



**MOORE COUNTY, NC
REPUBLICAN MEN'S CLUB
NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2019 ISSUE**



Visit www.mcrmc.club

In God We Trust

Founded in December, 1996.....Celebrating 23 years in 2019

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(See Committees, Chairs and members on the next page in the column on the left.)



President's Message by Bill Demastus:

I would have never thought writing a message to people who were like- minded and to people who you cared for, would be so difficult. But, you try doing this once a month.

As I write this message tonight, my heart is broken, because Alice's mom and my second mother for the past 63 years passed away today...died peacefully in her sleep at Hospice House in Pinehurst.

This is March the 28th...and I just listened to Donald Trump's Rally speech in Grand Rapids, Michigan...if there was ever anything that would take my heart and mind off my problems...it would be listening to President Trump who is working night and day to lessen the heart ache of working class Americans.

Collusion is hopefully over. Although I am not as sure as the President, it is...the radical left will never give up as "pencil neck" of the left so demonstrated today on national TV.

In his speech tonight President Trump elegantly, a word I never thought I would be able to use to describe one of his speeches, described how the radical left went so off course, because of his election, that they never considered breaking the law a prohibition.

They plotted, they planned and they executed a coup de' grace to save our democracy. And, because of their hate and loyalty to each other, they broke every democratic rule of law our framers ever dreamed of.

What this country witnessed over the past 2 ½ years was something you read about and take as a matter of course in Latin America, in 3rd world countries all over this globe. But, my God, never in America.

Two World Wars, Korea, Viet Nam, Iraq, Afghanistan, and police actions on foreign soil in more places than this old head cares to remember stands mute witness that this would never happen here. Tens of thousands of brave young men and gallons of patriotic blood leaked into those soils to guarantee that it would never happen here. But it did!

Who, what, why? How could this happen here? Because, this is a country divided. Divided like Civil War days. Brother against brother, father against son, classes against class.

In the 1960s I was a young man striving to make a way for my family, a wife and two young children. I didn't have time to worry about politics. I didn't have time
(President's message continued at the bottom of next page)

COMMITTEES for 2019:

Membership, Communication & Publicity:

TBD*
Paul Shaffer
Tom Schroeder
Steve Woodward

Finance:

Scott Sheffield*

Fundraising &

Candidate Finance:

Executive Committee

Golf Tournament 2019:

TBD*
All EC members

Lunch Administration:

Bob Coates*

Nominations:

Tom Beddow*

Program:

Tom Adams*
All EC members

Bylaws:

Bill Scholtes*

Veterans:

John Boesch*

***Committee Chairman**

As you look at the committee Chairs and members noted above, it is obvious that we still have a few holes to fill. When we get a new VP Membership, a couple of those openings will be filled. However, we still need to know if you are willing to serve on a committee and if so, your preference(s). Just contact President Bill or any other EC member and let them know. One area where you could help is on our Golf Tournament this year. We always have room for someone willing to help. June 17 is the date, so mark your calendar!

Lunch

Administrator:
Bob Coates

(910) 420-8181 (calls)
(910) 528- 8397
(cell & text)

Calling Captains:

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Neil Godfrey 949-2439
Bill Graning 235-0535
Roger Hicks 947-5527
Jack McVey 295-6748
John Rowerdink 235-0644
Andy Rueb 295-4908

(Your name could be here)

(Your Number could be here)

Our message this month is simple: If you want to get monthly calling captain calls, let us know. Call or email the lunch administrator, Bob Coates and let him know that you want to continue to receive monthly calls.



Do you know your calling captain? Do you get monthly calls? Do you make reservations on the club website? Let us know if you have any questions about monthly meeting notification.



Luncheon Meetings Information:

Our next meeting of this year is on Thursday, April 18th. Registration begins at 11:30 am, with the meeting being called to order at noon. Watch for more meeting details by email and in this newsletter. Our luncheon meetings are on the third Thursday of each month for the rest of this year. We plan a summer break in July and August, watch for details.

The lunch price is \$20.00, all inclusive, payable at registration by cash or check to CCNC.

Make your March luncheon reservations on or before 3pm Sunday, April 14, at www.mcrmc.club or by calling Bob Coates at (910) 420-8181. Reservations are required for those attending the luncheon and should be cancelled if you find you are unable to attend. If you have a reservation and cannot attend, you may be asked to pay if you do not cancel.

Future Meetings and Events:

We will have our April meeting on Thursday the 18th, with Greg Sherrill – Chairman of Tenneco as our speaker. See further details in Tom Adams article in this newsletter and watch for email flyer announcements for details.

(President’s message continued from the front page) to worry about bigots and hate.

I didn’t have time to worry about who was in office and who wanted to be in office. I only had enough energy to go to school every day and feed my kids.

My urgent plea today is for America not to do what I did. Care...Get Involved...get answers to all those things that caused people to try to burn down America in the ‘60s.

I know for sure that none of us are for late-term-

abortion...none of us are for doing away with the Electoral College...none of us are for packing the Supreme Court with judges that will rule for “us”...none of us are for borders as porous as momma’s strainer...none of us want 16 year olds to vote...none of us believe that we have no responsibility for making our way in life.

We have been suckered into believing that the world owes us a living...and that we should be able to skate...giving nothing and taking everything.

(President’s message continued next page)

(President's message continued from previous page)
My 92 year-old mother-in-law left this world today loving pro- football...could quote every statistic of every player in the league...went to bed at nine every night except Monday. Monday night she watched football...yelled, screamed and berated the refs...especially if they called against her beloved Steelers.

She also loved Donald Trump and the Republican Party...gave generously from a modest income to all requests from our party members.

She loved me...but never as much as when I become so involved in the party...allowed that I was bright to marry her daughter but I was brilliant to become a Republican.

She was a Trumper!!! She had a few other ninety plus year old friends that were Trumpers...she believed that, as one aged, one knew the value of the Republican party. Churchill said "if you are not a liberal at twenty, you have no heart, if you are not a conservative at forty, you have no brain." Momma had a brain!

The only thing this party can do today is to prepare us to get President Trump elected one more time.

I'd like to work to allow him to run a third time...but that is a Democrat trait...sorry.

He is so much better than anything the Dems can throw at us...we should not have to worry...but we compete against a party that has demonstrated there are no rules...winning is everything.

The one pleasant thought President Trump left with me tonight was, when he said to those that perpetrated this "hoax", "Buckle down...I'm coming!"

Enjoy your Spring!

Annual Dues For 2019 Are Past Due:

Pay Dues

Remember, if your dues were not received prior to April 1, 2019, you were dropped from

membership and became "inactive." Inactive past members do not receive monthly meeting notices, other notices of interest to Republicans and will not receive the monthly newsletter. Pay your dues now so as not to become reactivated!

March Luncheon Meeting Report:

The March luncheon meeting was held on the 21st at CCNC as usual. Many attendees arrived early so they could socialize and meet the speaker, NC Insurance Commissioner, Mike Causey and other dignitaries and fellow attendees.

President Demastus called the meeting to order at noon, made opening remarks and introduced new members, guests, elected officials and other dignitaries. Chaplain Mike Dubbs offered an opening prayer and blessed the upcoming meal.

After lunch was served, VP Programs Tom Adams introduced the Community in Action speaker who spoke on the changing demographics of Moore County, particularly the significant increase in military families. The Military Family Council was explained including how they can help the military families with coordination with the Moore County Schools.



The primary speaker, North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey was introduced by Adams and he brought the club up-to-date on his Insurance related activities as well as explaining other duties that fall in his position. Members who were unable to attend can see his remarks by going to the club website: www.mcrmc.club, go to the "Events" tab at the top of the home page, and click on "Luncheon Video" on the drop-down menu.



Causey concluded with a Q & A and the meeting was adjourned about 1:20pm.

Newsletter Information:

As was started in 2017, this and future issues of the newsletter are being distributed by email to all members who have an email address. Those members who do not have an email address or have asked for a paper copy will get it in the US mail. In addition, there will be copies available at the meetings at the registration table. If you want a paper copy, let us know and we will put you on the mailing list.



April Meeting Program News by Tom Adams – VP Programs:

Our topic for April's meeting is "Trillion dollar deficits: How the federal budget symbolizes a broken political system." Join us for a conversation with Gregg Sherrill Chairman of Tenneco about America's perilous fiscal and political situation. Trillion dollar deficits are set to return within the next year and our already record high national debt will skyrocket over the coming decade. The political environment surrounding our debt and federal budget have come to symbolize the brokenness of our political system. Sherrill is a founding member of the Fix US initiative with the Campaign to Fix the Debt.



Gregg Sherrill is chairman of Tenneco Inc., a global manufacturer of Powertrain and Chassis components and systems for the automotive and commercial vehicle markets. He was chairman and CEO of Tenneco from 2007 to 2017. Before joining Tenneco in January 2007, he was with Johnson Controls Inc., a leading automotive supplier. Before Johnson Controls, Mr. Sherrill had 22 years of experience with Ford Motor Company, having served in a broad range of engineering and manufacturing positions. In addition to the Tenneco board, he serves on the boards of directors of SnapOn Inc. and the Allstate Corporation. He also serves on the National Governing Council of the Wilderness Society and is past chairman of the National Association of Manufacturers.

The Community in Action topic is Continuing the Mission which provides service dogs and service dog support for veterans living with the challenge of Post Traumatic Stress (PTS). Suzy Lutz the groups President will discuss their provision of outreach services, support throughout the pairing process, and post-pairing support to the veteran and service dog.

These uniquely trained companions provide companionship, a feeling of security and safety, and aid in the reintegration of everyday life. Continuing the Mission provides Assistance Dogs at no cost to the Veteran. Suzy will have a surprise special guest with her. You don't want to miss either of these two exciting speakers.

Treasurer – Scott Sheffield

April 1st has come and gone. We still have members who have not sent in 2019 dues. If you are reading this, it is likely that you have paid, because those not paying by April 1 have been put on "inactive" status which means they likely did not get this newsletter.

However, we have sent a past due invoice reminder and hope that those not paid by the first of April will send in their dues (\$25 personal checks only) and get moved back to the active status. If you know of someone who has not paid, advise them to send their check today to MCRMC, PO Box 1812, Southern Pines NC 29388.

If you have not paid and make a luncheon reservation for the April meeting, you can pay when you check in at the registration table. I will be at that table and will gladly take your dues payment.

See you on April 18.

Lunch Administration News

We continue to update our calling captain records and determine the current members who want to get a monthly call. Therefore, we ask each member who is now getting a monthly luncheon notice by phone to let your calling captain know, when they call, that you want to continue to receive calls.

If you are NOT getting a monthly call and want to be added to the calling list, contact Bob Coates, Lunch Administrator, and let him know. He can be reached at: rcoates777@gmail.com or (910) 420-8181

Steve Woodward - Secretary



(Editor's Note: As noted in previous newsletters, Secretary Steve Woodward and Webmaster Thomas Schroeder work on our Club and County GOP social media presence. This month he gives us an update on our efforts

on Twitter, President Trump's favorite way to keep us informed.)

Another step forward for the Moore County GOP is the launch of our Twitter account. If Donald Trump is leveraging Twitter, so should we. Encourage Twitters lovers among friends and family to follow @gop_moore to be kept informed about events that impact all of us nationally and locally.

Our Instagram account, maintained by Lora Lowery, has aggregated 158 followers in no time at all. We shared photos with these followers on Mar. 23 during the Moore County Republican convention.

Meanwhile, Facebook continues to be our most powerful tool in the social media sphere. We launched promotion of the June 17 annual Republican Men's Club golf outing -- the club's principal fundraiser -- with a Facebook post that appeared for seven days and was boosted for \$50. We targeted a demographic of those age 35-65+ within a 50-mile radius of Pinehurst who identify with the Republican party and conservatism. Over those seven days, we reached 4,033 people and generated 70 clicks on the link to more information and registration. We plan to post additional ads on Facebook promoting the golf event as we move closer to the final countdown.

Moore County Republican Women News:

At Moore Republican Women, we're dedicated to leading North Carolina in both influence and membership and to being a positive factor in the national and state GOP, while improving our community through caring projects. Read all about us at www.mrwnc.org!



Our last MRW BRUNCH was on Monday, April 1 - PCC Members Club Outlook Ballroom at 12:00 Noon - Stay tuned for more information about the May Luncheon, speaker and menu.

(Men's Club members are always welcome as guests. Reservations are required and can be made at their website: www.mrwnc.org and see more information about MRW)

Resolve Blog:

(Editor's Note: Several newsletters back, we started including at least one article from the blog: RESOLVE NC; to see all of the articles, go to the following:

www.resolve.nc.blog If reading this in the paper newsletter, type the link address in your web browser.) **Socialism justice**



By Steve Woodward

We hear the phrase "social justice" tossed around, specifically by a radical left which believes the world at large, but especially the United States of America, is inherently unjust. And they're going to do something about it.

If not so very symptomatic of our declining culture, revelations that dozens of wealthy (capitalist) citizens, mainly from liberal hotbeds in California and New York, paid enormous sums to ensure open (back) doors into prestigious universities for their children would be hilarious. At last, "socialism justice"!

Wildly successful people, pillars of their communities and professions, paid six- and even seven-figure bribes to make sure their kids would experience the finest anti-capitalism, pro-socialism, anti-free speech indoctrinations money can buy. They cast them out of the free markets trappings of wealth and privilege, and into the petri dishes of left wing radicalism, on campuses escalating hatred toward America as never before. An Army of foot soldiers to back Generalissimo Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

The money flowed into willing hands at Georgetown University, and the universities of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), Southern California (USC) and Texas, plus Stanford, Wake Forest and Yale. These are schools already bloated by funding from donors who orchestrate capitalist ventures to perfection only to willfully underwrite generations of snowflakes who long to shred the U.S. Constitution, airbrush American history, shut down speech they do not agree with, and shut down companies in pursuit of climate change retribution.

The hands which handed over half-a-million dollars and more to falsely credential these future "leaders" as worthy enrollees soon will be cut off or, at least, separated from their finger nails, but they don't care (and apparently neither do their criminal parents). Mommy and Daddy might end up on the streets. So be it. Socialism justice delivers tough sentences.

“(In all) 33 parents named in federal indictments (March 12) allegedly funneled at least \$25 million through a fraudulent college-counseling service to get their children (into prestigious schools),” reported *The Wall Street Journal*.

That represents a staggering investment, and for what? Once inside the gates, one might presume the rich kids would be all-in on setting their own paths to success in between Kardashian-themed parties, and embracing the heritage and traditions of these fine universities.

Nothing could be further from the truth. They hate heritage. They want a lot of administrators and faculty members fired. And they want statues torn down and buildings renamed (to sanitize any and all recognition of white people who came before them). Overlooked, is that many of the coddled campus protestors are products of so-called white privilege. But they prefer a status as permanently outraged over privileged.

Look no further than [scandalized Wake Forest](#), where the head volleyball coach was placed on administrative leave after the feds linked him to receipt of a \$100,000 bribe. It was paid by the ringleader of the fraudulent counseling operation to help one of his client’s children become identified as a “recruit” sought by the Wake volleyball program. Whether the recruit ever has played volleyball is unclear.

What is exceedingly clear is that bucolic Wake Forest University is quaking as students swarm it grounds, shouting demand upon demand. They have embraced a recent trend of scouring old yearbooks to search for photos that disqualify people for jobs currently held due to activity in which they engaged decades earlier. Two members of the Wake admissions office, ironically, have been ravaged by students who discovered them in yearbook photos posing in front of a Confederate flag.

One such target was Dean of Admissions Martha Allman, who in February was forced to issue a heartfelt apology because she was photographed in front of a Confederate flag as a Wake Forest student in 1982.

A self-proclaimed Anti-Racism Coalition was not satisfied with Allman’s apology, calling on the school’s president to voice “vehement condemnation” of the dean. And [that’s not all the coalition is demanding](#). It will not rest until forcing removal of “all monuments, plaques, busts, portraits, buildings, and other things on campus dedicated to Confederates, white supremacists and eugenicists.” When the dust settles after the mass dismantling, the group

seeks renaming of Wingate Hall, Taylor Residence Hall and Poteat Residence Hall.

Washington Wingate, a Baptist minister, was president of Wake Forest College before and after the Civil War. His crime? Wake Forest’s campus was closed during the War but it’s buildings were used to store Confederate States bonds. Sorry, Pastor, you’re outta here.

Wake Forest’s web site notes the campus has a [racial and ethnic diversity](#) rate of 29.3% (as of Fall 2017), which represents a 49% increase in diversity since 2010. You might think this would be acknowledged as a positive trend. Think again.

The Anti-Racism Coalition warns the administration that “higher admission rates of black students does not at all compensate for the anti-black racism that is consistently experienced here. We do not need temporary solutions for a deeply rooted institutional problem.”

But their parents will pay \$70,000 a year to cover [tuition, plus room and board](#) — or pay a volleyball coach even more — to safely deliver them to these hallowed places where discontent is deeply rooted, where every human emotion bubbling up in opposition to widespread social injustice is deeply rooted, where everything is deeply rooted except rampant hypocrisy. Hypocrisy has no roots but remains buried under elite soil, never to be exposed. Until, thanks to the feds, it so readily is.

Elected Officials Contact Information:



To get the most recent elected officials contact information, visit the Moore Count Board of Elections Website: www.moorecountync.gov/images/departments/board-of-elections/elected_officials.pdf

Tom Schroeder – MCRMC EC Member:

Tom’s News

Moore County Conservative News

It looks like Dem's are moving to Unaffiliated much faster than Republicans.

Here is a critical quote from the below article:



"This group (meaning Unaffiliated) has proven willing to support either party, and their preference is heavily based on their impressions of the national party."

Key points in below article are **highlighted**.

Disaffected Democrats? How Party Registration Could Indicate Liberal Backlash in North Carolina | Longleaf Politics
longleafpolitics.com · March 29, 2019

For years, unaffiliated voters have been the fastest-growing category in North Carolina. But in large numbers, these unaffiliated voters are coming from a surprising place: the Democratic Party.

Voters switching from Democrat to unaffiliated make up the largest block of party-switchers since the beginning of 2018, according to a Longleaf Politics analysis of data from the State Board of Elections.

A total of 35,472 former Democrats left the party to become unaffiliated voters in 2018. That compares with 25,238 voters who switched from Republican to unaffiliated, though that type of party switching is a more common media storyline in the Trump era.

The same trend is holding true in 2019 as well. As of March 1, 5,169 Democrats had switched to unaffiliated status, compared with 4,411 Republicans.

Could this be a leading indicator of a backlash against the national Democratic Party?

North Carolina's Democratic Party has long had an unusual history with its national brethren. In general, the state's Democratic voters have been much more conservative. Democrats retained control of the General Assembly for decades after voters began reliably going red in national contests.

The turning point came only when the more liberal faction of the Democratic Party concentrated in the state's urban areas gained more power. In the 2010 elections, Republicans grabbed control of both houses of the General Assembly.

The national Democratic Party has continued to lurch to the left and gained more attention as potential 2020 presidential candidates jockey for position.

This dynamic is already showing up in the 2019 campaigns.

Though 2018 was a wave election for Democrats, it's the Republicans running in special congressional elections who are trying to nationalize the race.

The first TV ad in the 3rd Congressional District race, supporting Michele Nix, **attacks** New York congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. In the 9th Congressional District special election, Republican Matthew Ridenhour has also sought to **tie his opponent to** the controversial liberal figure **and with** Vermont Democratic Socialist Bernie Sanders.

The only path to victory in North Carolina elections includes unaffiliated voters

General election candidates need to both rally their party's base and grab a hold of unaffiliated voters. This group has proven willing to support either party, and their preference is heavily based on their impressions of the national party.

This will only become more true as unaffiliated voters **become the largest voting bloc** in more areas. This year, unaffiliated voters also became the largest group in Wake County.

longleafpolitics.com · March 29, 2019

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https://twitter.com/gop_moore

Website: MC GOP w: moore.nc.gop

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03/25/2019

"Trump Country"

#tsnews

Your Newsletter Editor – Paul Shaffer



As I was working on this issue of the newsletter, I was stunned when I saw a report on the local news that our NC State GOP head has been accused of being involved in a plot to bribe the State Insurance Commissioner (our speaker last month) in an illegal scheme. Something to do

with large campaign funds with a goal of getting an insurance regulation staff member removed and replaced by one who would be favorable to the person who made the donation.

Perhaps by the time you read this, there will have been a further investigation and understanding of what was done, or NOT done. Maybe there will be more information so we can better understand the purpose of the “donation” and if it really is a pay-for-play bribe as represented in the news report. But whatever the final outcome, even if it is found to be totally discredited as a bribe, rather just a donation, the damage is done. The optics are there and the shadow is cast. The NC State GOP will have a “bribery curse” cast upon it for months and maybe years to come.

If our fellow Republicans did the deed, then they, we, deserve the bad press and the potential political hit that goes with it. If nothing wrong was done, then we must get the word out loud and clear to salvage what we can.

And above all, we must learn a lesson of being absolutely sure that all of our state, county and local organizations are without any actions or activities that could be in any way considered “back room” dirty or illegal. We must be the party of good with a totally clean slate. (see the article later in this newsletter on the subject from WRAL.COM.)

On another subject, have you heard about the latest crisis at the border. Well, I did and immediately jumped in my car and went to the nearest Harris Teeter store to prepare for the worst. Yes, I went to stock up on the critical, needed every day to survive, product that is being reported as being totally missing in just 3 weeks, AVOCADOS!! It was on the news on TV, radio and on the web. Avocado shortage is a sure thing if Trump shuts down the border, oh no, disaster. Well guess what happened as I approached the produce department, a near riot! People pushing others, fights broke out and little kids there with



their mom were knocked to the floor. One irate avocado buyer pulled out their cell phone and yelled, “I’m calling 911 if you don’t back away and let me get my fair share!” The person was wearing an “AOC for President” hat, so I assumed it was a Dem. ??Well, that really didn’t happen, but it is not out

of the realm of possibility.??

With those uplifting thoughts, I hope to see you at the April 18 meeting.

New Feature: Links to Articles of Interest

Beginning in the January issue of the newsletter, there has been a monthly column that offers readers the opportunity to find and read additional articles of interest. Most of the referenced articles will be chosen from conservative publications found online. They are chosen by your Editor and from recommendations made by members or others who share club views . If you see an online article that you think might be of interest to those who read our newsletter, send an email to the Editor: paul.shaffer@mindspring.com that includes the link.



Listed links that are blue and underlined (in the email version of the newsletter) can be accessed by placing your cursor on the link and clicking, or holding down the “ctrl” key and clicking on the link. If you are reading a paper copy of the newsletter, you can type the link into the search bar of your browser. We expect to have between two and a half dozen such links in each issue. Following find the links for this issue:

<https://flagandcross.com/revealed-multiple-cnn-natl-security-experts-have-ties-to-terror-supporting-regime/>

<https://godfatherpolitics.com/democrats-say-congress-should-approve-news-stories-but-only-for-fox/>

<https://greatamericanpolitics.com/2019/04/woman-threatens-elderly-man-in-maga-hat-with-mob-instantly-regrets-it/>

From and About Our Members

Member Maureen Krueger Runs for Re-Election



District Attorney Maureen Krueger Launches 2020 Campaign

Published: Monday, 25 March 2019

When I worked to put myself through law school, I had a clear vision of what I wanted to achieve. I wanted to be a prosecutor. I always knew that I



wanted to work to see that victims of crime were as well represented as possible and that criminals received what they deserved under the law.

I am announcing today that I am running for another term to serve as District Attorney. My goals remain the same today as when I was a law

student. My drive to prosecute crime and my passion to represent victims remain.

A big difference now is that I have experience. I started as an Assistant District Attorney in 1997. I became District Attorney since 2007. I have learned that leadership and experience matters. There is too much at stake for on the job training. I will continue to successfully lead the District Attorney's office in the prosecution of the thousands of cases we handle.

I'm asking you to stand with me as I continue to prosecute thieves, rapists, habitual felons, drunk drivers, drug dealers, murderers and all of the other crimes that sicken all of us. I am one of a handful of District Attorneys in North Carolina with an inmate on death row. I know how to win in court.

The new Moore County and Hoke County combined Prosecutorial District makes it more important than ever that you have a District Attorney who is an experienced leader, dedicated to all of the citizens she serves and who will not be swayed by other interests.

I hope you will support me in my bid to serve you as District Attorney

(Editor's Note: Maureen has an opponent who is a registered Democrat)

John Boesch on Veterans Issues:

Several bills were introduced in March to ensure that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has the resources it needs to care for America's heroes.



The "Veterans Healthcare Improvement Act" would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct an

independent audit of VA's medical care budget so that Congress can ensure there are enough resources for vets to get the care they've earned and deserve. The "Build a Better VA Act" would fix a bureaucratic budgeting rule that is an unnecessary roadblock to quickly expanding veterans' access to VA care in underserved communities across the nation.

Veterans Healthcare Improvement Act:
In 2006, '07, and '08, VA ran out of money. Congress passed a law in 2009 requiring GAO to provide an independent analysis of the Department's healthcare funding needs. That requirement expired in 2013. Since then, VA has again run low on funds. The Veterans Healthcare Improvement Act would bring back this neutral GAO assessment so that Congress can better ensure VA has the resources necessary to support the care America's vets have earned and deserve.

Build a Better VA Act:
Every major VA medical facility lease with yearly rental costs over \$1 million must be authorized by Congress. Recently, bureaucratic budget battles in Congress have prevented these routine authorizations from moving forward. The Build a Better VA Act would eliminate this roadblock. Major medical facility leases would be authorized by resolution vs. legislation. This standard GSA process is used for other agency leases executed by the GSA. By eliminating much bureaucracy, this bill will help ensure that vets can access the care they need, especially in underserved communities.

Norman Zanetti: Letter to The Pilot

Hopes of impeachment proceedings against President Trump were laid to rest with the release of the Muller report to Attorney General Barr and his deputy Rosenstein. After 675 days of toxic political and media driven contempt of President Trump, his family, and members of his administration, no evidence was found to corroborate collusion with the Russians to win the 2016 election.



As the media and Democratic leadership comb through the four page summary it was apparent they were shocked, confused, and dismayed. Immediately on Sunday news outlets the spin began. Could it be that Attorney General Barr and his deputy Rosenstein possibly withheld any morsels that would not free the President from further investigations. This is their next hope.

For their sake of vindication for two and a half years of reporting inflammatory rhetoric from a cacophony of voices hating this President, there must be guilt to be found some where to de legitimize him in some way of something. If not, they will have to deal with having exercised incredibly poor judgment, been reckless with assumptions of guilt , and recognize incalculable damage to their reputations.

The country needs a mental health break from this. There are policy decisions that need bi partisan support to address those issues left behind in this rancor over an election the Democrats lost to a political outsider that calls out their hypocrisies as he sees them.

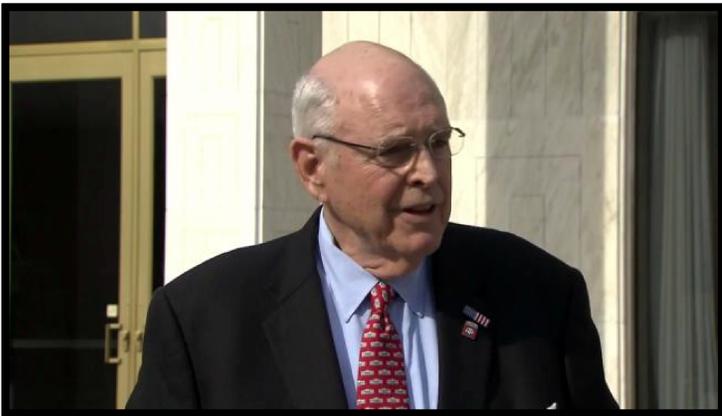
From outside the Club:



Indicted NC GOP chairman steps aside from party's daily operations

By Matthew Burns, WRAL.com senior producer/politics editor

RALEIGH, N.C. — One day after he was **charged in an alleged scheme to bribe state Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey**, Robin Hayes on



Wednesday relinquished all of his day-to-day responsibilities as chairman of the North Carolina Republican Party. "In the best interest of the party, I make this announcement today and will let our respected officers lead on a temporary basis until our regularly planned party elections this June," Hayes said in a statement.

Hayes, a former congressman and GOP candidate for governor, announced Monday that he wouldn't seek re-election as GOP chairman, citing health reasons.

A federal grand jury in Charlotte indicted him, Durham businessman Greg Lindberg and two Lindberg business associates last month, but the **indictment remained sealed** until Tuesday, when all four men surrendered to the FBI and entered not guilty pleas in court.



Lindberg owns or is involved in hundreds of companies, including several regulated by the state Department of Insurance. According to the indictment, he wanted Causey to fire or reassign an unnamed deputy commissioner causing problems for some of the businesses, and he offered up to \$2 million in political donations to get it done.

[View entire document on DocumentCloud](#)

Lindberg has given more than \$5 million to North Carolina political campaigns over the last few years, including more than \$1.49 million to the state Republican Party. The state party turned around and gave \$250,000 of that to Causey's campaign, and the indictment alleges this was an effort to get around state political giving rules, which allow unlimited donations to parties but cap individual campaign contributions at \$5,400.

Hayes is accused of agreeing to funnel the campaign money to Causey and of lying to FBI investigators when asked if any discussions had occurred involving Lindberg or his associates about directing some of the money to Causey.

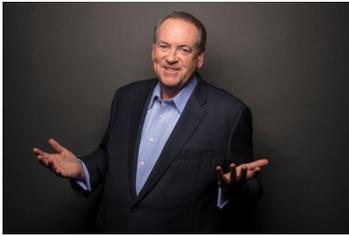
Causey cooperated with federal authorities in the investigation, including recording conversations he had with Hayes, Lindberg and the other two defendants, consultant John Gray and John Palermo, a vice president at Lindberg's Eli Global business and a former chairman of the Chatham County GOP.



Hayes appointed 11th District GOP Chairman Aubrey Woodard as acting chairman of the state GOP. Finance Chair K.D. Kennedy and state party Treasurer Jason Lemons also will assume expanded roles in the party's day-to-day finances.

"We look forward to a swift conclusion to this matter and clearing his name," Hayes' attorney, Kearns Davis, said in a statement. "Meanwhile, Mr. Hayes, in accordance with NCGOP rules, will allow others to lead while he heals from recent health setbacks."

Evening Edition March 26 Mike Huckabee



In a shock announcement Tuesday morning, Cook County, Illinois, prosecutors dropped all 16 charges against "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett for allegedly

lying to Chicago police about faking a hate crime against himself and blaming it on Trump supporters. They released a statement reading:

"After reviewing all of the facts and circumstances of the case, including Mr. Smollett's volunteer service in the community and agreement to forfeit his (\$10,000) bond to the City of Chicago, we believe this outcome is a just disposition and appropriate resolution to this case." It was also claimed that Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx decided that was good enough, since the punishment would have just been community service. The case was then immediately sealed.

Smollett's lawyers said his record would be expunged and declared, "He was a victim who was vilified and made to appear as a perpetrator as a result of false and inappropriate remarks made to the public causing an inappropriate rush to judgment. Jussie and many others were hurt by these unfair and unwarranted actions. This entire situation is a reminder that there should never be an attempt to prove a case in the court of public opinion. That is wrong. It is a reminder that a victim, in this case Jussie, deserves dignity and respect. Dismissal of charges against the victim in this case was the only just result. Jussie is relieved to have this situation behind him and is very much looking forward to getting back to focusing on his family, friends and career."

<https://www.westernjournal.com/ap-jussie-smolletts-attorneys-say-all-criminal-charges-dropped/>

But that's going over like a bottle of bleach in the punch bowl with many Chicago residents and leaders. As shocking as the dismissal was the reaction from ultra-liberal Chicago Mayor Rahm Emmanuel, who asked "how dare" Smollett claim he's innocent: "This is, without a doubt, a whitewash of justice and sends a clear message that, if you are in

a position of influence and power, you will get treated one way and other people will be treated another way. There is no accountability, then, in the system. It is wrong, full stop. This is a person who has been let off scot-free." (Note: where was all this righteous indignation when Comey let Hillary walk?) "You have a person using hate crime laws to advance your career. Is there no decency in this man?"

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/chicago-mayor-how-dare-jussie-smollett-insist-hes-innocent>

Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson argued that an innocent person wouldn't forfeit \$10,000 bond and cut a secret plea deal behind closed doors. Johnson said, "Do I think justice was served? No. What do I think justice is? I think this city is still owed an apology. When I came on this job, I came on with my honor, my integrity, and my reputation. If someone accused me of doing anything that would circumvent that, I would want my day in court. Period. To clear my name. I have heard that they wanted their day in court with TV cameras, so America could know the truth, but no, they chose to hide behind secrecy and broker a deal to circumvent the judicial system."

This surprise rabbit-out-of-the-hat for Smollett might not be the end of the magic show, though. A lot of people are demanding answers and floating theories about which friends of Smollett (even the Obamas) might be powerful enough to have pulled strings for him. And there's still the matter of that alleged hoax threatening letter with a powdery substance on it that Chicago police say Smollett mailed to himself. That would be a federal charge, and so far, federal investigators aren't commenting.

In the meantime, I'd just add that when the 16 felony charges were handed down, I wrote this on March 9th:

"But before you get your hopes up that justice will actually be served, Chicago grand juries routinely return multiple charges that get knocked down to one guilty plea deal, so there's a good chance he won't even go to jail." Of course, I didn't think that meant all 16 charges would be dropped with no explanation and the public not allowed to see the details, but I guess that falls under the category of "The Chicago Way."

Oh, and in anticipation of the "What-about-'ers" who will try to knock Republicans for criticizing Smollett while slamming the media for assuming Trump and Brett Kavanaugh were guilty, here's what I wrote the day of the first police press conference outlining the charges:

"(Disclaimer: I always respect due process rights so I

will stipulate up front that ‘Empire’ actor Jussie Smollett is still telling castmates that he ‘swears to God’ he didn’t fabricate the attack on him, and his attorneys insist that Chicago authorities trampled on his presumption of innocence by portraying him as definitely guilty in their press conference. Duly noted.)”

I’ll also point out the other big difference between the presumptions of guilt for Trump and Kavanaugh and for Smollett: in Smollett’s case, there was actual evidence of a crime that definitely existed. If you could find someone guilty on nothing but suspicion alone, then the Cook County prosecutors would now be going to jail.

MCGOP Participates in St. Patrick’s Day Parade

The Village of Pinehurst flooded the streets with Irish spirit during the 18th annual Saint Patrick’s Day Parade. Festive parade entries, great music, dancing and Irish cheer were in store for those who attended.

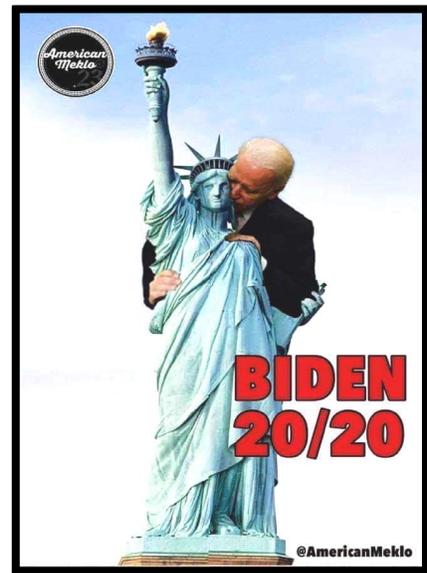
The parade began at 11:00am on Saturday, March 16 followed by entertainment and children’s activities at Tufts Memorial Park. Participates in the parade included nonprofits, businesses, civic groups, churches and families. Decorated golf carts, cars, and floats were in the celebration!

Hundreds of people, turned out in their greenery, lined the streets of downtown Pinehurst Saturday for the annual St. Patrick’s Day Festivities.

Included were representatives from the Moore County GOP dressed and decorated to the nines!



Food for Thought:



Your reservation for the April 18th luncheon must be made by Sunday, April 14, so go to the website www.mcrmc.club and click on the red **Luncheon Reservation** button.

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