



In God We Trust

MOORE COUNTY NC
REPUBLICAN MEN'S CLUB
JANUARY 2024
Visit www.mcrmc.club



Founded in December, 1996...Celebrating 28 years in 2024

2024 EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE
(nominees)

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President's Message by John McLaughlin:



Some of you may have noticed that my 2023 MCRMC newsletter comments always stressed UNITY as a key ingredient for success of the Republican's efforts on municipal, Moore County, State of NC, and National election strategy. We are the party that stresses individual rights, conservative governance, and majority rule through fair elections.

I personally think that we have been resting on our past successes, particularly in local and Moore County elections, and are not looking at the critical issues facing us as we enter into 2024 and the subsequent years to follow.

The MCRMC is a mature organization in terms of member median ages. We must start focusing our efforts on future leader training and mentoring to maintain our competitive advantage in the next decade and beyond. I would like to challenge each of our members to identify a Moore County conservative young potential leader, and:

- (1) bring them to one of our spring 2024 meetings
- (2) Get them enthused in the nuances of the election and governing process
- (3) Convince them that the MCR Party's future is in their hands

My father always reminded me that you have to "Have Deposits if you expect Returns."

There are so many Biden programs, starting with Bidenomics, Border Security, Ukraine CASH Drain, and the Hamas-Israeli Conflict. Add the Biden Executive Branch's use of the Secret Service, FBI, US Revenue Dept., and other Federal agencies for the own devious objectives. Finally, include the Judicial overreach on local, state, and national levels. All of this for us to educate the general public.

Once again I hope that we must focus in 2024 on GOP UNITY and not forget that local race outcomes in Moore County should not overshadow our commitment to vetting and working for all GOP candidates that demonstrate our conservative values.

John

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NON-VOTING
MEMBERS**

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COMMITTEES for 2024:

**Membership, Communication
& Publicity:**

Robert Bortins*

Finance:

Tim Helms*

Fundraising & Candidate

Finance:

John McLaughlin*

EC Members

Golf Tournament 2024:

TBD*

Nominations:

TBD*

Programs:

Wayne Boyles*

Bylaws:

Bill Scholtes*

Veterans & First Responders:

John Boesch*

& Todd Maness*

*Committee Chair

If you would like to serve
on a committee in 2024, let
an EC member know.

New Meeting Day & Dates for 2024



For 2024, club meetings will be on the **third Thursday of each month.** We will continue to meet at the Whispering Pines Country Club. Watch for email and newsletter information about date confirmation and speaker announcements. See the following Thursday luncheon meeting dates and mark your calendar:

January 18	February 15	March 21
April 18	May 16	June Golf, date TBD
July & August Summer Break	September 19	
October 17	November 21	December 19

Our January Speakers are State Representative Neal Jackson and State Senator Tom McInnis. See the article by VP Programs, Wayne Boyles, for more details. Make your reservations at www.mcrmc.club

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING!

2024 Dues News

We are in a **NEW YEAR**, and it is past time for all members to pay dues for

2024. Dues will be past due if not paid soon, and you could be dropped from the membership database! Dues are \$30 payable by cash (at a meeting) or a **PERSONAL** check (no business checks can be accepted due to NC political donation laws).



As noted, if you plan to pay by cash, bring it to the January meeting. If you are going to write a check, remember to make it a personal check made out to MCRMC with "2024 dues" in the memo line. Checks can be brought to a meeting or mailed to:

MCRMC
PO Box 1812
Southern Pines NC 28388

Payment of dues before the deadline will assure that membership will be continued in 2024, that you will receive the newsletter, and that you will be advised of upcoming Republican events and activities.

If you have any questions about dues or dues payment, please contact the club Treasurer, Tim Helms at (910) 690-7005. Thanks in advance for your payment!

December Meeting Report:

On a cool but sunny December day, the club members and attendees gathered at The Country Club of Whispering Pines for the last luncheon meeting of 2023. The Executive Committee meeting, held before each luncheon meeting, broke up shortly before 11:30am just as the attendees began arriving. After signing in, paying for lunch, and getting name tags, attendees began to meet and greet each other and find a table before the meeting was called to order. Attendees found several "reserved" signs at each table which reminded them that the special guests, musicians from the Pinecrest Sinfonietta Orchestra, would be joining them for lunch. In the front of the dining room, the Orchestra members could be seen setting up for the musical program of Christmas songs.

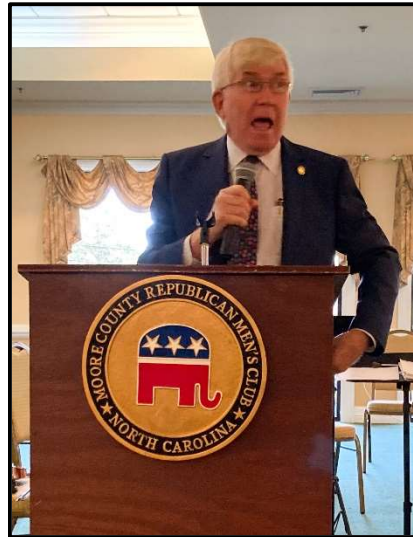


The tables filled quickly, and the noon hour was fast approaching which meant the call to order was near. Club President, John McLaughlin, was not able to attend this meeting as he was with his wife who was in the hospital for a procedure. In his stead, Past President Tom Adams came forward, took the lectern, and called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.



After explaining that President John was with his wife, Tom called the meeting to order. He introduced guests and dignitaries in the audience.

He then called NC State Senator Tom McInnis to the lectern to introduce a special guest, a Republican candidate for NC State Auditor. McInnis came to the lectern, but before making the introduction, he noticed that the American flag had not been set up at the front of the room. After announcing this, a



member of the club dining staff quickly found the flag and set it up in the front near the lectern. McInnis then proceeded to introduce Dave Boliek who is signing up the next day as a Republican candidate for NC State Auditor.

Boliek came forward and introduced

himself, summarized his qualifications and background, and

explained why he was jumping on the primary ballot bandwagon to run for State

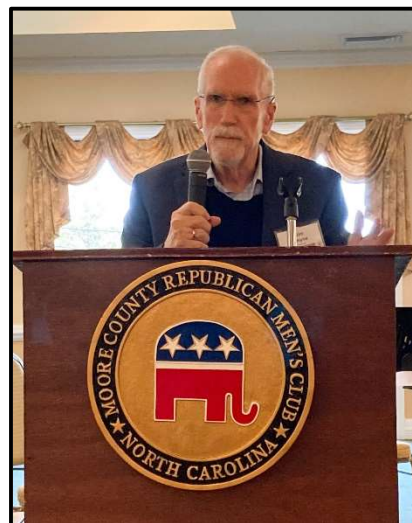
Auditor. He

also stated that there was a meeting at Pinewild in the evening to support his candidacy and he hoped to see some from the audience there. To get detailed information, learn about Boliek, and find how to support his candidacy, go to his website:

<https://auditor-dave.com/>

After Boliek's short presentation, Adams returned to the lectern and asked the attendees to stand and say the pledge of allegiance. He then asked the Club Chaplain, Rev. James Thyne to come forward to say

a few words, offer a prayer and bless the food. Thyne came forward and offered wonderful words of encouragement. He then asked all in attendance to bow their heads and he offered an opening prayer including a blessing of the lunch.



The attendees and Orchestra members were advised to line up

at the buffet and fill their plates with the abundant



lunch of meatloaf paired with mashed potatoes, salad, green beans, dessert, and tea. Both the attendees and the Pinecrest Orchestra members enthusiastically filled their plates at the buffet and enjoyed the delicious meal.

As stated earlier, the Orchestra members were scattered among the tables so they could converse with attendees during lunch. All enjoyed the food, the conversation and attendees learned about the Orchestra members, their life at Pinecrest High School and about what musical instrument they would be playing.



As lunch was winding down and the food was disappearing, Past President Adams again took the lectern to introduce VP of Programs, Wayne Boyles, who came forward to introduce the special Christmas program, the Pinecrest Sinfonietta Orchestra. The twenty-one or so players are a select group of string players, including violins, violas, larger cellos, and standup bass violins. There is one piano player in the group. Boyles introduced the Orchestra and reminded the attendees that this was the third year that the Orchestra had performed at the December Christmas meeting of the club. He acknowledged that this year's members may not have performed in past years but welcomed them all whether they were new or returning players. He reminded the attendees of the excellent performances of past years and that we anticipated another year of resounding and inspiring Christmas music. With that, the Orchestra members poised as the conductor



raised her baton, cued the players, and the music began.

Each of the Christmas selections were welcomed by those who attended. See the following picture taken



during the performance. The Christmas selections included classics of old as well as newer Christmas tunes. The audience responded to each selection with



enthusiasm and applause.

After each selection the conductor, Madeline Birk, faced the audience and offered a gesture of thanks for the applause.

For the final selection, Birk said the group would play a piece made famous by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, "Carol of the Bells."



At the conclusion of this outstanding Christmas selection, the attendees responded with a standing round of applause.

Adams then again came forward and presented the



Orchestra with a MCRMC check for \$500 as a token of appreciation for their performance. The money will be used to offset expenses the Orchestra incurs such as traveling to perform at events outside of Moore County.

All attendees seemed in agreement that we had yet another outstanding Christmas luncheon with the Pinecrest Orchestra performance. Everyone expressed their hope that we can have them again for Christmas in 2024.

At about 1:20pm the meeting was adjourned with a *Merry Christmas* to all and **Happy New Year!**

2024 Executive Committee Officer Election UPDATE:

In December, the club elects officers for the next year, based on those who were nominated at the November meeting. You may have noticed that the officers listed in the left column of the front page of this newsletter are noted as “nominated.” In order to have an election, there must be a quorum of “regular” members in attendance at the December meeting. We were short of a quorum and therefore were unable to hold the annual election.

We will hold the election at the January 2024 meeting. The nominations have been closed and remain the same. They are noted as follows and will be confirmed by January meeting election:

Officer nominees for 2024:

- President – John McLaughlin
- V.P. Membership – Robert Bortins
- V. P. Programs – Wayne Boyles
- Secretary – Mike Freidel
- Treasurer – Tim Helms
- Past President – Tom Adams
- Member-at-Large – Lou Bologna
- Member-at-Large – David Norris
- Member-at-Large – Hugh Hinton
- Member-at-Large – Charles Webb

Plan to attend and participate in the election.

Treasurer Elect’s Report – Tim Helms

(Editor’s note: This first report of 2024 is a joint effort of the previous Treasurer, Jim Legg, and the new Treasurer nominee, Tim Helms.)



Beginning balance 12/01/23	\$32,298
Contributions	859
Disbursements	1,959
	\$31,198
Ending balance 12/31/23	\$31,198

Dues for 2024 are now PAST DUE. If you wish to pay online visit our home page, [Home | Republican Men's](#) and click on "pay dues now". If you pay online you will be charged \$31.59. The additional \$1.59 covers PayPal processing fees. You can also pay your \$30 dues in person at our luncheon or mail a **PERSONAL check payable to MCRMC and mail to **MCRMC, P.O. Box 1812, Southern Pines, NC 28388.****

Mike Freidel - Lunch Administration & Secretary

I'm excited to share two things with everyone. **First, we will have a candidate Meet and Greet from 10 to 11:30 AM on Thursday January 18th.** We have invited all the conservative candidates running from school board to governor that will be on the Moore County ballot this primary. The cost is free to everyone and there will be coffee, sweet tea and unsweetened iced tea available.



Moore County Republican Men's Club
hosts a
Meet AND Greet
with the candidates running for office in 2024
Thursday, January 18, 2024
10:00-11:30AM
Country Club of Whispering Pines
2 Clubhouse Blvd. • Whispering Pines

primaries include:

Board of Education	Board of Commissioners
North Carolina General Assembly	NC Lt. Governor
NC State Auditor	US House of Representatives

The Meet and Greet is a free event open to voters and candidates with an opportunity for voters and candidates to talk face-to-face about the issues. Immediately following the Meet and Greet will be the Moore County Republican Men's Club January luncheon. The cost for the luncheon is \$25. The deadline to register for the luncheon is 6PM on January 12. See below for the link to their website for registration information.
<https://www.mcrmc.club>

Immediately following the Meet and Greet we will have our first luncheon of the year featuring our hometown favorites, Neal Jackson and Tom McInnis. You can register for the luncheon on the Moore County Republican Men's Club website: www.mcrmc.club

The second thing I am excited about is last month I shared how Bravo Delta Holdings is investing \$50,000 to renovate the restaurant at the Country Club of Whispering Pines. Since then, I learned that once they have completed the renovations to the restaurant, they will begin renovating the banquet room. Hooray for that!

Getting back to this month's luncheon, we will be serving pork tenderloin mushroom marsala, garlic red-skin potatoes, sauteed zucchini and squash, along with a garden salad and dessert. For drinks it will be the usual sweet tea, unsweetened tea, and coffee.

As usual, if you have any suggestions on how we can improve our luncheon, please let me know.

Mike

mefreidelsr@gmail.com 910-722-6436

Program News – January
By Wayne Boyles – VP Programs

**MOORE COUNTY
REPUBLICAN MEN'S CLUB
SPEAKER ANNOUNCEMENT**



The Moore County Republican Men's Club is pleased to announce that State Senator Tom McInnis and State Representative Neal Jackson will be the speakers for the January 18, 2024, Men's Club Luncheon at the Country Club of Whispering Pines, 2 Clubhouse Boulevard, Whispering Pines NC. (See the Lunch Administrator's previous article about the special event preceding the luncheon) Registration for the luncheon begins at 11:30 AM with the luncheon buffet and program starting at 12 Noon. This program will be a great kickoff to our 2024 luncheon series.

State Senator McInnis and State Representative Jackson will look back on 2023 and give luncheon attendees the legislative accomplishments of General Assembly which has made our state a much better place to live enhancing the lives and economic well-being of our citizens.

Also, they will give luncheon attendees a look ahead at 2024 and what will be on the legislative agenda of the North Carolina General Assembly in the Assembly's Short Session.

With the legislative paralysis in Washington, the work of state legislatures becomes even more vital to the health and economic well-being of the citizens of each state.

The legislation passed by Republican led General Assembly has had a positive effect of moving citizens from high tax and high regulatory blue states to our red state, one of lowest taxed and reasonably regulated. We are one of the redder.

In the latest Census Bureau figures in the reporting year ending this past July 1, our state's population added 139,526 new citizens. Only Texas and Florida saw higher growth. Divided by our 100 counties that's an average of 1,395.26 people per county.

We do hope to see you there and learn from both speakers how the republican led General Assembly will make our state even better and better.

Please do come! We look forward to seeing you!

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE

2024 Executive Officer Comments:

(Editor's Note: Starting with this first newsletter issue of 2023 and each issue going forward, we are asking our Executive Committee members to submit an article for publication. The articles can be about the club, current events, opinions, comments on political issues, and, or anything else that they may feel would be of interest to the membership.)

Robert Bortins –



And here we go! Welcome to the election year and the NC primary voting season under a month away starting on February 15th and ending March 5th. I urge all of you to consider voting early and in-person. Typically, 13,000 people will vote in the Moore

County GOP primary, so just our group makes up about 1% (rounded) of the primary voting participants. That means if we engage, we can really drive-up participation and outcomes. I get tired of hearing “the most consequential elections of our lifetime” but this one feels like it could be. Part of the reason they are continuing to be so consequential is the government keeps allocating more power over our lives to themselves. We have a woke and weaponized government versus freedom on the ballot.

The Democrat party continues to try and destroy our self-governing process by barring Trump from being put on blue and purple state ballots. It is likely the Supreme Court will step in, and these attempts will backfire on them. Nikki Haley, before flubbing the Civil War question, began to overtake DeSantis for a distant 2nd behind Trump in the top of the ticket primary. Our focus locally should be to ensure we have elected officials who understand the concept of freedom and that the best government is the one who governs the least.

Wayne Boyles

Dear Fellow Members:

While on his Southern Tour George Washington



stayed in Salem Tavern for one night. The original building is preserved as a part of the Old Salem Moravian Village historical site in Winston-Salem. It is a living museum and only costs you \$35.00 to tour this historic site. All buildings date to the 1700's early 1800's. Among them is the

Winkler Bakery (original building) still baking great treats for over 200 years. Also, Old Salem has a gunsmith shop where they still make Revolutionary War muskets – smooth barrel and rifled barrel, fascinating to see these gunsmiths at work.

Stephanie and I were in Old Salem this past Saturday (December 30, 2023).

Following are the photos of the Tavern and the room where Washington slept. The Tavern is used as a museum.

I hope you enjoy these photos.



Newsletter Information:



This, and future issues of the newsletter are being posted on the Club Website, www.MCRMClub.com. Those having an email address will get notice that the newsletter is available and a copy by email. Those who do not have an email address will get a paper copy by US mail. If you have an email address but also want a paper copy, just send an email to me, and request one: paulshaffer1943@gmail.com

Elected Officials Contact Information:

To get the most recent elected officials contact information, visit the Moore County Board of Elections Website:



<https://www.moorecountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/903/Current-List-of-Elected-Officials-PDF?bidId=>

Moore County GOP News



As you can see if you are watching our Moore County GOP website, the primary elections are just around the corner!

To get a look at those running, following is the link for the final roster of candidates filed for the 2024 local and state elections, go

to: <https://www.moorecountync.gov/483/Candidate-Information>

Then click on the [2024 Candidate Filing PDF](#) tab

ALSO,

The Republican Primary Sample Ballot for Moore County is included in this newsletter as a one-page insert, front and back.

We encourage you to look at these candidates, become familiar with their names, and begin your research to find out about their background and positions on critical issues.

There is little time to get educated and determine who you will vote for in the **primary elections on March 5, 2024.**

Voter registration deadlines

- **Primary election: February 9, 2024**
Early voting: February 15 - March 2, 2024
Election Day: March 5, 2024
- **General election: October 11, 2024**
Early voting: October 17 - November 2, 2024
Election Day: November 5, 2024

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Poll Workers Are Patriots

It is important that we have Republican Poll Workers to assure that our Moore County Elections are conducted in a fair and secure manner. The North Carolina Election integrity Teams initiative provides a playbook for making this happen. Click

on the following link for details and to see how you can become involved as a Poll Worker:
<https://www.ncsbe.gov/democracy-heroes-form>

Please also note that there will be “Poll Observer Training” to become familiar with the voting process and polling place operations. Plan to attend so you can help protect the integrity of our elections. Come to one of these sessions:

January 23, 2024 @ 2:00pm – 3:30pm

January 30, 2024 @ 6:00pm – 7:30pm

February 5, 2024 @ 4:00pm – 5:30pm

All sessions are being held at the Moore County GOP HQ at 211E Central Park Ave, Olmstead Village, Pinehurst NC.

To see all things Moore County GOP and learn more, go to our website: <https://www.mooregop.com/>

Moore County Republican Women News:



Charli
Thyne
President
2024



A new year, a renewed
commitment to America

I am honored and humbled to have been elected President of Moore Republican Women. This organization has always been such a strong force for good, and we should all be proud to be part of it. MRW is dedicated to leading North Carolina in influence and being a positive factor in the national and state GOPs, while improving our community through caring projects.

The coming election year
will be a huge challenge.

Each of us must do everything we can to elect conservatives to office – both here in Moore County, across North Carolina and in Washington, D.C. Four years of Joe Biden have come close to making our country unrecognizable, and the outlook seems bleak – but we here at MRW will take a very active part in the grassroots battle to take America back!

It's important to get involved!
Whether you're a candidate for office, a working mother, an active volunteer, a retiree or a homebound senior, there are important actions you

can take to make this happen. MRW will help you find ways to make a difference. Good people cannot just look on, shake their heads, and do nothing. It's better to light a single candle than to curse the darkness.

So, let's light that candle, preserve our great country, and fight the good fight together!

And may 2024 prove to be the turning point back to sanity in America.

Char

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For the most recent updated information, including the MRW accomplishments for 2023, go to the MRW website: www.mrwnc.org

Tom Schroeder

Tom's News

Conservative News for Moore County NC And Beyond



Tom's Thoughts

What We Know After the Close of Candidate Filing

WARNING: I would not wait until March 5 to work on getting out the vote.

Here is a quote from the article below: "Once the holidays are over, there are just 65 days from Jan. 2 to March 5 to raise money, meet voters, campaign, and get out the vote."

I have an issue with the above quote. From February 15, 2024, until March 2, 2024, a significant number of voters will vote in the One-Stop in-person early voting. Most likely there will be enough people voting during this period to significantly impact every primary race in the 2024 Primary Election and I am sure that some of those in the 2024 Primary have already figured this out.

I would therefore recommend that instead of 65 days as noted in the article below that candidates pick an earlier date to consider. From Jan 2, 2024, until February 15, 2024, which is 44 calendar days or 31 working days when you don't count weekends and holidays.

WARNING: I would not wait until March 5 to work on getting out the vote.

See the Article Below for More Details.

Key Points are **Highlights**

Article

What We Know After the Close of Candidate Filing

carolinajournal.com [Dallas Woodhouse](#)

December 26, 2023

Now that candidate filing period for the 2024 elections has closed, we now have a first glimpse at what the 2024 elections will look like in North Carolina.

While the 2024 General Election is still more than 10 months off, candidates involved in critical primary contests, are now on a short clock. Once the holidays are over, there are just 65 days from Jan. 2 to March 5 to raise money, meet voters, campaign, and get out the vote.

You have to tip your hat to newly elected state Democratic Party chair Anderson Clayton. The 25 year old rode a wave of activist discontent to become the youngest elected party chair in America. Clayton has focused on rebuilding Democratic Party efforts in rural North Carolina, including candidate recruitment.

In 2022, Democrats left 14 of 50 seats uncontested in the Senate and 30 of 120 uncontested in the House. This year, under Clayton's leadership, Democrats managed to field candidates in 168 of North Carolina's 170 legislative districts.

It is the passing of a major test for Clayton. The ultimate test is if she and Democrats increase vote share in the 80 of 100 mostly rural counties NC Democrats lost in 2022. But fielding candidates is the first step. Yet somewhat surprising, Democrats did not field candidates in two of the state's 14 congressional districts. US Rep. Greg Murphy, R-NC3, only has a Libertarian opponent in the race, and the eventual GOP nominee in NC-6 in the Triad area, will not have a General Election opponent.

Republicans did file in all 14 Congressional Districts but declined to field candidates in the most heavily, almost certain-to-be Democrat state legislative districts. Republicans left unopposed eight of 50 state Senate districts and 25 of 120 NC House districts.

In total, Republicans filed in 31 fewer legislative seats than Democrats. However, Republicans have the upper hand in districts they just reconfigured. Republicans focused on getting the right candidates

in their open and newly competitive seats and are pleased with the results.

Republican state Sen. Jim Perry, R-Lenoir — the Senate majority whip — had previously announced plans to seek another term but said in December that he won't run next year.

A couple of other notes. Some candidates trying to move into or up the ladder in statewide office caught fortunate breaks.

Congressman Dan Bishop will represent the GOP in the State Attorney General's race. He avoided a primary, as did Judge Jefferson Griffin who will be the GOP nominee for state Supreme Court.

Democrats have primary contests on the other side of these races. But Democrats Jessica Holmes (for auditor) and Braxton Winston (for Labor commissioner) also are avoiding primary contestants.

Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson, state Treasurer Dale Folwell, and Salisbury attorney Bill Graham will vie for the GOP nomination for governor. Attorney General Josh Stein will face four opponents in the Democratic primary for governor, including former NC Supreme Court Justice Mike Morgan.

Republicans will have large and unwieldy primary contests for lieutenant governor — where 12 candidates filed — and in the new 13th Congressional District — where 14 candidates filed for office in a district heavily favoring the GOP primary winner. The Eighth Congressional District, which runs from Charlotte to I-95 along North Carolina's southern border, will have a total of six Republicans in this open seat in a ruby red district.

While the GOP races for lieutenant governor and in congressional districts 6, 8, and 13 have a good chance of going to a runoff election, North Carolina Republicans in the First Congressional District will select between two candidates on March 5. The contest has previous NC-1 GOP nominee Sandy Smith facing retired US Army combat commander and Edenton resident Laurie Buckhout. The winner will face incumbent Democrat Don Davis in North Carolina's only swing congressional race.

Dallas Woodhouse is the NC executive director for American Majority and author of *The Woodshed* for Carolina Journal.

If you would like to get "Toms News" by email on a regular basis, send him an email and request to be added to his mailing list.

email: tom@tschroeder.info

Tom's News
Pinehurst NC

Thomas Schroeder

Reslove Blog:

(Editor's Note: Several newsletters back, we started including an article from the blog: RESOLVE. To see all the most recent articles, go to the following: www.resolvenc.blog (If reading this in the paper newsletter, type the link address in your web browser.)

RESOLVE

By Steve Woodward

Still in the dark

It was not Maui, or East Palestine (OH), or even the famous Moore County "Blizzard of 2000", but *The Pilot's* wide ranging "coverage" of a four-day electrical power outage that impacted 45,000 Duke Energy-enclaved households and businesses certainly did its best to embellish what befell the community one year ago, on December 3, 2022.

On the anniversary, readers of the December 3, 2023, *Pilot* Sunday edition, were greeted by thousands of words comprised of interviews with local citizens, elected officials and Duke Energy administrators. Editors might as well have given it a dramatic theme, perhaps, "Our Pearl Harbor." Reflections on neighbors helping neighbors served the purpose of reminding readers that Americans are resilient and, generally, kindhearted. No harm in that, of course.

What was blatantly missing from the "special reporting" were tangible conclusions. If efforts by *Pilot* editors and reporters to fill up pages with endless column inches of text and photos were geared toward winning a comprehensive coverage award, it probably will succeed. Members of the media love patting one another on the back and handing out lucite "Best in Class" trophies.

But, overall, there was not much meat on the bone. On cue, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a thoroughly discredited agency, produced a photo of a minivan that was in the vicinity and whose occupants "may have information relevant to the investigation." After all of the gnashing of teeth about who attacked two of Duke's vulnerable power stations on the night in question, it would be most humorous if we learn



that the culprit is a minivan-driving soccer mom who was off her meds after an ugly divorce, just needing to vent.

A Duke exec spoon-fed the newspaper with a pledge of \$500 million allocated to grid security across four years. Yet, there are county officials who will confirm that they've seen no evidence of any significant upgrades to protect the local grid.

Rep. Richard Hudson (NC-09), who represents Moore County in the U.S. House, issued a statement on the anniversary of the blackout, purporting that he helped secure \$1.6 billion to "bolster grid security". It's unclear what portion of that will actually trickle its way into the state. Hudson says he "introduced" (drafted) a bill to address supply chain factors that hinder utility companies from replacing damaged equipment in a crisis.

So what's the point of revisiting December 3, 2022? With so little tangible progress to report, *The Pilot* obviously was eager to revive the narrative that a vulgar drag queen show at the Sunrise Theater in Southern Pines that same evening incited an overzealous Republican to lay down his Bible and pick up his hunting rifle.

Bang, bang. Lights out on the county and, thus, the drag show. God's wrath symbolized by darkness. Such a tidy, handy narrative.

Various interviewees danced around the "connection," frustrated no doubt that a perpetrator with a pickup truck equipped with gun rack and Confederate flag has not been caught and brought to justice. One who walked the line with a few toes slipping over it was Lauren Mathers, executive director of a nonprofit called Sandhills Pride. Referring to drag shows as "performances," Mathers told *The Pilot* none were scheduled in in 2023 "out of safety". The reporter might have asked, safety from what?

A Southern Pines business owner, Rachel Jurgens, could not resist re-stoking the power grid-drag show narrative, expressing to a *Pilot* reporter that she would "hate to think someone or a group of people had that much hatred in them to do such a thing."

Perhaps if citizens are going to inevitably engage in hating, maybe it's time to become more vocal in our hatred of the root cause of most disruptions of daily life — negligence. Earlier this year, 100 people on the island of Maui were killed

amid intense wildfires ultimately linked to a negligent utility company and neglected vegetation. Among the 100, some were incinerated into dust.



In East Palestine, Ohio, last February, a Norfolk Southern train carrying hazardous chemicals

derailed in the Ohio village. Saying they feared an explosion would ensue after 11 cars derailed, executives ordered workers to burn the toxic freight. Even now, the town of 5,000 has not recovered. Some residents moved away fearing contaminated drinking water and long-term health consequences. It was not until September, eight months after the incident, that the White House issued an "executive order" expressing concern about the "safety" of the people East Palestine, a town comprised mostly of Republican voters. The author of the executive order, Democrat Joe Biden, has not visited the town to console its people. Not once. Maybe there is something worse than negligence. Arrogance.

Perhaps we're seeing it in Moore County, in plain sight. What, other than willful arrogance, assigns a random power outage to the impulses of fringe radicals but does not, will not, address a serious threat and take responsibility to eradicate it?

Resolve Posted on December 5, 2023

Your Newsletter Editor – Paul Shaffer

Welcome to the New Year, 2024! I certainly hope that all had a Merry Christmas, and pray the new year brings health, happiness, and blessings to all.



As you have seen, reading to this point, the new year brings us a new meeting date, the third Thursday of each month. For many, if not most of us, this is actually going back to the meeting day that we had in past years. Watch for monthly email notices to confirm these future meeting dates and make sure you register early, well before the noted cut-off date.

This is another critical election year, and we will all stay busy learning about candidates at the local, state, and federal level. In fact, as you read earlier in

this newsletter, the Moore County Primary Election is just around the corner on March 5th. We have many local, state, and Federal candidates to choose from. We must each take the time to study the Republican contenders and cast our vote for the candidate that demonstrates our conservative values as stated in President McLaughlin's message on the front page.

As we look toward the General Election in November of this year, we have a chance to ensure that we change the direction of the Country taken by the DEMS over the last almost four years. Our borders are completely open with illegals pouring in like water from a downspout in a rainstorm. I heard on a recent news report that 12 million+ illegals have come into our country since Biden took office in 2021! If I recall correctly, that doubles the number of illegals in the USA in the history of illegal immigration over the last 20 or 30 years! THIS MUST STOP.

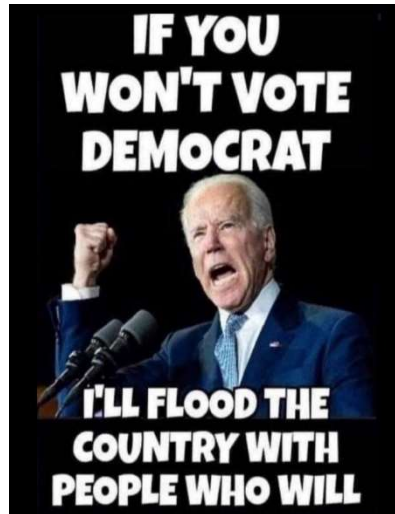
In addition to the immigration mess, our economy is in shreds, with inflation causing prices to jump to ridiculous highs in just a little over three years of DEM policies. This does not even consider federal spending being totally "out of control." There seems to be NO effort to track where the BILLIONS are going, who is getting the money and how is being spent (can you say "stolen" and/or otherwise going into the pockets of crooked politicians and public officials). Graft and misdirection of federal funds seems to be something that we, the taxpayers, must accept as the "norm" without any effort to stop the fraud. To add insult to injury, other taxpayer federal dollars are being spent to fund the move toward "green" energy, climate change control and changing our way of living by stopping the use of oil-based products and natural gas. The result seems to be more expensive living with reduced comfort. Oh, and can you say how much we are all looking forward to a diet of bugs and grass!!

We Republicans must work hard and do whatever is necessary to get conservative candidates elected at all levels to stop this madness, turn back to rational policies, and put these unacceptable liberal objectives to rest. We need to get back to a sensible direction for this country, reduce government (especially spending) and return to the American way of life that we know is possible with the right kind of leadership.

With that rant ended, I look forward to our first MCRMC meeting of 2024 on Thursday, January 18 and hope to see you there!

From Outside the Club:

Old Saying: "The older I get, the more clearly I remember things that never happened." Mark Twain



Reminder: Our Thursday, January 18 meeting is at the Country Club of Whispering Pines.

MCRMC, PO Box 1812
Southern Pines NC 28388

