



In God We Trust

MOORE COUNTY NC REPUBLICAN MEN'S CLUB MARCH 2024

Visit www.mcrmc.club



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

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President's Message by John McLaughlin:

(Editor's Note: This article was written as President McLaughlin was preparing to view the Thursday, March 7, 2024, State of The Union Address.)

I just returned home from a Moore County Planning Commission meeting in Carthage tonight and fixed a sandwich as I prepared to watch the State of the Union speech on Capitol Hill. I reviewed several blog sites today to get a read on our country's temperature prior to Biden's speech tonight. I found: (1) The most noteworthy Economic News was the report by Challenger, Gray and Christmas, a reputable economic forecaster, that the acceleration of job cuts by US employers marked the highest layoff total for the month of FEB 24 since 2009. It's BIDONOMICS folks!

I switched over to get an update on the BORDER CRISIS and found, (2) the alien crossings by ground transportation and "recreational swimming" numbers are reported to be 10 to 12 million to date. Also, now an additional 32,000 by air transportation to undisclosed US cities by the Biden Administration causing astronomical filth and damage to the hotels of New York, Chicago, St Louis, Detroit, Atlanta, Boston, et al, as these cities seek reimbursement for damages rendered caused by illegal alien visitors.

Then I found, (3) The US continues to intercede in the Israel/Hamas conflict with over 30,000 lives lost to date and no solution in site other than US aircraft dropping emergency food and supplies over the area to mitigate the homeless plight of thousands.

There was a 25-minute delay because Pro Palestine protesters interfered with the motorcade from the White House to the Congressional Chambers (note: no arrests were reported from this PEACEFUL PROTEST!).

I saw a Facebook statement from Dr. Ben Carson, a man of integrity who I greatly admire. You will not hear this tonight, because tonight you will not hear the TRUTH. The state of our union is dark, weak, and fractured. It worsens by the day. It's not exceptional like it once was because those in charge do not want it to be. It's without a LEADER and because of that it's vulnerable.

Tonight, you will see that MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN is not a campaign slogan on a hat, it's a PLEA, a plea from millions of Americans to restore sanity, competence, and dominance to our nation; That is the truth.

GOD willing tonight will be the last time we ever hear Joe Biden address the "State of the Union."

Noting what Dr. Ben Carson said, let's all pledge to cease our local internal petty squabbling and UNIFY for Republican victory in Moore County, North Carolina, and the USA this fall, 2024. WE owe it to our forefathers and future generations!

**2024
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**Membership, Communication
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Robert Bortins*

Finance:

Tim Helms*

Fundraising & Candidate

Finance:

John McLaughlin*
EC Members

Golf Tournament 2024:

Bill Demastus*

Nominations:

TBD*

Programs:

Wayne Boyles*

Bylaws:

Bill Scholtes*

Veterans & First Responders:

John Boesch*
& Todd Maness*

*Committee Chair

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:

March 21 April 18 May 16
June 19 Fundraising Golf at CCNC
July & August Summer Break September 19
October 17 November 21 December 19

Our March Speaker is NC State Representative, John Sauls. 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 are about to 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 March 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!

February Meeting Report:

Due to the numerous articles in this issue, the February meeting report will be a series of pictures with brief narratives. The meeting was called to order by President McLaughlin with a request to stand for the pledge, followed by introduction of guests.



He then asked Chaplain Thyne to come forward for words and a prayer.

Next, McLaughlin directed the attendees to line up at the buffet and enjoy the lunch of chicken pasta primavera and all the trimmings, including a dessert of vanilla sheet cake.

As the attendees finished lunch, McLaughlin asked VP Programs Boyles forward to introduce the speaker, Mitch Kokai of the John Locke Foundation.



Kokai spoke about the political landscape in North Carolina and expectations in the upcoming Primary.

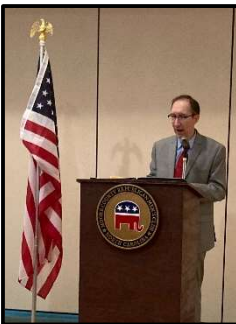
At the conclusion of his remarks, McLaughlin introduced two candidates who were in attendance to make remarks.



Luke Farley, Republican candidate for Commissioner of Labor spoke first. (As noted earlier in this newsletter, he won the primary)

Next was NC Appeals Court

Judge Valerie Zachary who is running for re-election. As the conclusion of her remarks, NC State Senator, Tom McInnis stood to thank the Judge for her service and encourage all to vote for her. Seen looking on as McInnis spoke is long



time MCRMC Charter member and strong Republican supporter, George Little.

The meeting concluded with adjournment about 1:30pm.



Republican Primary Election News for Moore County and Beyond:

Most of those reading this newsletter have likely already seen the Republican Primary results for statewide candidates, and Moore County specific races. However, just in case you missed something, following are the results from the NC Board of Elections website:

Statewide:

President

Donald J. Trump	790,860
Nikki Haley	249,821
Other Candidates: all were under 15,000 each	

US House of Rep. Dist. 9

Richard Hudson	56,365
Troy L. Tarazon	11,248

Governor

Mark Robinson	654,012
Dale R. Folwell	196,213
Bill Graham	163,813

Lieutenant Governor

Hal Weatherman	181,265*
Jim O'Neill	146,498*
Deanna Ballard	138,295
Seth Woodall	102,088
Other Candidates: all were under 100,000 each	

NC Auditor

Jack Clark	198,031*
Dave Boliek	188,432*
Charles Dingee	158,610
Jeff Tarte	127,544
Other Candidates: all were under 100,000 each	

Commissioner of Agriculture:

Steve Troxler	642,581
Colby (Bear) Hammonds	286,935

Commissioner of Insurance

Mike Causey	534,000
Andrew Marcus	193,104
C. Robert Brawley	154,244

Commissioner of Labor

Luke Farley	314,151
Jon Hardister	238,789
Chuck Stanely	183,731
Travis J. Wilson	114,103

Secretary of State

Chad Brown	371,876
Christine E. Villaverde	257,485
Jesse Thomas	229,838

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Michele Morrow	455,314
Catherine Truitt	418,695

Treasurer

Brad Briner	344,864
Rachel Johnson	297,938
A. J. Daoud	220,593

Moore County:

Court of Appeals Judge Seat 15

Chris Freeman	8,715
Hunter Murphy	3,677

Board of Commissioners Dist. IV

Tom Adams	8,182
Steve Adams	5,190

****Board of Education Dist. I**

Amy Dahl	8,367
Oscar Romine	5,934
Jim Boyte	3,659
Kevin Lewis	1,474

****Board of Education Dist. II**

Robert M. Levy	7,796
Steve Johnson	7,374
Emily Davis	4,858

****Board of Education Dist. IV**

David Hensley	6,332
Ellie Collins	6,224
Kellie Davis	5,802
Kaylin Boin	1,533

****Board of Education Dist. V**

Robin Calcutt	11,092
Don Zawlocki	6,627
Phillip Holmes	2,340

* Candidates may have a Republican Primary runoff election in May

** The top two winning candidates in each of the Board of Education races will advance to the November general election.

Treasurer's Report – Tim Helms

Our account balance as of this newsletter is \$29,293.03. We are in a solid financial position, and the balance will increase as more 2024 dues payments are made. As of now, we have 167 members who have not paid dues for this year. As noted following:



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 pay by a **PERSONAL check payable to MCRMC and mail it to MCRMC, P.O. Box 1812, Southern Pines, NC 28388.**

For those who have not paid as of this newsletter, we will be sending dues notices including an invoice. If you receive this notice and think you have paid, please give me a call so I can check the records. If you get the notice and have not paid, please do so promptly so we can take you off the "unpaid" list and continue your membership for this year. THANKS!

Mike Freidel - Lunch Administration & Secretary



Hi everyone. Can you believe we are already in the month of March? For the March meeting we will be serving Arugula Salad with Parmesan cheese, Pasta Bolognese made with Ground Beef, Pork with Rice Tomato

Sauce, Sauted Green Beans, and Decadent Brownies with Caramel Nuts.

I would like to remind everyone that if you need to cancel your luncheon registration, it must be made

by 6:00 PM on the Friday before our luncheon. Otherwise, you will have to pay \$25.

All catering services require a headcount of the people attending an event usually 7 days before the event so they can go out and purchase the food required for the event. In our case, the caterer requires a headcount 6 days before our luncheon. Once we give them our headcount we must pay for that number of lunches. For example, if we say we are having 75 people attend and only 73 people show up, we are required to pay for 75 lunches.

Most caterers will prepare about 5 more lunches than the headcount number in case we have some people attend who did not register. So don't worry if you forget to register by the registration cutoff, just come. We can accommodate a few more people.

One last item I want to point out. If you have any special dietary needs please note it on the registration form or let me know before the luncheon.

If you have any questions or require more information about how all this works, please contact me. My cell number is 910-722-6436 and my email address is mefreidelsr@gmail.com.

God Bless, *Mike*

Program News – March
By Wayne Boyles – VP Programs

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



The Moore County

Republican Men's Club is pleased to announce that State Representative John Sauls will speak at our Thursday, March 21st luncheon at the Country Club of Whispering Pines, 2 Clubhouse Boulevard,

Whispering Pines, N.C.

State Representative Sauls serves District 51, which encompasses the northern portion of Moore County

and Lee County. In his 6th term in the NC House, he sits on the Commerce, Education-Community Colleges, Energy and Public Utilities, Ethics, and Finance Committees

In addition to the standing committees on which he serves, he also sits on the Non-Standing Joint Legislative Economic Development and Global Engagement Oversight Committee.

We look forward to welcoming him to the podium.

We hope to see you on March 21st. The Luncheon will be held at the Country Club of Whispering Pines, 2 Clubhouse Boulevard, Whispering Pines NC. Registration begins at 11:30 AM with the luncheon buffet and program starting at 12 PM. I hope to see you there!

Wayne

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 – VP Membership 2024 Golf Tournament Vice Chair



The primary is over, although we may have a couple of state level runoffs, it is time to unite behind our nominees. Not all my favorites won, although many did, but now we have to focus on defeating the democrat nominees. A red wave won't occur unless we do the work between now and the start of the general election. We need to swamp the democrats in Moore County and help our nominees sweep the general election.

Take me out to the ballgame! The Men's Club is working on outreach to the community, registering new voters and putting the Party back into the GOP. We've decided to sponsor the Sandhills Bogey baseball team and the Optimus club. That means soon you will see our sign on the baseball fields on Morganton Rd and we will have opportunities to earn tickets to games by bringing guests to the

monthly luncheon, more details to come, but it will be retroactive, so bring a friend! We will also have our own night, where we hope you will attend!

Vote early, not late! I wish we had one day in person only voting, but we don't. We need to play by the rules and maximize our advantage. We need to start talking about the start of the voting season and encourage people that they "don't wait, don't vote late." Moore County republicans vote the 1st day of the general election.

Hispanic outreach! We are working on a Hispanic outreach plan. While Hispanics now favor Donald Trump over Joe Biden they don't yet favor the GOP over Democrats. We can change this by simply reaching out to them. If you know any Hispanic leaders please invite them to lunch or put me in touch with them. Let's do our part!

Sincerely,
Robert Bortins (864) 506-5277
rbortins@gmail.com

Tom Adams – Past President



March 5, 2024

This is the third and final column of my impressions during my campaign for Moore County Commissioner. I am writing this on election eve in the early evening before I know the outcome of the race. I am asking our Executive Director to add an editor's note at the end of the article with that information for the Historical record. (Yes Steve, I added that just for you). First of all, the campaign has been fun, and I've met a heck of a lot of our fellow citizens. To a person, they love our county and are concerned about our future. Many have questions. Some about issues large and some about issues small. Here are a few of the multiple asked questions.

- How do we preserve what makes us special
- Will you support keeping the High Falls Dam
- Will you do something about the traffic circle
- How can we pay for all the schools the school board says we need
- Is the water situation going to get worse fast
- Give the Sheriff what His people need to protect themselves and keep us safe

So, as you can see that's a range of issues the Commissioner's will need to confront in the years

ahead. I'll be up for it, if you give me the opportunity.

What did I not like about the campaign?

- There was not enough time to truly plan, only execute, between filing and the actual primary.
- I hate the damn yard signs. Expensive and my guess is worthless.
- Running against an opponent who runs a radio station.
- Electioneering for 17 days. That alone will keep good people from running.
- Raising money. (Thanks to all who contributed)!
- Election eve!

What did I like?

- Meeting so many people who regardless of where born love our community.
- How politely I was treated by everyone except some guy in Southern Pines who yelled at me to get hearing aids when I couldn't hear him. I yelled back I was already wearing two!
- Really getting to know the county.
- Watching what a great County Commission we have and wanting to fit in.
- The support of Sheriff Fields and so many of our other elected officials.
- And as always the loving support of my wife, Diane, without whose blessing I would not have run.

One last thought and I say this as a solemn promise. As a Public Official I Will Encourage Civility and Respect in Public Discourse. You have my word. So enough. The election is now in God's hands. Win or lose, this has been one of the major events of my life. My thanks to all of you who helped me along the way. My thanks to my opponent who ran on the issues as he perceives them and didn't tear down yard signs!

(EDITORS NOTE: He won!)

Charles Webb – EC Member at Large:



DEI

DEI stands for Diversity Equity and Inclusion. It is one of the more dangerous principles that is being taught, especially in college programs but also in some high schools. The

teachings are basically socialism which leads to communism.

Today, I want to discuss the first principle identified as Diversity. The best way I can demonstrate the danger of the use by government of diversity is to recite a personal example that happened to me.

This occurred in 1986 and is a clear illustration of how diversity can be abused. The original purpose of diversity was to elevate minorities, particularly in government positions where they are equally qualified as a non-minority for that position. For example, if a higher position in government becomes available and a minority and a non-minority both have equal qualifications for that position, then diversity calls for the minority to be granted that position. Diversity in the private sector would work the same way.

In 1982, after spending over 22 years in the New York State governmental structure, the last 10 years as chief legislative counsel to the New York State Legislature, I was appointed to the screening committee of the First Department of the New York State Appellate Division. New York State's judicial structure is different than most states. The court of general authority is the Supreme Court, with 4 departments geographically located as appellate courts, and the highest court being the court of appeals with seven justices.

My appointment, by the legislature to the screening committee, required us (12 members) to review all applicants from the supreme court who wished to be elevated to the appellate level. The most important qualification was their judicial experience and background.

In 1986 a candidate came before the screening committee seeking to be elevated. After at least an hour of interviews and questioning the committee felt the candidate was not qualified to be elevated and the vote was to reject her. The next day I received a personal phone call from Governor Cuomo (who I knew before he had been elected Governor) who inquired why this candidate was rejected. I informed him that we felt the candidate was not judicially qualified. He responded that because she was a minority that should supersede qualifications. I told him I respectfully disagreed. Two weeks later a vacancy occurred on the state's highest court and the governor appointed this candidate to that vacancy on the grounds of diversity. As a stern advocate of a high-quality judicial system, I was deeply offended.

Diversity should not be used where candidates are not qualified.

David Norris – EC Member at Large:

Musings of a Regular Guy

Over the past two years, as a new resident of Moore County, I've had the unique opportunity to become more involved in and gain insight into the intricacies of politics at both the local and national levels. Allow me to share a bit of background. My wife and I moved to Carthage on March 1, 2022, after purchasing our new home. I work in Information Technology as a programmer-analyst and am fortunate to have the flexibility to work from my home office here in Carthage.



Between us, my wife and I have six children and seven grandchildren scattered along the eastern seaboard and the west coast. Prior to settling in Carthage, we called Laurinburg, Scotland County, home since our marriage in 2002.

My early years were spent in Southern Ohio and Central Florida. I recall vividly my maternal grandfather's discussions about politics, particularly his admiration for a local politician named Oakley Collins. Collins, a hometown figure and schoolteacher, entered Ohio politics as a Republican, serving as both a state assembly Representative and State Senator. My grandfather's example instilled in me the importance of participating in the political process, leading me to become a lifelong Republican. My first vote was cast during the Jimmy Carter administration in 1978, and in 1980, I proudly voted for Ronald Reagan. As a Rush baby, I remember being glued to the radio during lunch breaks along the Ohio River, weathering the storm of William Jefferson Clinton's election.

In my view, our nation stands at a crossroads. Ideologies detrimental to our republic have infiltrated our society. I observe stark differences between today's Democratic Party and its predecessors, such as the camaraderie shared between Ronald Reagan and Speaker Tip O'Neill. Today's Democrats, in my opinion, are driven by power, identity politics, and greed, causing significant harm to our nation. However, I don't exempt Republicans from criticism. Some within the Grand Old Party are motivated solely by self-

interest, forsaking the principles upon which our nation was founded.

You might wonder why I haven't chosen to become an unaffiliated voter. Firstly, I believe the GOP more closely aligns with my principles. Moreover, I cannot align myself with a party I believe is intent on undermining the way of life I've known since 1960. Additionally, being unaffiliated denies me the opportunity to actively influence the direction of any political party. While some may be disillusioned by the political process and opt to remain unaffiliated, they forfeit the chance to shape the decisions made by our political parties.

As for the Moore County GOP and its leadership, I encourage you to assess our elected officials. County commissioners, state senators, and representatives to the General Assembly—all Republicans. The Moore County School Board, though non-partisan, leans conservative. Do I agree with our local GOP leadership one hundred percent of the time? No, and I doubt you'd find such unanimous agreement among any group. However, Tom Beddow and Bill Demastus, our local GOP leaders, are not villains; they are dedicated to selecting the best conservative candidates and providing leadership to Moore County Republicans. While I may respectfully disagree with them on occasion, my loyalty to the principles of our Republican party remains steadfast.

Another value instilled in me by my grandfather is loyalty and honoring commitments. He often reminded me that a person's worth is measured by their words. Let's not overlook the bigger picture amidst disagreements. Division within our ranks does not serve us well. I value the friendships and relationships cultivated through my involvement in the Moore GOP. We all share a common mission—to secure Donald J. Trump's presidency in 2024, maintain our seats in Moore County and the State legislature, capture the Governorship, and uphold conservative values on the Moore County Board of Education. We have work to do.

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

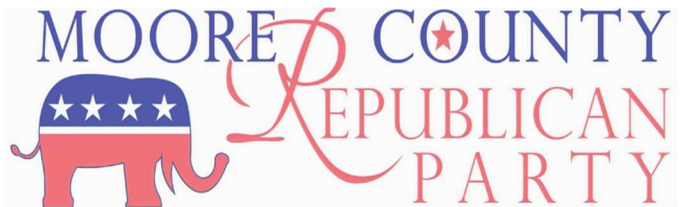
Elected Officials Contact Information:



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



The Republican primaries are behind us, and we may have a few run-off elections in Moore County in May. Watch for more details about those possible elections and if they happen, plan to vote for the candidate of your choice. As usual, stay up with all things Moore

County GOP by visiting our website on a regular basis: www.mooregop.com

There are two important GOP conventions leading up to the National Convention in July. First is the District 9 Convention in April, followed by the NC State GOP Convention in May in Greensboro. From our MC GOP website, here is just excerpt of the kind of detailed information you can find:

What if I want to become a delegate to the National Convention?:

First, be a Delegate to the 9th District Convention and put your name into nomination. You can also compete for one of the three alternate positions and two replacement alternates. That's not all. The District Convention will select a Presidential elector, and an alternate elector.

The NCGOP has established a committee tasked with preparing a slate of additional delegates to be elected at the State Convention. The details for being nominated at the State Convention have not yet appeared on the Party website. We will provide that information as it becomes available.

What if I can't attend but want to be a delegate to the County

Convention?: If your Precinct has a quorum present at its Meeting, you can still be elected as a delegate. Simply contact someone who will attend and give him or her your full legal name, residential address, phone numbers and email address (we need this information to verify your eligibility and to contact you when you're elected).

This is a busy and very important election year. Stay informed and vote in the upcoming elections.

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**



(Editor's Note: The following is from the March MRW newsletter, written before the Primary.)

Dear Patriots,

The primaries are upon us. If you have not already voted, please do so ASAP! As MRW members, it is our duty to elect strong, conservative Republicans.

As a nation we are facing deep political division, Biden's undefended and open border crisis, invasion of potential terrorists, growing numbers of Chinese illegals, smash and grab in stores and malls, police beatings at the hands of illegal immigrants, a deadly Fentanyl crisis, abuse of the rule of law, weaponization of government – Calgon, Take Me Away!

However, as I've said before, "It's better to light a candle than to curse the darkness." There are things we can do as members of MRW to fix these problems.

As our bylaws state, the objectives of MRW are to:

- Promote an informed public through political education and activity;
- Increase the effectiveness of women in the cause of good government through political participation;
- Encourage loyalty to the Republican Party and promote its principles and candidates in all elections, including non-partisan elections;
- Cooperate with the National and North Carolina Federations of Republican Women;
- Promote the principles of freedom, equality, and justice upon which the government of this country is founded.

Invite guests to our luncheons. Volunteer as poll greeters, observers and workers. Write or call

legislators when important legislation comes up for vote. Make calls to Get Out The Vote. Talk to neighbors and friends about the importance of voting Republican. Support our candidates with financial help and volunteer time. Comment on Federal Register proposals when needed. Take every opportunity to resist Leftist culture changes. There are many things each of us can do!

Let's light the candle that will return our country to its Judeo-Christian origin, ethics and values!

Charli

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The March MRW meeting is already over, but the next meeting is in April. Watch for an email announcement and plan to attend. MCRMC members are always welcome as guest, so register to attend when you see the announcement. You may also see information about the April meeting by going to the MRW website as noted following.

For the most recent updated MRW information go to their website: www.mrwnc.org

Tom Schroeder

Tom's News

Conservative News for Moore County NC And Beyond



Tom's Thoughts

Judges Improperly Enhanced Sentences of More Than 100 Jan 6 Rioters, Appeals Court Rules

For those who want to read the full court decision discussed below, here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/3ky64yft>.

Note that this was a unanimous ruling by the 3-judge appeals court panel.

See the Article Below for More Details.

Emphasis added by **Highlight / Bold**

Article

Judges Improperly Enhanced Sentences of More Than 100 Jan 6 Rioters, Appeals Court Rules

[New York Post](#) · by Social Links for Victor Nava
View Author Archive Get author RSS feed

Judges may have improperly applied federal sentencing guidelines to more than 100 people convicted of participating in the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the US Capitol, a federal court ruled Friday.

A three-judge panel of the DC Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the Justice Department's argument that convicted rioters merited lengthier prison sentences for interfering in the "administration of justice" when they stormed the Capitol to disrupt the certification of Joe Biden's 2020 election win.

"[T]he phrase 'administration of justice' does not encompass Congress's role in the electoral certification process," Judge Patricia Millett wrote in the court's unanimous ruling.

"[T]ext, context, and commentary show that 'administration of justice' refers to judicial, quasi-judicial, and adjunct investigative proceedings, but does not extend to the unique congressional function of certifying electoral college votes," she added.

Judges may have improperly applied federal sentencing guidelines to more than 100 people convicted of participating in the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the US Capitol, a federal court ruled Friday. AP

"Administration of justice" enhancements are typically reserved for defendants who disrupt judicial proceedings, such as a courtroom trial or grand jury investigation.

However, prosecutors routinely asked DC judges to apply the enhancement to individuals convicted of participating in the riot at the Capitol.

More than 100 rioters have had "administration of justice" enhancements applied to their sentences, Patricia Hartman, a spokesperson for the DC US Attorney's Office, told the Associated Press.

The imprisoned rioters who had their sentences enhanced may push for new, lighter sentences if the appeals court ruling stands.

The case before the appeals court was specifically related to the enhancement of convicted rioter Larry Brock.

A three-judge panel of the DC Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the Justice Department's argument that convicted rioters merited lengthier prison sentences for interfering in the "administration of justice" when they stormed the Capitol. AP

Brock, a retired Air Force officer who stormed the Capitol while wearing a military combat helmet

and tactical vest, was convicted of a felony charge of obstruction of an official proceeding and misdemeanor offenses for his role in the riot.

He was sentenced last year to two years in prison.

"Brock's interference with one stage of the Electoral College vote-counting process — while no doubt endangering our democratic processes and temporarily derailing Congress's constitutional work — did not interfere with the 'administration of justice,'" the appeals court ruled.

Brock's attorney argued that the misapplied enhancement likely increased his client's sentence by about nine months.

The Justice Department is considering whether to appeal the ruling, according to Hartman.

[New York Post](#) · by Social Links for Victor Nava
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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

Early loathing

I am not an advocate of so-called early voting, and certainly not marathon early voting. Moore County citizens are afforded 15 days to vote "early" in this primary season, February 15 through March 2.

The premise of voting ahead of Election Day (March 5)



is that we live in a world of citizens who are drowning in “popular culture” delivered by a relentless social media fire hose. So consumed are they by Taylor Swift, mRNA booster guidance, climate change initiatives and TikToking, only repeated prompting by an early voting countdown clock can compel them to exercise their rights as American citizens to vote in free elections.

Among retirees of a certain age the conventional wisdom is that voting early ahead of the Election Day rush is prudent in the same way that it’s sensible to avoid buying green bananas.

But by far the worst aspect of early voting is that it encourages a long running high school student body election scenario. During the interminable slog toward the final hour in which the last votes are counted (or so we assume, often naively, they’re counted) our candidates are afforded plenty of time to record radio ads, design unreadable yard and roadside signs, publish word-salad print advertisements and appeal to voters as they parade by the electioneering penalty box outside of two antiquated voting sites — one in Carthage, another in Southern Pines (where bathrooms were out of order all day on February 27 in the Southern Pines Land Trust’s rundown “community center” gymnasium).

Like high schoolers vying to lead the student government association, our local candidates for board of education accuse their opponents’ surrogates of relocating, even stealing, campaign signs. Stationed alongside various tents at the voting sites the candidates spew empty rhetoric about everything except the issues actually plaguing public education.

What is clear to anyone paying attention amid this marathon voting season is how deeply local Democrats despise the current school board. After achieving a 6-1 ideological majority in November 2022, and with a newly hired superintendent anxious to get to work, the new board set forth fiscally conservative priorities and classroom reforms aimed at improved learning by focusing on fundamentals — reading, math and discipline, to name the top three.

Democrats, including parents of Moore County Schools students, could not conceal their rage when a policy was voted into place that requires our students to read books and submit written reports detailing their comprehension. Their heads exploded when the board adopted a parents’ bill of rights intended to end the specter of administrators and teachers enabling children intent on keeping secrets from mom and dad. The policy recognizes the essential role of parents in raising and educating their children.

It’s unfortunate that a policy was required to enforce what should be common sense. But our poisoned culture finds increasing numbers of educators who believe they are obligated to help children embrace gender dysphoria and seemingly inevitable gender transitioning.

Our tormented, angry local Democrats and the candidates they are supporting cried foul, of course. They lecture sternly that everything that happens behind the closed doors of a public school must be orchestrated by the “professionals” — administrators and teachers. They lament that teachers will quit their jobs if some overzealous mom dares to tell them what to do, or what *not* to do. They claim there is a “teacher shortage” because of a school board that addresses obvious red flags — vulgar books in school libraries, for one, or kids who arrive at school appearing to have just rolled out of bed or, in extreme cases, a ditch.

Democrats advise that the way to “fix” the schools is to elect a board controlled by ex-teachers and administrators, even though these are the people who, during the past decade, presided over plunging reading and math proficiencies, lax disciplinary measures and profligate spending of taxpayers’ dollars.

Consider these nuggets appearing in Democrat letters published in February 28 editions of *The Pilot*, the same *Pilot* that recent eviscerated school board member Ken Benway, a military veteran who believes the inmates should not run the asylums that many public schools nationally have become.

“Looking at the slate of candidates available this time around, there are far more qualified individuals to consider, who are not ideologically driven and have *real-world* (emphasis added) experience in our local education system.”

“Pointing the finger at students, teachers, legislators and, finally, each other has done nothing, except drive quality teachers to retire or relocate and compromise education. Please don’t fall for scare tactics or re-elect pretenders.”

“What has been delivered by the current board is wasted time and money to control pronouns, ban books and try to force children to wear uniforms.”

“As a former educator myself, it is also disturbing to watch the board overruling professional curricular decisions through mandated book reports and book banning.”

“Moore County Schools should provide the highest quality education for all students.”

That statement is particularly rich. Before voting — hurry, only five days remain — here’s the question every school board candidate must answer: When the next, inevitable, health crisis arrives, will you tolerate indefinite school closures, masking and mandatory mRNA shots in arms? Or will you defy tyrannical mandates?

“Educators” who cowered in fear amid pandemic hysteria across 2020, 2021 and 2022, imposed devastating learning loss and mental health declines

from which many children have not recovered to this day. In fact, some never will.

Your Newsletter Editor – Paul Shaffer

In preparation of this month's newsletter, I looked at a lot of articles about the Primary election. One thing that got my attention was a comment in one article that said, "there was a light turnout." I did not



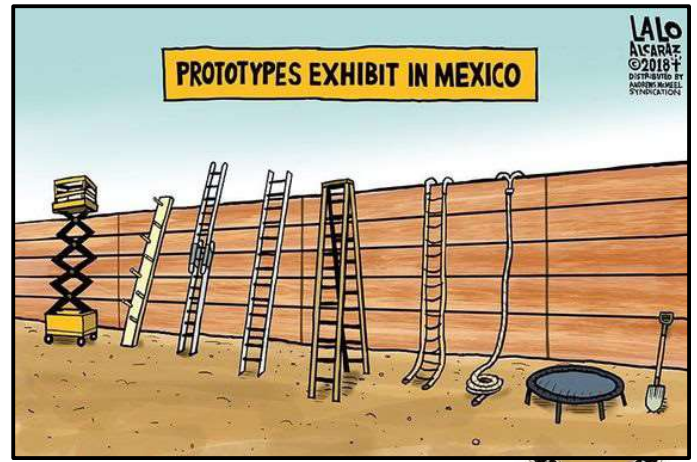
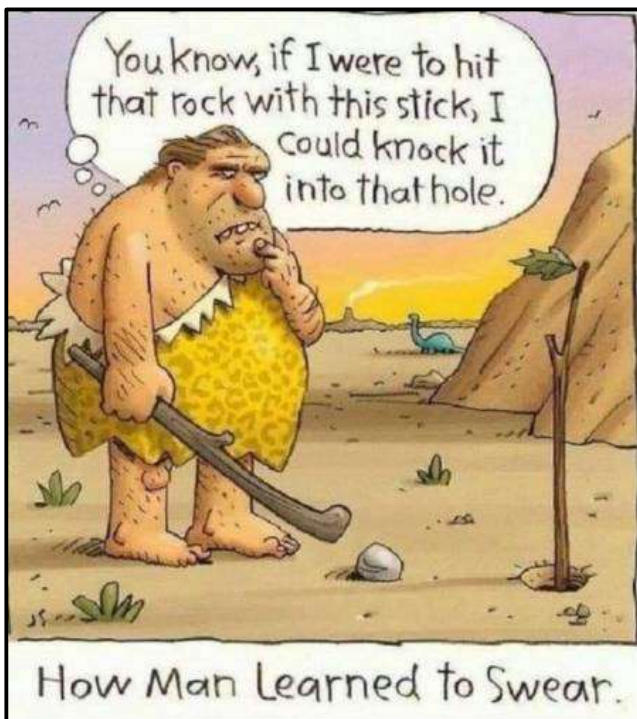
research that comment to verify, but I am concerned as I think this was a very important election. Beyond the selection of the Republican for several statewide offices and the Governor's race, there were important local races.

This requires me to emphasize that we, Republicans, MUST come out in record numbers in the fall general election. Our nation's and our state's political leadership, i.e., our direction and perhaps survival for the next four years is at stake!!

WE AND ALL OUR GOP FRIENDS AND RELATIVES MUST GET OUT AND VOTE IN NOVEMBER!

From Outside The Club

Having concluded the previous article on such a somber note, the following humorous non-political cartoon is for my golfing readers and others:



**BREAKING NEWS!
The 49ers received 3
mail-in touchdowns
late last night. They are
now Super Bowl
Champions!**



If you are not getting the email version of the newsletter, contact me with your email address and also check your "trash" folder. The email settings on your email provider may be filtering out the blast email of the newsletter.

Reminder: Our Thursday, March 21st meeting is at the Country Club of Whispering Pines

MCRMC, PO Box 1812
Southern Pines NC 28388

