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## President's Message

### Robert Bortins

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. I'm looking forward to working with you to establish the



platform needed for a strong election season in 2026. In this first letter, I want to share my vision for the upcoming year.

I am honored to be the new president of the Men's Club after serving as VP

Membership. Our club is the largest GOP men's club in the state, which means those before us have done much right. I intend to operate with a commitment to openness and honesty. I'd like to see the Men's Club's influence increase across local and state politics. My priorities are to help unify the local party, bring more publicity to the MCRMC, secure compelling speakers, and plan for the 2026 election.

We saw the results of a fractured party this past cycle, both locally and in state races. I hope we can all commit to aiding in an effort of reconciliation. This may mean letting go of grievances made against us and asking those we may have upset to reconcile. I'm asking you to help lead in this effort. We have room to

debate ideas, and while we won't always agree, we can model how to disagree productively. Let us engage in robust debates and take action going forward to win hearts, minds, and elections.

More men need to know about our club. We must increase our community presence by being more visible at events, expanding our social media reach, and hosting more activities. This includes raising awareness among local business and community leaders. I'd like to host a monthly Happy Hour on the first Friday of each month from 3:30 to 5 pm at Southern Pines Brewery until the Municipalities start their First Friday events in June (February through May). While attendance is voluntary and drinks are self-funded, this would provide an opportunity to fellowship outside our monthly meetings. We should continue seeking opportunities to support local non-profits and events in exchange for brand awareness. We also need to ensure a successful June Golf Fundraiser at a new venue.

David Norris is diligently working to rebrand and update our monthly newsletter and use social media to increase our communication channels. If you have an article you'd like to write or one you think should be included (space permitting), please forward those to him. We have a new Facebook page for more transparent and timely communications:

<https://www.facebook.com/MooreCountyRMC>

A cornerstone of our brand is our monthly speakers. I'm excited that Pat Haggerty has already secured an impressive lineup through April. You can start inviting friends to attend (note these are subject to change):

- January - Cleta Mitchell
- February - Richard Hudson
- March - John Hood
- April - Andrew Dunn
- May - TBD (Suggestions welcome)
- June - Golf Tournament

We plan to continue meeting at BanQ for at least the first part of the year. While parking is the venue's main



challenge, it serves our needs well. We've reached out to CCNC, but it isn't viable for the immediate future. We'll explore other options after the summer break, but maintaining consistency is important as we work to increase our monthly lunch attendance. I ask that you commit to coming to the monthly lunches unless you are out of town, or at work.

We must accomplish these goals to ensure a successful election year in 2026. I'm grateful that past president John McLaughlin has left the club in a strong financial position. However, we know Democrats are targeting Moore County as a key area to help them win races in 2026. While we should celebrate our victory and anticipate Trump's first 100 days, we must also begin developing the strategy and tactics needed to make 2026 a successful election year. In the immortal words of Ben Franklin, "we must all hang together or we will all hang separately"

Together,

**Robert Bortins**  
President, MCRMC



**January Luncheon Speaker – Cleta Mitchell**



## Pay your dues

**Reminder** – 2025 Dues are now due and payable. 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). Contact Tim Helms at (910) 690-7005 for any questions.



Dues can be mailed to P.O. Box 1812 Southern Pines, NC 28388

## To a Renewed America

Christmas is here, and we stand with grace,

Grateful to still be here, in this sacred space.  
Through the trials of years that tested our soul,  
We've weathered the storms, and we've kept our goal.

The media's lies, the falsehoods they spun,  
Could not break us; we've only just begun.  
For those who sought to undermine our truth,  
We remain undeterred, steadfast in our sooth.

A president who failed, his leadership weak,  
Left a void we now seek to fill with the meek.  
The pretenders, the deceivers, who hid in the shade,  
Their grip has loosened, and their lies now fade.

The slaughter of innocents, the border's breach,  
The wasteful spending that failed to teach,  
The divisive hate that poisoned the land,  
All now behind us, we take a firm stand.

We salute the brave, the patriots true,

Who've stood for what's right, who've seen us through.  
With a new leader, bold and strong,  
We rise together, we won't accept more wrong.

Hope is alive, the future is bright,

In America's heart, we've reclaimed the light.

MCRMC member  
Felice Schillaci 2024



## Mark Your Calendars



The Country Club of North Carolina

February 23rd

More Information to Come



## Chairman – Tom Beddow

There is reason to be extremely optimistic as the second Trump Administration comes together. I have just watched Speaker Mike Johnson being reelected, so that hurdle has been removed and the Republican Majorities in the House and Senate can now get to work on the Trump agenda. It is a daunting list of things to fix but the team of people he has nominated for key positions can and will get it all done.



Here in Moore County in the short term we will focus on building out and training our precinct teams in preparation for the 2025 municipal and 2026 mid-term elections. We have scheduled precinct organization meetings for Feb. 8 and 22. Our County Convention will occur on March 22. Times and venues will be announced shortly.

On Inauguration Day, Tuesday Jan. 20, we will have a watch party at Headquarters from 11:00 to 1:00. Food and drink will be available at no charge, but please

RSVP on the website [mooregop.com](http://mooregop.com). That evening at 6:00 there will be an Inaugural Ball at BanQ, 600 SW Broad in Southern Pines. Sign up on the MRW website at [mrwnc.org](http://mrwnc.org).

On Sunday, Feb. 23 we will hold our annual Lincoln/Reagan/Trump dinner at CCNC. Our keynote speaker will be Kevin Sorbo, a Christian, Conservative, Hollywood Actor/Producer. Sign up will be up shortly.

May everyone have a prosperous 2025 and an exciting return to Republican leadership.

## Treasurer – Tim Helms

We have just over \$18,000.00 in the bank right now. Dues have been slow coming in, so we need to push for that. For those who do not know, a substantial chunk of our available funds goes to pay the rent on the headquarters building at \$6000.00 per year. We of course, need funds to support republican candidates and to purchase other supplies and advertisements. Let us try to make this year a financial success for the Men's Club.



*Congratulations to Honorable Warren McSweeney for being duly elected and sworn in as Superior Court Judge by Honorable Michael J. Stading – Honorable Michael A. Stone presiding.*





## Newsletter – David Norris

I am excited to take the reins in putting together and publishing the newsletter for the Moore County Republican Men's Club. I have huge shoes to fill in taking over for Paul Shaffer. Paul has performed this



duty for many years, and we owe him a great debt of gratitude for his service to the Moore County Republican Men's Club.

My goals for the newsletter will be aligned with the goals of the men's club. I hope to

make this newsletter easy to read, informative and useful in promoting our club and Republican Candidates.

I desire feedback from the club membership and leadership alike. All viewpoints are welcome whether they be negative or positive. Consider the elements of the newsletter and how readable it is. Does it flow? Do you anticipate turning the page to continue reading? These are the questions I would like our newsletter readers to ask when perusing this publication.

Secondly, I covet submissions from the rank-and-file membership of the Republican Men's club. If you feel you would like to contribute an article or a piece to be published, please do not hesitate in sending it my way. My email address is [padanorr@roadrunner.com](mailto:padanorr@roadrunner.com) –

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers and visits during these last 5 months of my life. The appreciation is beyond measure for those that reached out and visited me and those that just quietly prayed for my recovery. Becoming an amputee has given me a new perspective on life and the struggles of those that have mobility challenges. I hesitate to use the word “handicap” because even though I have accepted my mobility challenges I do not consider myself “handicapped” but conversely, I think this life event has enabled me to meet life's challenges head on. You

never know your ability to face a challenge until you are faced with unbreakable and unbearable circumstances.

David Norris  
MCRMC Newsletter Editor

## December Luncheon

On a beautiful sunny December day members and guests arrived at BanQ for the last MCRMC luncheon of the 2024 year. At this event newly elected EC Members were sworn in by the honorable Judge Warren McSweeney. You will find a listing of the Executive Committee on page x of this newsletter.



At noon sharp, President John McLaughlin called the meeting to order. He opened with the customary welcome, announcement of guests, dignitaries, and made a few short announcements. Following the pledge of allegiance, Rev. Chaplain James Thyne came forward and offered a short bible reading and a prayer that included a blessing of the meal.

As outgoing “Past President” Tom Adams gave brief remarks and introduced the day's speaker Kurt Cook who is a member of the Moore County Board of Commissioners and Chairman.



Commissioner Cook presented a power point presentation detailing the current and future state of our county.



Members and guests enjoyed a meal consisting of beef tips, rice, veggies, salad, rolls, and cookies along with coffee and iced tea.



At the end of the luncheon meeting, we listened to a presentation by Eric Payne. He gave details of his

ministry and life's calling to preach the gospel and meeting of the needs of those in the Ukraine.



For more information about Eric's ministry -  
<https://www.servantsforhiskingdom.org>



## Secretary – Jim Legg

Thank you MCRMC members for showing confidence in my abilities by electing me as your secretary. A special thanks to Mike Freidel for his assistance regarding the transition of the Secretary's



position. The Secretary's primary duty is to maintain adequate records of the proceedings, policies, and business of the Club including the minutes of the Executive Committee. I am confident I can

fulfill that duty. I look forward to working with President Bortins, and all Executive Committee members, to accomplish the objectives of the club.



## 2025 Executive Committee

### President

Robert Bortins  
rbortins@gmail.com  
(864) 506-5277  
X - @TheRobertBshow

### V.P Membership

Jim O'Malley  
jomalley@omalleydevelopment.com  
(414)573-0855

### V.P Programs

Pat Haggerty  
pat@patrickhaggerty.com  
(301)466-7403

### Secretary

Jim Legg  
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(910)783-6828

### Treasurer

Tim Helms  
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(910)690-7005

### Past President

John McLaughlin  
jfmc910@gmail.com  
(910)691-9818

### MCRMC Media and Websites

<https://www.mcrmc.club/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/MooreCountyRMC>

## Members-At-Large

### Lou Bologna

lbolognaJr@gmail.com  
(330) 283-8072

### David Norris

#### Newsletter Editor

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### Hugh Hinton

#### Young Republicans & Webmaster

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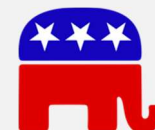
### Andy Conway

andyconway1998@gmail.com  
(910)986-7155

### *Elephants, Not Donkeys*

*The symbol of the Republican Party is the elephant. During the mid-term elections in 1874, Democrats tried to scare voters into thinking President Ulysses S. Grant would seek to run for an unprecedented third term.*

*Thomas Nast, a cartoonist for Harper's Weekly, depicted a Democratic donkey trying to scare a Republican elephant – and both symbols stuck.*





## 2025 Non-Voting Members

### Tom Beddow

Chair Moore County GOP  
tbeddow@nc.rr.com  
(703) 725-6665

### Bill Scholtes

Parliamentarian  
bandjscholtes@nc.rr.com  
(910) 420-2970

### Rev. James Thyne

Chaplain  
thethynes@hotmail.com  
(910) 690-6302

### Bill Van O'Linda

Attorney  
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## Conservative Websites

<https://www.theamericanconservative.com/>  
<https://spectator.org/>  
<https://www.breitbart.com/>  
<https://www.dailysignal.com/>  
<https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/>  
<https://instapundit.com/>  
<https://www.tpusa.com/>  
<https://victorhanson.com/>  
<https://thepostmillennial.com/category/news/>  
<https://citizenfreepress.com/>  
<https://dailyhaymaker.com/>  
<https://resolvenc.blog>

### *History of the Republican Party*

*Trying times spawn new forces. The Missouri Compromise of 1820 divided the country at the 36° 30' parallel between the pro-slavery,*



*agrarian South and anti-slavery, industrial North, creating an uneasy peace which lasted for three decades. This peace was shattered in 1854 by the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Settlers would decide if their state would be free or*

*slave. Northern leaders such as Horace Greeley, Salmon Chase and Charles Sumner could not sit back and watch the flood of pro-slavery settlers cross the parallel. A new party was needed.*

*Where was the party born? Following the publication of the "Appeal of Independent Democrats" in major newspapers, spontaneous demonstrations occurred. In early 1854, the first proto-Republican Party meeting took place in Ripon, Wisconsin. On July 6, 1854, on the outskirts of Jackson, Michigan upwards of 10,000 people turned out for a mass meeting "Under the Oaks." This led to the first organizing convention in Pittsburgh on February 22, 1856.*

*The gavel fell to open the party's first nominating convention, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on June 17, 1856, announcing the birth of the Republican Party as a unified political force.*





# THE ADVOCATE

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## State Representatives



### Senator Tom McInnis

**Senate Majority Whip  
Republican - District 21**  
Cumberland, Moore Counties

Phone: (919)733-5953  
Email: Tom.McInnis@ncleg.gov

### Rep Neal Jackson

**Republican - District 78**  
Moore, Randolph Counties

Phone: (919)715-4946  
Email: Neal.Jackson@ncleg.gov



### Rep John Sauls

**Republican - District 51**  
Lee, Moore Counties

Phone: (919)775-8033  
Email: John.Sauls@ncleg.gov



### Rep Ben T. Moss, Jr.

**Republican - District 52**  
Moore, Richmond Counties

Phone: (919)733-5903  
Email: Ben.Moss@ncleg.gov



## Congress

### Senator Ted Budd

**Republican**  
Phone: (202)224-3154 - DC office  
Website:  
<https://www.budd.senate.gov>



### Senator Thom Tillis

**Republican**  
Phone: (202)224-6342 - DC office  
Website:  
<https://www.tillis.senate.gov>



### Representative Richard Hudson

**Republican - NC 09**  
Phone: (910)910-1924 (Southern Pines)  
Website: <https://hudson.house.gov>



  
**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
PAY  
YOUR DUES**







## Events at a Glance

***Did you know? By the numbers - Josh Lowery***

***Trump won Moore County 64% to 35% and netted him 18.1K votes. This was his 18<sup>th</sup> highest margin of victory out of 100 counties.***

January 16th – Men's Club Luncheon @ BanQ - Cleta Mitchell Speaker

January 20th – Inaugural Watch Party – GOP HQ – 11 am to 1 pm

January 20th - Inaugural Ball – More Information to come.

February 7th - Happy Hour at Southern Pines Brewery 3:30 pm

February 20th - Men's Club Luncheon @ BanQ | Congressman Hudson

February 23rd - Lincoln Reagan Trump Dinner

March 7th - Happy Hour at Southern Pines Brewery 3:30 pm

March 20th - Men's Club Luncheon @ BanQ | John Hood

April 4th - Happy Hour at Southern Pines Brewery 3:30 pm

April 17th - Men's Club Luncheon @ BanQ | Andrew Dunn

May 2nd - Happy Hour at Southern Pines Brewery 3:30 pm

May 15th - Men's Club Luncheon @ BanQ | TBD

June TBD - Golf Fundraiser





## RESOLVE

An independent blog exposing the Left

### Carrboro's power play

By Steve Woodward

We probably should have seen this coming. Amid the steady, predictable demise of misguided policies imposing “diversity, equity and inclusion”



on education, large corporations, small businesses, law enforcement and the U.S. military industrial complex, virtue signalers were becoming desperate. They needed to find another hill on which to DIE absent DEI.

If, in fact, DEI is destined to fail in its mission to cripple for-profit entities and elevate individuals into positions of power and influence because of their skin color or gender identity, another destructive path had to be identified.

And now we are learning that it runs through North Carolina. Last week, underwritten by an obscure environmental activism operation with an ominous name (NC WARN, aka, Waste Awareness and Reduction Network), the municipality of Carrboro filed a lawsuit against Charlotte-based Duke Energy, a dominant coal generated electricity provider and natural gas holding company. According to the Duke Energy website the company provides services to 8.4 million customers in Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio and South Carolina, and provides natural gas service to 1.7 million customers across five states.

The complaint filed December 4, 2024, in Orange County (N.C.) superior court “seeks compensation for the damages that it has incurred, and will incur in the future, as the proximate result of Defendant Duke Energy Corporation’s knowing deception campaign concerning the causes and dangers posed by the climate crisis”.

NC WARN’s attorney, Matt Quinn, told The Washington Post that the town has hired consultants to assess the cost of climate-induced damages, and expects it may be up to \$60 million.

Good luck covering the consultants’ fees. The suit’s filing is littered with the climate cult’s tired, baseless claims connected by hedgy words such as “may” and “likely”.

Naturally, the petulant mayor of Carrboro, Barbara Foushee, and her band of hysterical municipal “leaders”, many of whom are indoctrinated of the University of North Carolina in nearby Chapel Hill, have completely overlooked the irony of going after Duke Energy for the sin of providing reliable energy to the town, county and state for decades.



Electricity literally lifted Carrboro out of obscurity. It was incorporated in 1911 but did not take on its present name until two years later. In 1913, one Julian Shakespeare Carr, owner of the town’s grist mill, made a generous offer to deliver electricity and expand the mill. At the time, nobody cared that Carr was a well-established white supremacist who supported the Ku Klux Klan, opposed the 15th Amendment that gave black men the right to vote, and bought the News and Observer newspaper to provide a platform to



advance his views with the help of editor Josephus Daniels, a fellow, virulent white supremacist.

(Editor's note: Daniels? Sounds familiar, huh? His grandson, Frank Daniels Jr., was publisher of the N&O for 26 years, retired and subsequently purchased The Pilot of Southern Pines in 1996. Daniels' ancestors still own the publication to this day, and while they denounce their white supremacist DNA, we wonder what old Josephus would think of their rabid endorsement of a drag queen show in the local theater in 2022).

The Carrboro climate zealots not only are blind to irony but also are lousy at optics. The mayor unveiled the lawsuit by staging a highly rehearsed press event in a well illuminated room with panels of electric lighting in the ceiling and a large flat panel monitor bearing Carrboro's funky green (of course) town logo. They might have gathered outdoors as a nod to "Mother Earth". Instead, they flipped on the lights to underscore the implausibility of life without electrical power.

One of the tenets of the lawsuit is that Duke Energy has consistently deceived citizens "into believing that climate science was in dispute, that climate change was not real, that humans were not causing the climate crisis, that climate change did not present an urgent risk to the Earth and public, that fossil fuels were not causing the climate crisis, that fossil fuels were necessary, and other such mistaken beliefs."

The lawsuit pins all of the looming threats facing the people of Carrboro to one entity, Duke Energy, although it is undisputed that the United States has a much lower, and persistently declining, carbon "footprint" compared to other developed nations, namely China, India and Russia. But the disingenuousness does not end there.

Climate risk data analyst First Street assesses risk factors in municipalities across a spectrum ranging from flooding, fire, wind, air quality and heat. First Street chronicles one major flooding event in Carrboro, in September 2018. Ninety-seven properties were impacted. Overall, reports First Street: "The city of Carrboro has minor risk from flooding. There are 640 properties in Carrboro at risk of flooding over the next 30 years(emphasis added). This represents 11.7% of all properties in Carrboro."

#### There's more:

- This year 11.3% of properties in Carrboro have risk of flooding. In 30 years 11.6% of properties in Carrboro will have risk of flooding, First Street projects.
- "Dangerously hot days and heatwaves may occur more often," First Street acknowledges. Yet, the projections do not exactly strike end-of-the-world fear in a normal person who knows better than to run a marathon in 100-plus degrees.
- Thirty years ago, Carrboro experienced 11 "dangerously" hot days (100+), compared to 23 such extreme days in 2024. Based on its projection model, First Street sees a possibility that Carrboro will contend with 41 sweltering days in 2054. Assuming this is accurate, Carrboro's extreme heat days might increase at a rate of 0.6 days per year. Or not. (Across the ages, climate "changes" in both directions but that's not a fact the climate cultists acknowledge).

Mayor Foushee was asked by a WRAL TV reporter about the timing of the lawsuit targeting Duke Energy.





“Why not now?” said the town’s first black woman mayor (photo nearby). “The opportunity presented itself. ... When you talk about righting wrongs, or facing injustices, someone has to step out and give it

voice and take action.”

Based on Carrboro’s crime data, one is left to ponder as to whether the mayor is using climate as a diversion from more pressing issues. According to NeighborhoodScout.com, the crime rate in Carrboro is considerably higher than the national average across all communities in America from the largest to the smallest. The chance of becoming a victim of either violent or property crime in Carrboro is 1 in 50. Based on FBI crime data, Carrboro is not one of the safest communities in America. Relative to North Carolina, Carrboro has a crime rate that is higher than 66% of the state’s cities and towns of all sizes.

Perhaps Carrboro’s esteemed leaders are counting on the town’s propensity toward violence to further engage Duke Energy in the battle to save the planet. Who knows what a combination of fear mongering and climate religiosity might accomplish?

A former television meteorologist in San Francisco, Brian Sussman, elaborates on this frequent confluence in a new book, “Climate Cult” (PostHill Press, May 2024)

Sussman was run out of the weather forecasting profession because he challenged “global warming” as long ago as 1996. Sussman’s book presents a road map toward exposing and

defeating the war on life, liberty and property waged by the climate tyrants.

“The premise of climate change has become similar to a system of ecclesiastic belief, based on pseudo-facts and science, while manifesting traditional religious elements of guilt, revelation, repentance, devotion, and duty. ... Leaders of the cult preach dreams of a new world, a pristine environment, a calmed climate, a manageable population, and universal salvation through sustainable development, which, in turn, will expunge the world of social injustice and inequity.

“This cult has its own prophets and evangelists dedicated to converting the masses through the cataclysmic messaging of fear. ... Guilt is repressed through acknowledgment of (indulgence) and the subsequent pursuit of a frugal existence and reduced carbon footprint; these are all paths of self-righteousness and outward virtue.”

Duke Energy pledges carbon-zero emissions from electrical power generation by 2050. But what if the cultists decide that’s not soon enough? What if a well-educated graduate with multiple degrees from UNC-Chapel Hill or Duke University decides that Duke Energy executives have evaded responsibility for killing the planet for far too long? What if Carrboro’s lawsuit advances through the court system and stalls?

That person wouldn’t think of making the ultimate sacrifice, would he? That person would never contemplate shooting a Duke Energy executive in cold blood on a city street, would he?