

Of course, the House majority leader, M. Kirkland Cox said the governor "threw down the gauntlet on Medicaid."

McAuliffe also announced two economic projects: Carnival cruises will return to Norfolk next year and Telos, a cyber security company, will invest 5 million dollars in its Loudon County operations.

## GOV. (CONT.)

He has also directed his transportation secretary to develop a plan to revise the tolling schedule for the Midtown Tunnel Project in Hampton Roads.

When legislators reported to chambers, on each desk was a red fleece blanket, which had a picture of the capital and the words, "Inauguration of Virginia's 72<sup>nd</sup> Governor Terry McAuliffe."

One of the legislators joked that he hoped the blanket cost less than \$100.00.

The Governor has set a bipartisan tone and he is well known for his people skills. Let's hope common sense and the good of the state of Virginia prevail in the legislature.

"Go often to the house of a friend, for weeds choke the unused path."

## CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON BY: Chris Carr

The Christmas Luncheon at Bonefish Grill was attended by about 40 members. The appetizers, entrees, and dessert were delicious. As usual the service was friendly and gracious. Friendships were enjoyed; outgoing chairs were thanked; incoming chairs were welcomed. Many thanks to Anne Boyd for organizing this joyous occasion. If you missed it - you really missed it!

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"We will make peace with life and each other only when we do not wish for days that used to be or might have been."

\*\*\*\*\*

Dues is due in January - don't be a late Lucy!

(apologies to anyone named Lucy who is a member; just using alliteration.)





## The Lens of Life

BY: Chris Carr

This is an opinion piece about race and politics in America. A tough subject, indeed, yet I've lived long enough to see twice and to know what's hidin' in the woodpile.

White Americans view life from a perspective which never makes them view their race as it relates to their own well-being or peace of mind. Yes, bad things happen, problems are serious, feelings are hurt, accidents and mistakes do occur. But no white person ever has that second shadow in the back of their mind. Did I get talked to like that; looked at like that; treated like that; because of my race?

This does not mean there is an unawareness or approval of racism. This lens on everyday life just doesn't deal with it. Never enters the consciousness, and painful to say, doesn't have to.

Driving a car certainly doesn't mean thinking about DWW (driving while white), but anyone who doesn't live under a rock knows what DWB is. Now white folks Drive Dirty (driving with drugs in the car or under the influence), but the percentage of stops compared to people of color is way skewed and mind boggling.

## Lens (cont.)

Got pulled over? No worries about keep your hands on the wheel; don't move, or better yet, just stick them out the window. These realities are still with us' yet so foreign to this lens on life, many refuse to believe or think it's an exaggeration.

Now, politically, the GOP has gotten a case of glaucoma. The Hispanic population is growing, organizing and voting in increasing numbers. The Black vote is up. They know this is not their base, so one answer to the dilemma is to deny voting rights. The other is the constant use of fear and lies, instead of educating and presenting facts. They know this uninformed lens on life will buy it. We've seen it and still are.

For the deepest fear is - what if power shifts, and we are treated as we, intentionally or unintentionally, treated others. Making sure this lens on life feels it can keep it's security, it's status quo, that will keep that base secure.

When President Obama was elected, so many Americans had such high hopes. Remember the crowd that day? A true rainbow of the U.S.A. Racism is waning, it's conquered; we elected Barak Obama! So proud of our country!





## LENS (cont.)

Yet the same charges kept coming and many were worse! Muslim, Socialist, Communist, Dictator, Kenyan! They went after Bill Clinton with a vengeance, to the point of impeachment. Throughout those tortured times, one never heard, "I want my country back!" That is the undisturbed lens on life in full view!

America is changing; not the whole house, but brick by brick. Look where we were, where we are, and yet, where we should be. Many Americans of all ethnicity can take heart in this.

Yet, we must stay vigilant . Progressives are finding more voice. Perhaps it's strength in numbers, or perhaps just fed up with the nonsense. Perhaps the signs say it's just time. It is a struggle, that lens on life has existed for a very long time.

Speaking about race is messy and uncomfortable, although most Americans know we need to have this conversation. It's tough to put a mirror in front of this lens on life, but I'm glad people are blinking.

I could write:

"Black Power!: or "Brown Power!" What affect does that have? Alas, the lens of life! How about -  
"American Power!"

## Community Projects

Remember, our club is still doing a worthy and rewarding job in working at the Food Bank. Our chairs, Norma Lanier and Jan Moore, schedule volunteers for each month. If you would like to take a hand, call Norma Lanier : -3219.

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### WHAT A BRAT!

Yes, you read it here. David Brat is going to give Eric Cantor a primary challenge. You say what? Mr. Brat believes Rep. Cantor has not done enough, or tried hard enough to kill Obama Care. Gets better by the minute. How many harsh words and how many votes do these people need? I believe there have been over 40, with no results, except a waste of time. Bet Mr. Cantor thinks Mr. Brat is wasting his time too.

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"Knowledge is the antidote to fear."

(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

"To throw obstacles in the way of a complete education is like putting out the eyes."

(Elizabeth Cady Stanton - American suffragist)





## Meanderings

BY: Lyn Nowakoski

Well, like many others, I am very disappointed in Governor Christie. He seemed to be "a good guy", a reasonable Republican who could work well with our President. I think that many of us liked seeing the picture of the Governor and the President when the President visited New Jersey to see the devastation wrought by the hurricane. Now, though, are we seeing that scratching the Governor's surface seems to show a petty politician, who can act like a bully when he doesn't receive the political support that he feels is due him?

If the GOP feels it has to have someone else to be its Presidential nominee - who then? Ted Cruz?

Several weeks ago, I happened upon Ted Cruz's father giving a speech. I tuned in too late to know when and where it was, but the audience was laughing and applauding. I could stand only a very few minutes of it, because I had never heard anyone spewing so much venom since World War II. I said to myself, "Why are you listening to such garbage?", and quickly found Jon Stewart, who certainly has a way of putting politics in perspective.

My question for the day: Has any one member of the Tea Party ever had a nodding acquaintance with any kind of science?

## Orchids & Onions

BY: C. Carr

ORCHIDS TO: Karl Rove -Yes, I'm serious! He is on a search and destroy mission to repudiate and obliterate the Tea Party out of the GOP.

ONIONS TO: Right wing talkers, calling him "The white dough boy" and telling him "to bring it on." (He'll bring it - he's got millions and he's fed up!) Isn't it amazing how they turn on each other?

ORCHIDS TO: The President and family for taking a short vacation in Hawaii.

ONIONS TO: The usual critics of his rare vaca's. (Let's remember George W. spent a third of his presidency whackin' brush in Texas.)

ORCHIDS TO: Local reporters in New Jersey for digging into the four day George Washington Bridge closing.

ONIONS TO: Gov. Christie and staff. Somethin's stinkin' in Trenton! ((Now, who's the GOP's poster boy?))

ORCHIDS TO: Pat Ivey and Lolli Omar for being our Program chairs this year.

ONIONS TO: Not having any last year ( Just ask the Steering Committee!)



# KICKIN' NEWS

Publisher LOW Democratic Club

JANUARY 2014

PAGE 6

## ORCHIDS AND ONIONS (CONT.)

ORCHIDS TO: Dems for refusing to allow the GOP to make more cuts in SNAP.

ONIONS TO: Marco Rubio, who says the answer to the whole situation is marriage. Say What? So, single moms are derelicts now? (You just can't make this stuff up!)

ORCHIDS TO: All the people whose head "snapped" when they heard David Vitter (Rep. Louisiana) introduce a bill that requires those on SNAP to produce a photo I.D. at the grocery check-out to get food.

ONIONS TO: Mr Vitter (Remember he was on the Washington D.C. madam's list? Said he was so sorry, and got re-elected?) AND cases of fraud are 1%!

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If you know of something crazy, and it's out there., send it to "Kickin' News" Just send the comment - (it will get made into "O's and O's") The more the merrier !!

## STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN- WHEN YOU'RE A DEMOCRAT

BY: Chris Carr

As you travel through our little part of Virginia, with an Obama bumper sticker on your car, or your Obama purse over your arm, or your donkey pin on your collar have you had untoward things happen to you? Many club members have told me some tales, perhaps you will recognize yourself. I shall relate a few.

Parking at the grocery store, a man upon no provocation, jumps out of his car and yells, "Why don't you take that stupid sticker off your car, you \_\_\_\_\_ socialist?"

You are in line at a local store, someone mentions something is wrong, which has nothing to do with politics, and the man next to you blurts out, "I'll tell ya what's wrong ! OBAMA CARE!" All customers are taken aback and no one wants to speak. Alas, there is the rub.

## STRANGE (cont.)

This club member said, "Do you like your Social Security and Medicare?" SILENCE.

Attending a meeting that has nothing to do with elections or political beliefs, you over hear someone whisper, "Well you know, she's a Democrat."

Now I have seen bumper stickers that scream their hatred of the President, those against abortion - even saw one that said, "Yankee Go Home"

Frankly, the Yankee deal made me laugh! So, if something happens to you- you can stick up for your beliefs, smack somebody up side the head (no, no - just kidding) laugh, or be silent. Which option do you think you should not choose?

BLUE POWER !!!!



## LOOK! A BOOK

BY: Diane Sibley

For this edition's book review I've chosen Madeline Albright's "The Mighty & the Almighty, a book of "Reflections on America, God, and World Affairs". Ms. Albright was Secretary of State in the Clinton Administration from 1997 to 2001. She was U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, author of "Madam Secretary", Chairman of the National Institute for International Affairs and Distinguished Professor at the Georgetown School of Foreign Service.

This book was written in one of the most turbulent times in American history. After a preview of some of the chapters and a quick review of the informal writing style, I realized I could easily read this book in a few days. But I soon learned that the informal style was misleading. The vocabulary was easy enough and the anecdotal style brings a human touch to weighty issues, but the amount of information contained in the simple structure of the book is astounding! For instance, in the chapter entitled "The Devil and Madeline Albright" some of the subjects discussed are U.N. policy, the breakup of the Soviet Union, the rise of the conservative Christian movement, sex education, Roe V. Wade and on and on "Easy to read" yes. "Easy to understand?" only if you're good at "going with the flow." Worth the effort? Absolutely.

## BOOK (cont.)

A great deal of the book deals with America's involvement with the Middle East. Middle Eastern issues are approached from several angles as is evidenced by chapter titles like: "Iraq: Unintended Consequences", "Confronting Al Qaeda", "The Saudi Dilemma", and "Arab Democracy".

In the chapter "God Wants to be President", Secretary Albright discusses President Bush's handling of 9/11 and the bad judgment calls that have kept us at war for 13 years. Bush's frequent efforts to bring religion into the mix certainly muddled the waters and made diplomatic efforts almost impossible. We still suffer the consequences -tragic loss of lives, financial costs, diplomatic loss and costs to public relations.

There is humor, there is history and there is hubris in the book. (Guess who's guilty of the hubris?) This is one of those books that is good to have in the house even if you don't read it all or all at once, because you can always pull it off the shelf and say to your obnoxious Uncle Joe, "Here, read this and learn a thing or two."

# KICKIN' NEWS

Publisher: LOW DEMOCRATIC CLUB

JANUARY 2014

PAGE 8

## (CANDIDATE ED GILLESPIE

BY: C. Carr

Ed Gillespie has declared his candidacy to oppose Sen. Mark Warner. This research comes from Think progress and the Washington Post.

1. Founded his firm, Quinn/Gillespie in 2000. It received \$700,000.00 to lobby for Enron. Issues included the California energy crisis Enron helped cause. With access to the White House the firm pushed for energy prices and tax breaks that benefited Enron. This was before the company's epic collapse.

2. Lobbied for the American petroleum Industry.

3. Embraced full repeal of Obama Care, claiming it was a punitive mandate that would kill American jobs.

4. When George W. Bush pushed for privatizing Social Security, Gillespie was on board.

5. Co-founded American Crossroads (a 527 Super Pac) with Karl Rove and Crossroads

## ((CONT.))

GPS - an even less transparent (social welfare group)

6. Took leave from Crossroads to work on the Romney campaign.

7. Advisor to George W. Bush on Iraq War. In 2003 made the case that Iraq sought to purchase uranium from Niger.

8. Republican National Committee chairman and a supporter of a constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriage.

9. During Bush years, supported the now infamous campaign "Abstinence Only" approach to teaching sex ed. In schools.

10. Called the Tea party "a huge asset to the GOP". Praised Sarah Palin as someone with "a lot of common sense"; donated to campaigns of Cuccinelli, Ted Cruz and E.W. Jackson.

## ((CONT.))

The polls show that Mark Warner has a 61% favorable and 25% unfavorable with all Virginia voters. With GOP voters, he has 49% favorable and 40% unfavorable.

The GOP thinks that Gillespie's record, especially lobbying, will have no more impact on him than it did Gov. McAuliffe.

Also, despite the polls, the GOP also believes that a very heavy weight of Obama Care will cause any candidate with a "D" after the name to lose in Virginia.

Want more? Give it a google!

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"It is not the words of my enemies, but the silence of my friends that will be remembered."

Dr. Martin Luther King