



MOORE COUNTY, NC REPUBLICAN MEN'S CLUB NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2018 ISSUE



Visit www.mcrmc.club

In God We Trust **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**
Founded in December, 1996.....Celebrating 22 years in 2018

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The slate of officers for 2019 will be voted on at the December meeting.

(also, see committee member listings on the next page)



President's Message by Bill Demastus:

Today I went to the House of Representatives in Raleigh to sit in a hearing room while the pros and cons of how to turn the recently Constitutional Amendment for voter picture ID into law.

First, we heard from staff people who worked for the House Sub-Committee/Senate Sub-Committee to research and run test voting scenarios on how best to enact this law...what I ascertained is \$2.7 million tax payer dollars were spent to determine what was the best way to make this happen once the law was enacted.

For all of you that thinks the amendment is a done deal...think again...now it must become law...and suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune...to do so 'cause it still has to get by the courts. So with due diligence our Legislative bodies have set about to make that possible.

First they reminded us that they framed the law after one of the 34 other states that have voter ID...South Carolina. Why South Carolina? Well, a colleague reminded me that the Southern states are all just assumed to be prejudiced and, therefore, the law must closely resemble a law that has already passed...makes sense but assumes we are a bunch of red-necked racists here is NC. I am not and, I doubt, that too many are, however, it is the courts that we must convince.

After staff had covered several pages of the proposed law...which is several pages long...and several House/Senate members from both sides of the aisle had an opportunity to question staff as to the meaning/s of some points made about the law...the Chair announced that 30 individuals from the gallery (us) would be permitted to spend two minutes each to voice questions and/or opinions about the need for the law or about the disgraceful law that was attempting to be enacted...all in the eye of the beholder depending on that side of the aisle thing.

The first speaker...I believe was to the left side of the house... rebuked the chair for only allowing 2 minutes when it was announced originally that each speaker would have 5. I tended to agree with this speaker until I had heard about 10 more of them, and then I thanked our Maker that time had been cut to 2 minutes.

I believed all the speakers for the most part were sincere and presented their arguments very well. I have to say that I was most impressed with those that seemed to speak from the heart...not prepared or coached...just what they truly believed. I do think that feelings play a great part in this debate, and when they are true, they are much more amenable, at least to me.

(President's message continued at the bottom of next page)

COMMITTEES for 2018:

Membership, Communication & Publicity:

Jerrell Seawell*
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:

Pat Haggerty*
All EC members

Bylaws:

Bill Scholtes*

Veterans:

John Boesch*

*Committee Chairman

We will be assigning Committee Chairs for 2019 from our newly elected officers. In addition, we need members willing to work on a committee(s) to make their desires known.

If you are a current committee member and are willing to continue next year, let us know. In addition, if you are not currently serving on a committee but would like to do so in 2019, let us know. You may call or email President Demastus who will continue as our President in 2019. Thanks to all who have served on a committee this year!

Lunch

Administrator:

Bob Coates

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

Calling Captains:

Tom Beddow 295-2745
Dave Devore 215-9246
Neil Godfrey 949-2439
Bill Graning 235-0535
Roger Hicks 947-5527
Don Hiscott 295-9544
Jack McVey 295-6748
John Rowerdink 235-0644
Andy Rueb 295-4908

(Your name could be here) (Your Number could be here)

We thank all of the Calling Captains who served this year. Some will continue in 2019, while others took a leave as noted in past newsletters. We will continue to call all members who want to get a monthly reminder and make their luncheon reservations by phone. Many members now use email, text or the website to make reservations and will continue to do so in the future.

As noted last month and again this month, many members use social media to make monthly luncheon reservations. Let us know your notification and reservation preference.



Call Bob Coates if you have any questions.

Luncheon Meetings Information:

Our final meeting of this year is on Monday, December 17th. Registration begins at 11:30 am, with the meeting being called to order at noon. Watch for more details by email and in this newsletter. Beginning next year our luncheon meetings are being moved back to the 3rd Monday of each month. The January 2019 lunch meeting and program is at CCNC on Thursday, the 21st.

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

Make your December luncheon reservations on or before Wednesday, December 12 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. We guarantee the number of reservations to CCNC with the understanding we will pay for that number, even if some of those who made reservations do not attend.

Future Meetings and Events:

We will have our January meeting on Thursday the 21st. Note the change back to Thursday meetings. We will be meeting the third Thursday each month next year unless speaker schedules dictate a change.

The annual Reagan Dinner will be on February 9th, watch for more details.

(President's message continued from the front page)

Near the end of the "audience participation" we heard from the Director of the NAACP. This gentleman was very professional but extremely prejudiced...I found this to be extremely strange...being that this whole procedure was to eventually prove that we weren't...prejudiced that is. He railed on the Senators and Congressmen who had gerrymandered the state to wrest control of this state from the Democrats, then, after gaining that control, to pass a law depriving black citizens the vote.

He was just hitting high gear when, thankfully the

STOP NOW sign went up.

I don't know the punishment if one didn't STOP when the sign went up but it must be pretty severe because everyone including this gentleman immediately obeyed the sign...my guess is they would be locked in a room and forced to listen to all the same speakers who would be given 20 minutes each to state their case...that would certainly make me stop when the sign went up.

(President's message continued on top of next page)

(President's message continued from previous page)
I did not hear anything that I haven't heard before but I did hear a few new requests that I hope the lawmakers decline to do...for example representatives from state colleges and local community colleges made impassioned pleas to allow student ID cards to satisfy the Voter ID card...my guess is these voting students represent a good portion of the problem now...to say nothing that it would introduce perhaps 70-80 additional cards for poll workers to view and determine whether the address and face recognition was legitimate.

I believe the 67% of the Moore County voters who wanted Voter ID and the large number of State voters...over 2 million vs. 1,600,000 opposed will eventually get what they wanted...but the opposition won't go quietly into that dark night...in fact we had better get it before we lose our super majority...after that...all bets are off.

I can't end this without speaking of a gentleman that listed several things one must have a picture ID card to do...I thought about this all the way home and after some research I added a few: buy alcohol, buy cigarettes, join the military, open a bank account, apply for food stamps, apply for welfare, apply for Medicaid, apply for Social Security, apply for unemployment, apply for employment, rent a home, buy a house, apply for a mortgage, drive a car, rent a car, get on an airplane, get married, purchase a gun, adopt a pet, rent a hotel room, apply for a hunting license, apply for a fishing license, buy a cell phone, visit a gambling casino, pick up a prescription, hold a rally or protest, give blood, buy an "M" rated video game, purchase nail polish at CVS, purchase certain cold medicines...and finally die...yes the undertaker will demand a picture of you or take one themselves before cremation or burial.

Oh yes there is one thing you do not have to have a photo ID to do...VOTE. We Republicans are working diligently to correct this...and I am glad it is being done in Raleigh and we voters do not have to be the ones turning it into law.

I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

May God Bless and Keep you and yours and I look forward to seeing you all in January.

MERRY 
CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR

November Luncheon Meeting Report:

Our November meeting was held on the Monday of Thanksgiving week and featured an outstanding program with exceptional attendance being around 115 members and guests. After the call-to-order by President Demastus at noon, Rev. Mike Dubbs blessed the meeting and meal. Following the pledge, announcements were made and guests introduced then the lunch meal was served. It is worth noting that we were treated to a delicious beef entrée so as not to spoil the traditional turkey dinner that many of us enjoyed the following Thursday.

We were brought up-to-date about the election turnout, numbers and information about election sites by Glenda Clendenin, Director of the Moore County Board of Elections. Following Glenda, Vice President of Programs, Haggerty, introduced NC Treasurer Dale Folwell who make an outstanding presentation about his efforts to manage the somewhat "out of control" state spending on state employee healthcare. He reminded us of the many other opportunities for our state to be more responsible about spending tax payer dollars. See the following RESOLVE post about his comments:

[The \\$300 million elephant](#)



By Steve Woodward

State Treasurer Dale Folwell has identified with tremendous clarity his next mission to keep North Carolina financially secure. He wants to prevent healthcare providers, UNC Health foremost among them, from fleecing the health plan for state employees to the tune of \$300 million in the next several years.



Folwell, the first Republican state treasurer in 142 years, is sounding alarms in Raleigh. Many knew it was coming and yet still do not want to hear them.

He brought his message to Moore County Republican [Men's Club](#) members and guests on

November 19 in Pinehurst by raising a question that is both query and disparagement of the current

system. "I know what you're charging (the plan)," Folwell said. "What am I supposed to pay you?"

In other words, why don't I know what I'm paying for before I decide on a course of treatment? This is otherwise known as competitive pricing. Capitalism, actually.

Reports the *Winston-Salem Journal*:

"Folwell wants to change how health care providers are reimbursed in an initiative that could save SHP members up to \$60 million initially and \$300 million overall. The plan is North Carolina's largest purchaser of medical and pharmaceutical services at \$3.2 billion in 2017. It represents more than 720,000 teachers, state employees, current and former lawmakers, state university and community college personnel and their dependents, and non-Medicare retirees and their dependents."

When Folwell asked UNC Healthcare to provide documentation it hid behind patient privacy concerns. He asked a simple question and received redacted documents in reply. Folwell challenged UNC Healthcare to detail what medical procedures and pharmaceuticals actually cost and to prove that the state is receiving the discounts it negotiated. At the recent Men's Club luncheon, Folwell displayed the thick stack of documents which appeared to have been generated by a faulty printer. No data, just page after page of blacked-out information. UNC Healthcare has raised a finger to the state treasurer. It's the middle digit.

Why does Folwell persist? He knows waste and excess when he sees it. The state's pension funds were paying Wall Street custodians \$700 million in management fees when Folwell took office in 2016. He already has trimmed those fees by \$100 million. Real money.

Currently, the state budget covers around four percent of the state health plan's \$3.3 billion — with a B — annual budget, even as annual healthcare costs are rising by 6.5 percent and pharmaceutical costs are projected to increase by 9 percent.

"The track we are on is not sustainable," Folwell said in Pinehurst.

Newsletter Information:

As was started early this year, 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.

December Meeting Program News by Pat Haggerty – VP Programs:

As a political club, each month we have a political speaker. This past year we've had NC Treasurer Dale Folwell, Supreme Court Barbara Jackson, Congressman Richard Hudson John Davis and many other political speakers.



However, the December meeting is the annual Christmas program performed for us by the Pine Crest High School Choral Ensemble. The Choral group is very well directed by Erin Slenk, a professional music teacher.

The meeting will be Monday December 17th, just eight days before Christmas. Don't miss this wonderful program that will really put you in the Christmas spirit. These energetic high school students put their whole heart and soul in the performance and then join us for lunch.

The meeting, as usual, is at CCNC with registration beginning at 11:30am. After our call to order at noon, The Choral group will get us in the Christmas spirit and then join us for lunch. There will be a short business meeting after lunch to elect our officers for next year. Reservations are required and can be made at www.mcrmc.club.

Steve Woodward – Secretary:

(Editor's Note: In addition to being our Secretary, Woodward took the lead in establishing our club Facebook page. Please contact him if you have any questions about our Facebook page and be sure to sign-on and become a Facebook user. Woodward also established a presence for our club on Instagram. If you are an Instagram user, be sure to sign up to see our posts. See his following comments about Facebook and Instagram.)



Facebook is increasingly our most reliable tool for targeting like-minded Republicans across Moore County and beyond. When we reach out through Facebook we accomplish two things. We increase awareness of events such as future happenings at our new headquarters or the monthly Republican Men's Club luncheons. And we attract new readers of our issues blog, RESOLVENC.blog. Two examples from November: A \$40 "boosted" Facebook post promoting Treasurer Dale Folwell's appearance before the Men's Club on Nov. 19. That post reached 1,707 users and evoked five reactions. The luncheon was well attended. Secondly, when we boosted a post providing a link to a RESOLVE item posted on Nov. 14, it generated 146 clicks to the link and reached 1,896 users. The post addressed The Pilot's irresponsible decision to publish a letter in which the author compared President Trump to Adolf Hitler in the 1930s. For the month, we added 17 Facebook followers, reached 7,337 people and prompted 1,424 users to engage with our Facebook page content. Meanwhile, since its inception, our new Instagram account has attracted 114 followers after posting 63 photos and graphics.

Treasurer – Scott Sheffield

While I was sorry to miss the meeting in November, I admit that being on a visit with my family and grandkids was a better alternative. I am sure that many, if not most of us, put family first and other activities like political involvement, as very important, right behind family.

In addition, I want to thank all of my fellow MCRMC members as well as the many non-members for their help and votes in my successful election effort. I look forward to again serving as your representative on the Moore County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Allow me to say that thanks again by sharing my letter of November 27 in The Pilot Newspaper:

"Thanks to Voters:

To those of you who supported me in my bid for re-election to the Moore County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors, I want to express my heartfelt thanks. To those of you who voted for other candidates, thank you for voting. I haven't seen the final tally yet, but together I think we may have voted in near record or record numbers for a midterm election in Moore County.

Unfortunately, we also experienced an unprecedented level of vandalism during the campaign period. Many of the signs I put up, and those of the other candidates running for office, were tampered with. Signs were displaced, damaged, destroyed entirely, thrown away and stolen. To those — I'll be charitable — miscreants who chose to express themselves in this manner, I say only that your efforts to disrupt the political process, or to take out personal issues against certain candidates, or to just mindlessly destroy something, were petty and ineffective.

Thanks again to all my supporters".

On a final couple of notes for this year: First, I can assure you that we are heading into 2019 on a strong financial footing. We were generous, as usual, in our support of Republican candidates in the fall elections. But, we still have an more than \$10,000 in the bank as we start the year. This balance will increase as we collect 2019 dues. I will give a more detailed report at our December meeting.

Speaking of dues, let me conclude by again asking our members to pay 2019 dues early, saving us time and money on notices and invoices. You can get your dues paid in advance. Just write a check for \$25.00, made out to MCRMC. Be sure and put "2019 dues" in the memo line. Dues checks can be brought to the December meeting or can be mailed to MCRMC, PO Box 1812, Southern Pines NC 28388. If you bring your dues check, please give them to me and I will see you at the meeting.

VP Membership – Jerrell Seawell

Now that the election is behind us, it is time to begin moving forward once again. In a direction that hopefully, we can all work together to move in the same direction regardless if all of us do not agree with exactly the same thing or issue. I was waiting to write this article until after the election but the more I thought about it the question that came to mind is "why should I wait for the election results particularly when addressing an area such as membership? Should the results dictate what I would say to our membership?



The message is clear: When action is taken because of something that has happened then our motives become reactive in nature. Therefore, my message is simple. Regardless of the results, we have to continue to work hard to continue to increase our membership for our club. As a current member, I pledge to become proactive in recruiting new members. We need our members to reach out to someone and invite a guest to our meetings. I believe everyone should be able to see very clearly that we need to continue our efforts and continue to work hard to begin preparing now for the next election.

More importantly, continue to keep our Nation, State, and communities, along with their respective leaders in your prayers.

I look forward to serving our membership once again and working with each of you. May God bless you each of you.

Bob Coates – Lunch Administrator

I wanted to give you a little insight as to some of what goes on in organizing our monthly luncheons. Our club receives reservation requests from members and we then tell CCNC how many people will be attending. We have to guarantee that number a few days in advance. This means that if we have fewer people than what we guarantee the Club still pays for those meals. Unfortunately every month we have a number of no-shows - people who have reserved a spot but do not attend. The Club has to pay for their meals. In October that number was 11. This lost money could be put to good use in supporting Republican candidates rather than paying for uneaten meals.

If you make a reservation please come. If you find out that you can't make it please cancel as much in advance as possible. If you need to cancel you can call, email or text Bob Coates at 910.528.8397 (rcoates777@gmail.com)

If you don't come or can't cancel more than 3 days in advance of the luncheon you are welcome to pay for your lunch by sending a check payable to MCRMC for \$20 to:

Robert Coates
21 Edinburgh Ln
Pinehurst, NC 28374
Attn: MCRMC

We look forward to seeing you at the next luncheon!

Tom Beddow – Chair of Moore County GOP

Past President of MCRMC & Nominations Committee Chair:

As we wind down this year and look forward to next year, things are busy at both the Moore County GOP and at our Men's Club. Let me spell out two of the most important in this article.

First, the Men's Club will be electing our 2019 Executive Committee officers at our December meeting. The following slate was submitted at our November meeting and there were no nominations submitted from the floor. At our December meeting, the slate will be submitted again for election. Those elected in December will be sworn in and will officially take office on January 1, 2019. Those to be elected are:

- Bill Demastus – President
- Jerrell Seawell – VP Membership
- Tom Adams – VP Programs
- Steve Woodward – Secretary
- Scott Sheffield – Treasurer
- Tom Beddow – Past President
- Jim Legg – Member at Large
- Richard Maness – Member at Large
- Tom Schroeder – Member at Large
- Paul Shaffer – Member at Large
- Non-Voting EC Members (appointed by EC)
- Bob Coates – Lunch Administrator
- Rev. Mike Dubbs – Chaplain
- Stephen Later – Attorney



Second, please mark your calendars for this year's Reagan Dinner which will be held Saturday, Feb. 9, at the Pinehurst Country Club in the Overlook Room. Our keynote

speaker will be John Heubusch, author and Executive Director of the Reagan Foundation. A surprise second speaker will be revealed soon. Individual dinner tickets and sponsorships at several levels will be available.

This is the County GOP's primary fundraiser each year and helps defray the cost of our permanent office at Suite 211E Central Park Ave. in Olmsted Village and builds our war chest for the 2020 election cycle. Contact Tom Beddow at 910-295-2745 if you would like to help with organizing the event or would like to be a sponsor.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from me to all Moore County Republicans.

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!



The MRW held their annual Christmas BRUNCH on Monday, December 3 at the PCC Members Club in the Outlook Ballroom starting at 10:30 a.m. Watch for an email announcement about the MRW luncheon for February or visit their website: www.mcrwnc.org

(Note: Men's Club members are always welcome as guests. Reservations are required and can be made at their website.)

RESOLVE NEWS:

The Moore County GOP BLOG "RESOLVE" is found at: www.resolveblog.com. Check this website on a regular basis to see the most recent posts.

See the RESOLVE post in the previous article about our November meeting program speaker. Other current issues are addressed in the blog website noted above.

Elected Officials Contact Information:



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

Tom's News – MCRMC and EC Member:

Tom's News

Moore County Conservative News

Headline: Missing the Point on Gerrymandering
Comments:

The expression "be careful what you wish, for you

might get it" comes to mind. Getting the courts to "fix" the "broken" gerrymandering redistricting process may net results that you did not expect or like.

Are we willing to let the Federal Courts with appointed judges and their "Master" determine what our election districts look like to fix "problems?" even though the NC Constitution clearly give this responsibility to elected officials.

Just a thought.

Tom S

Quotations from the below article:

-- "Boiling down Tuesday's Daily Journal to a single sentence: Too many gerrymandering critics seem to believe that a fairer election redistricting process will produce results that align more closely with proportional representation."

-- "You're proving my point. If your goal is results that reflect statewide vote totals more closely ("When Democrats win a majority of the vote ..."), don't expect redistricting reform to solve the problem you perceive."

More details in the short article below

Article: Here is the weblink to the below article:
[Click Here](#)

Missing the Point on Gerrymandering

By lockerroom.johnlocke.org

[View Original](#)

Boiling down Tuesday's Daily Journal to a single sentence: Too many gerrymandering critics seem to believe that a fairer election redistricting process will produce results that align more closely with proportional representation.

They ignore the fact that a system employing geographic districts can produce results that vary widely from proportional representation. So getting rid of gerrymandering won't necessarily produce the results these critics hope to see.

A Twitter feud invoking my column included the suggestion that I oppose redistricting reform. Actually, I've been a vocal proponent for years. When I pointed out this fact ...

Interrupting this Twitter feud, I note that John Hood and I agree on redistricting reform. The column cited above warns that changing the redistricting process won't guarantee proportional representation. Too many gerrymandering critics seem to miss that point.

— Mitch Kokai (@mitchkokai) November 28, 2018

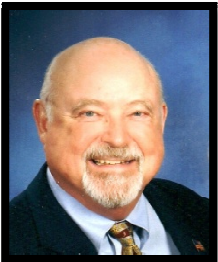
... a young man responded.

I don't think the goal is proportional representation it's that for example like in Wisconsin, when democrats win a majority of the vote, republicans don't keep a supermajority in both chambers, make it more fair. First past the post can't match PR

— Akhil (@karandikara99) November 28, 2018

To which I reply: You're proving my point. If your goal is results that reflect statewide vote totals more closely ("When Democrats win a majority of the vote ..."), don't expect redistricting reform to solve the problem you perceive.

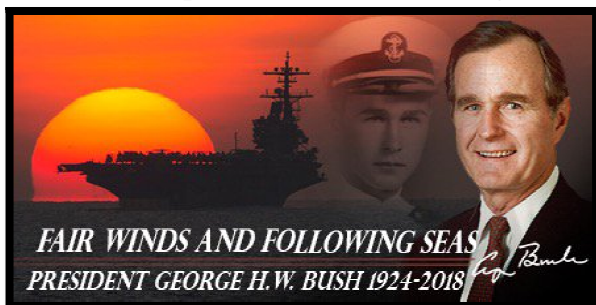
Your Editor, Paul Shaffer



As I am preparing this issue of the newsletter, I am watching in the background the activities surrounding the tribute to President George H. W. Bush who passed away on Friday, November 30. We lost a great American, a loyal Republican

and without doubt the very best one-term President this country has ever seen. Many say, he will go down in history as one of the best Presidents the US ever had! Without doubt, for a President who had a Democrat House and Senate for four years, his accomplishments are beyond amazing.

Rather than repeat what we all heard on TV, many times over, about Bush 41, I have selected a few illustrations that represent the many hours of his life, legacy and accomplishments. The two things that



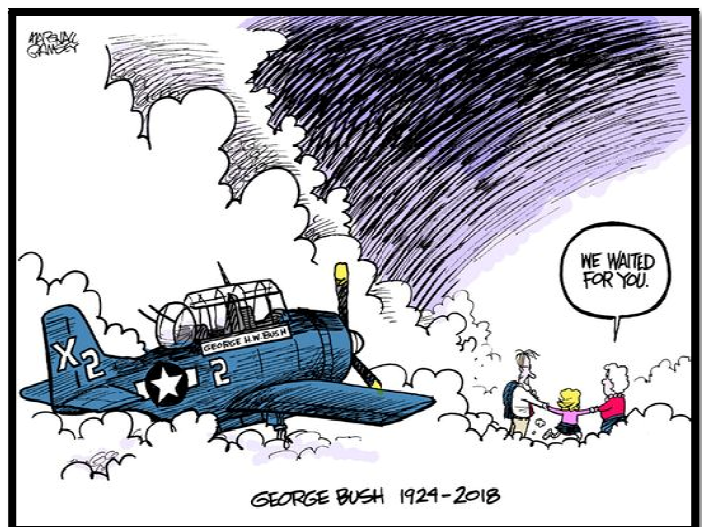
resonated with me beyond all others were his love of family and his treatment of others regardless of position. Truly, the world is a better place because of George Herbert Walker Bush!

For Immediate Release
November 30, 2018

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH
ON THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER,
PRESIDENT GEORGE H. W. BUSH

DALLAS, TEXAS – "Jeb, Neil, Marvin, Doro, and I are saddened to announce that after 94 remarkable years, our dear Dad has died. George H. W. Bush was a man of the highest character and the best dad a son or daughter could ask for. The entire Bush family is deeply grateful for 41's life and love, for the compassion of those who have cared and prayed for Dad, and for the condolences of our friends and fellow citizens."

#



RIP

From and About Our Members

Ed Dennison on Moore County Schools:

Moore County Schools Facilities Plan Update



Thanks to you, our Commissioners, and our community for the passage of our \$103 Million Bond and ¼ of a cent Sales Increase, Aberdeen Primary and Elementary Schools and the Southern Pines Primary and Elementary Schools, with an average age over 72 years old, will be replaced with new Elementary Schools in Aberdeen and Southern Pines. It will also provide a new elementary school in Pinehurst, which is grossly over-crowded with all 4th and 5th Graders presently in modular units.

Thanks to our Commissioners for providing funding for our new elementary school on Camp Easter Road, to relieve the significant over-crowding at Vass Lakeview and Sandhills Farmlife Elementary Schools, which are overcrowded by several hundred students, and are using over 10 modular units today. Our Commissioners are also providing funding for an auxiliary gym, additional updated science classrooms, and renovations for North Moore High School.

The openings date for these projects are:

-Camp Easter Road (Actual name to be determined in December)	August	2019
-Aberdeen Elementary School	August	2020
-Southern Pines Elementary	August	2020
-North Moore High School	February	2021
-Pinehurst Elementary School	August	2021

Former Member, Jim Lexo in The Pilot:

Column: Despite Drama, Trump Is Right on many Issues

November 13, 2018

I have been a lifelong Republican, starting with helping my parents campaign for Dwight Eisenhower. Throughout the years and decades, I embraced the Republican principles of balanced budgets, strong national defense, individual rights and the other common-



sense principles that make for a strong, viable republic.

When Donald Trump came on the scene, I thought there was no way this guy can win and no way he would represent us Republicans. One of the Republican governors or senators would surely win the nomination. Having worked in the “traditional” wing of the party, I was not tuned in to the growing conservative bloc of voters who felt there was little difference between the parties. No matter who gets elected, we keep drifting to the left.

So Trump gets elected and does and says things that initially appear to be outrageous. He tells our NATO allies they need to start carrying their weight on the cost of defending Europe. He starts what looks to be trade wars with China, Mexico, Canada and Europe (free trade Republicans go crazy). He calls the leader of a rogue nation that has nuclear capabilities “Little Rocket Man.” He kills the Iran nuclear deal. He tells the U.N. we are not going to give foreign aid to nations that do not support our goals. On and on. You get the idea. He says things we all think about but are too afraid to say out loud.

Despite all the media second guessing, negative reports and high drama, it turns out Trump has been right on the issues, at least from my perspective. We are getting better trade deals; rogue nations are falling in line; allies are not taking advantage of us like they used to; mortal enemies are afraid to make a move because they don’t know how Trump might respond and so on.

I think what concerned the “traditional” wing of the Republican Party — and that certainly includes the “Never Trumpers” — was that Trump’s style, to them, was appalling. You do not point out the deficiencies you see in your allies; you do not poke enemies in the eye; you do not call your political enemies names or make fun of them. Those are all politically incorrect.

So we have a style and substance issue. Nearly all Republicans like the substance of the issues President Trump is focused on, but many do not like the way he goes about achieving his goals.

My point is that Trump has awakened me to the fact that “business as usual” had us on the path to socialism and eventual third world status.

I love his agenda and my “aha” moment is that we are in a new political era where perhaps you do need sharp elbows and some bravado to get what you want. Who is better trained to be that person than a

businessman who spent his life in the New York City construction business? That is not for the faint of heart.

Would a Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio or Scott Walker been able to achieve all the accomplishments Trump has had in two years? I doubt it.

Trump's bold moves have resulted in positive outcomes that may very well allow America to remain the greatest nation for another century. What it took was someone who knew what he wanted to accomplish and the nerve to do what needs to be done to make it happen.

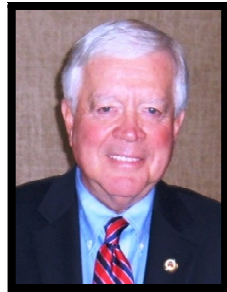
Jim Lexo is past president of the Moore County Republican Men's Club and was a former staffer in U.S. House of Representatives for 12 years.

John Rowerdink to The Pilot Newspaper

(Editor's Note: The following article appeared in The Pilot Newspaper in a "Point/Counterpoint Column" on November 27th, after the loss of the majority in the US House in the fall election.)

**There's Plenty of Work to Do,
But Expect Gridlock**

John Rowerdink, a Pinehurst resident, is the former chairman of the Moore County Republican Party and president of the Moore County Republican Men's Club.



The 2018 midterm election is now mostly history, so where do we go from here?

Before I get into that, was this a "blue wave"

election as the media predicted? It appears that Democrats gained about 39 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives (greatly aided by the retirement of 41 Republican incumbents), while Republicans gained a few seats in the Senate. Compared with President's Obama's first midterm election in 2010, in which Democrats lost 63 House seats and lost control of the Senate, this is pretty mild. I would call it a midterm course correction.

On the question of how this will play out over the next couple of years, my optimist side and my pessimist side are in conflict.

Looking at the election optimistically, which is my natural inclination, we now have divided government, which might mean that the two parties

will have to try to work together. A divided government reflects that the country as a whole is pretty evenly split. Looking back over several presidential elections, most of them have been fairly close, in the range of a few popular vote percentage points one way or the other.

Consequently, when either party thinks it has a mandate to do anything it wants, the voters often go the other direction in the next election. This is the genius of the American political system. Every two years, the voters get a chance to correct what they think are the excesses of the recent past.

Here in North Carolina, Republicans kept the majority in both houses but lost their veto-proof majority. My honest

opinion is that this may not be all bad. Remember the old saying that "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely"? I'm not saying that Republicans in the NC General Assembly were corrupt, but they frequently overplayed their hand. The voters recognized that and reacted accordingly. Many of my Republican colleagues will disagree with me, but if this forces the General Assembly and the governor to try harder to work together, that would be a good thing.

Our country is facing many serious challenges, and history

has shown that serious challenges are best solved by bipartisan solutions. Polls show that a majority of people in both parties want their representatives in Washington to work together. This would require a huge change from the pattern of the last few years, which has been characterized by extreme partisanship.

So my optimist side says maybe they will try to find ways to work together. Hope springs eternal.

However, my pessimist side sees it differently. The fact remains that Democrats simply hate the president and most of them will resist doing anything that might look like compromise. I predict they will spend the next two years investigating everything and getting nothing else done. The inter-party warfare we have seen for the past two years will likely intensify.

Democrats have spent the last two years resisting the progress made by President Trump and the Republicans and now they will try to roll it all back. They have already said as much. Regulation? More, not less. Taxes? Higher, not lower. Immigration? Abolish ICE and open the borders. Health care?

More government, not less. The Democratic Party is swerving to the left, but I doubt that is where the country wants them to go. And since Republicans still control the White House and the Senate, most of this will go nowhere.

Many Democrats won't say it, but their real goal is to impeach the president. They also haven't gotten over their loss in the Kavanaugh hearing, so they may try to impeach him too. Did you see anything in the Kavanaugh confirmation hearings that even hints at compromise? So my prediction is for gridlock. This is sad, given the many serious problems our country faces.

Unfortunately, past experience has shown that when the two parties disagree on nearly everything, the only thing they can agree on is to spend more money. So I can see a trillion dollar infrastructure bill passing and getting signed by the president. We need the infrastructure work, but where will the money come from? More borrowing. \$22 trillion in national debt and growing.

So unfortunately, my pessimist side wins this argument. I predict the Democrats will go after the president on everything. And have you seen any indication that this president will roll over? Nope. So, we will see non-stop war between the Democrats in the House, the Republicans in the Senate and the president.

Two years from now, in 2020, we will have another election, and the voters will decide who to blame and how to correct what went wrong.

I hate to be a pessimist, but that's the way I see it. Thank goodness we live in America, where the voters get to decide every two years.

This & That:



NPR Blatantly Lies About Donald Trump, Jr., Then Says it was an Accident



WARNER TODD HUSTON DECEMBER 1, 2018

NPR falsely claimed on Friday that Donald Trump, Jr., lied to the Senate Judiciary Committee in

September 2017 compared to a story told by a former Trump attorney.

On November 30, National Public Radio... yes the very NPR that takes our tax dollars... posted the following lie:

Trump Jr. told the Senate Judiciary Committee in September 2017 that although there had been negotiations surrounding a prospective Trump Tower in Moscow, they concluded without result 'at the end' of 2014.

'But not in 2015 or 2016?' Trump Jr. was asked. 'Certainly not '16,' he said. 'There was never a definitive end to it. It just died of deal fatigue.' Trump's account contrasts with the new version of events given by Cohen on Thursday in a guilty plea in federal court. In that new version, Cohen says the discussions with at least one Russian government official and others in Moscow continued through June 2016, well into Trump's presidential campaign.

But, as The Federalist's Mollie Hemingway notes, NPR flubbed it:

In fact, Senate investigators were asking Trump Jr. about a series of efforts to develop property in Russia, going back several years. Reporter Phil Ewing (reporter Tim Mak contributed to the story) conflates one of those efforts with another separate effort. That conflation results in the false news report.

A full 100 pages before the portion Ewing quotes, Trump Jr. explicitly contradicts NPR's false claim when he gives a clear answer to the following question:

That question was:

Q. It's been reported that in late 2015 or 2016 when now President Trump was running for office the Trump Organization was pursuing a plan to develop a massive Trump Tower in Moscow. Is that accurate?

A. Yes.

Indeed, Trump, Jr., admitted that there was some aborted effort by others to develop a Trump property in Moscow.

Contrary to what NPR "reported," there was no contradictory testimony at all.

NPR left the story up for quite a while, despite everyone showing them the error of their ways.

Finally late in the day, NPR appended an editor's note to the top of the story:

Editor's note: An earlier version of this report mischaracterized an answer Donald Trump Jr. gave to Senate investigators in 2017 about the prospective projects his family was negotiating with people in Moscow.

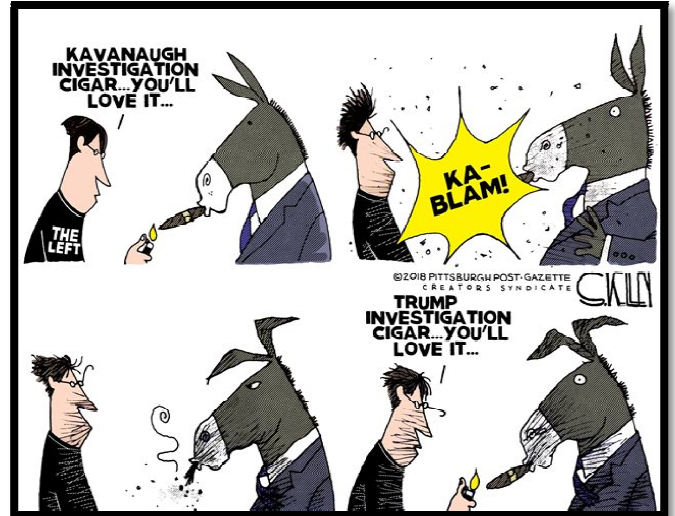
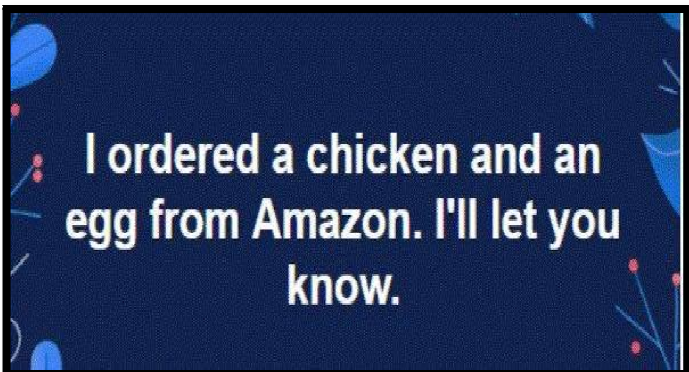
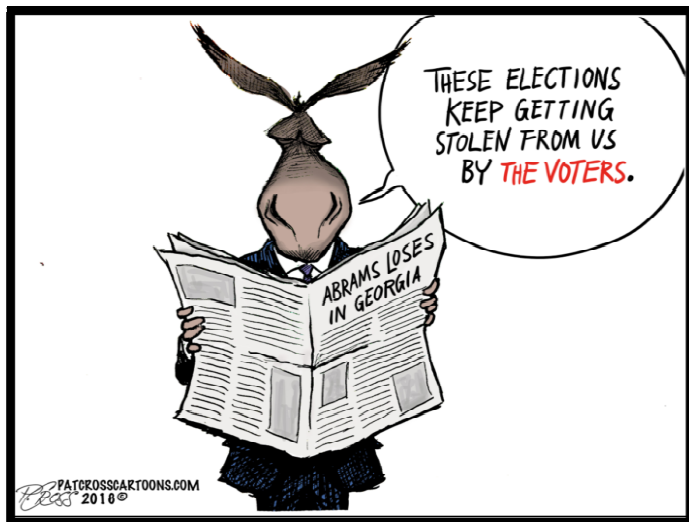
The story reported that Trump Jr.'s response — that negotiations on one project concluded by the end of 2014 — contrasted with the version of events as laid out in the guilty plea by Michael Cohen on Thursday. In fact, Trump Jr. and investigators were alluding to a different set of negotiations — not to a deal that Cohen was reportedly pursuing. Trump Jr. did acknowledge in his testimony that Cohen and another man were exploring a possible deal in Moscow in 2015 or 2016.

Trump Jr. did not address what Cohen has now admitted — that talks about such a deal continued at least into June 2016, longer than previously known and well into the presidential campaign.

See, it was all juuuust a mistake.

Sure..... Sure it was.

Some Red Meat:



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