



MOORE COUNTY, NC REPUBLICAN MEN'S CLUB



NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2021

In God We Trust

Visit www.mcrmc.club

Founded in December, 1996... Celebrating 25 years in 2021

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President's Message by Tom Adams:

I'm writing this article from Washington on Easter Friday, shortly after the latest attack on the Capitol complex. I was on the Hill at the time it occurred and was amazed at how quickly the capitol police locked down the entire area and pushed back the lockdown an additional block in every direction. The picture is of Pennsylvania Avenue SE looking west

toward the capitol between the Library of Congress main building and the James Madison building.



While the police and national guard quickly brought this incident under control (and I am grateful for that) we have got to get the capitol complex open again. I can tell you when you stand at the perimeter, unable to get in, you feel like you have been left out of our government. We have not been able to get through on the phone to bureaucrats for years. Now, our members of congress are distanced from us. Members of congress need to figure out the solution and return Capitol Hill to the people.

Those of us of a certain age remember well the 1970's years of inflation during the Ford and Carter years when Ford wanted to "Whip Inflation Now". A "Misery Index" to measure the impact on the economy was in use that dogged Carter throughout his reelection campaign in 1980 which in part led to Ronald Reagan's historic defeat of an incumbent President.

During the campaign Reagan said, "As a candidate four years ago, Mr. Carter adopted what he called the "misery index." He added the rate of inflation to the rate of unemployment and for 1976 it totaled 12.5 percent. This was his "misery index" and he suggested that no President has a right to seek reelection with an index of 12.5 percent. Today by his own standard he does not deserve reelection. The misery index is two-thirds higher than it was four years ago—almost 20 percent.

I am walking back down this particular memory lane because I am becoming more worried that we are about to watch history repeat itself by seeing us go through another nasty round of inflation. I do not want to see us revisit the land of 17%
(continued bottom of next page)

COMMITTEES for 2021:

Membership, Communication & Publicity:

Wayne Boyles*

Finance:

Jim Legg*

Fundraising & Candidate

Finance:

TBA*

Golf Tournament 2020:

TBA*

Lunch Administration:

Bob Coates*

Nominations:

TBA*

Program:

Patrick Haggerty*

Bylaws:

Bill Scholtes*

Veterans:

John Boesch*

*Committee Chair

Committee Information:

Committees do the “behind the scenes” work necessary to make our club successful. We thank all of those who currently serve on committees and those who served on committees in the past.

We are constantly in the process of updating and adding new committee members. If you see one or more committees noted above that would interest you, please give a member of the Executive Committee a call and let them know.

Luncheon Administration:

Bob Coates: Luncheon Administrator – (910) 420-8181 (calls) and (910)-528-8397 (text) email: rcoates777@gmail.com



As a reminder, there are still Covid-19 restrictions which limit the number of attendees, so check the club website as noted below to see if there are openings available.

The guidelines for reservations remain the same:

- 1) You must have a reservation to attend the luncheons, including one for any guest(s) who attend with you.
- 2) You must show up if you have a reservation or cancel by the Sunday before the Thursday meeting. Failure to cancel will result in being billed for the luncheon you miss.
- 3) Walk-ins without a reservation may not be accommodated
- 4) Reservation should be made at the club website:

www.mcrmc.club

Luncheon Meetings Information:

Our meeting this month is on the 4th Thursday, April 22nd. This one-time move is to avoid conflict with the Reagan Dinner. See further information in the newsletter and email notifications. Check the website for details and to make reservations, go to: <https://www.mcrmc.club>

The April meeting will be held at CCNC in the normal meeting room. We can accommodate 100 + attendees in the main dining area. We already have programs planned for May and are working on June. We tentatively plan to have a summer recess in July.

The annual fundraising golf tournament is scheduled for Monday, August 30 at CCNC. More information to follow in the newsletter and email golf tournament event announcements.

We encourage all members to attend the meetings. We further encourage you to bring a guest as a potential member. Republicans and like-minded independents getting involved and active is critical to the 2022 elections. We must keep our current Republican office holders and add new Republicans in seats now held by Democrats.

(President's article continued from front page)
mortgages and credit card rates in the 20+% range. It can happen and the democrat's stimulus bill injecting another 2 trillion in “infrastructure” spending could be the causation. To paraphrase former Senator Everett Dirksen “a billion here a billion there and pretty soon you're talking about real money” and now we're talking about trillions!

In looking at the Biden/Harris proposal it turns out they have taken the opportunity all this spending

presents and redefined the use of the word infrastructure. In the past it has meant things like roads, bridges, water projects, national parks, in other words things we all need and use but where the individual states need help in developing the projects and paying for them.

In addition to the 621B the proposal calls for traditional infrastructure it provides big bucks for the following goodies for the radical left:

(continued next page)

2021 Dues News - Final Update

- Affordable and Sustainable housing 213B
- Homecare Services and workforce 400B
- Manufacturing 300B
- Housing 213B
- Workforce Development 100B
- Digital Infrastructure 100B
- Schools 100B
- Clean Water 111B
- Plus more!

So how are the Dems going to pay for this second coming of the New Deal in addition to running the printing presses ever faster? How are Joe and Kamala going to pay for everything.

Corporate tax hike: Biden would raise the corporate income tax rate to 28%, up from 21%.

Tax hike on wealthy up near record levels.

Global minimum tax: The proposal would increase the minimum tax on US corporations to 21% and calculate it on a country-by-country basis.

Tax on book income: The President would levy a 15% minimum tax on the income the largest corporations report to investors, known as book income.

Corporate inversions: Biden would make it harder for US companies to acquire or merge with a foreign business to avoid paying US taxes by claiming to be a foreign company.

These tax hikes are nowhere near enough to pay for the proposals, so as I said above, he will run those printing presses faster.

All this money plus what we have spent in the first three stimulus packages are going to begin to push the inflationary indicator upward. Responsible Republicans should and must say no to the proposal. The Federal Reserve should warn the congress and America of the dangers of inflation to the economy, those on fixed

income and to the United States that holds an awful lot of debt at current interest rates and can't afford to see them rise. Otherwise get out your "WIN" buttons, we're going to need them!



The final notice for paying 2021 dues was sent by US mail on March 26th. Those who have not yet paid dues for this year should have received it by no later than the end of March.

To remain an active member, **dues must be paid by our meeting on Thursday, April 22nd.** Those not paid by that date will be removed from the active membership database and will become inactive, past members. Inactive past members will no longer be notified about future meetings and other events. In addition, they will no longer receive the monthly club newsletter.

If you have not paid 2021 dues of \$30, as you read this newsletter, please do so ASAP to continue to be an active member. Send a personal check to MCRMC, PO Box 1812, Southern Pines NC 28388 or bring your check to the April 22nd meeting.

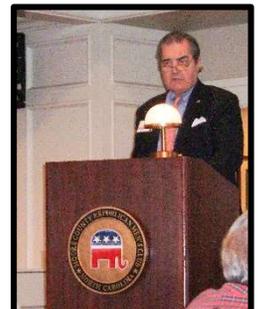
If you have any questions about your dues status, call club Treasurer, Jim Legg at (910)783-6828.

March Meeting Report:

As we move toward spring and we begin to see the light at the end of the Covid tunnel, our monthly meeting attendance grows. Again, this month we broke the 90 attendee barrier and expect the trend to continue going forward. Attendees included members, guests of members and guests from other GOP affiliated organizations.

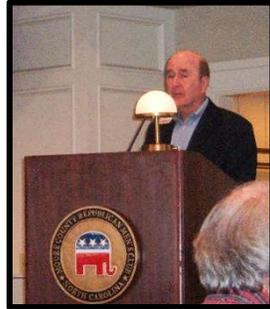
Attendees began to arrive just past 11:00am to register and pay for lunch. Early attendees had time to meet and greet others, grab their name tag from the display next to the registration table and find a dining table to gather for lunch with their friends and fellow members.

President Adams called the meeting to order at noon. Adams welcomed attendees and then asked Chaplain Dubbs to come forward to open with prayer and bless the food that would be served. Following the opening prayer, attendees stood and recited the pledge of allegiance. Following the pledge, attendees were seated, and Adams made



announcements. He introduced elected officials and introduced other dignitaries. Adams then welcomed guests and new members. Adams also advised attendees that proposed bylaw amendments would be voted on at the April meeting as noted in the March newsletter. Adams advised that the program would commence after attendees had finished lunch.

As attendees were finishing their dessert, President Adams asked VP of Programs, Pat Haggerty, to come forward and introduce the speaker. Haggerty stepped to the lectern and explained that the speaker, Catherine Truitt, North Carolina Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction, would be speaking by teleconference. He had earlier explained that Truitt was scheduled to speak in person. However, because of severe afternoon storm warnings including high winds, rain, and possible tornadoes, she opted to not make the drive from Raleigh as it would have required a return drive at the peak of forecasted severe weather. Attendees had been requested to prepare questions on 3"x5" cards that were on the lunch tables.



Turitt made her presentation from Raleigh which was broadcast on a screen set up at the front of the meeting room. She supplemented her talk with slides that were shown on the screen. Her comments were



directed at the school curriculum plans in North Carolina with specific remarks about controversial proposals for changes in history courses. Turitt's talk was detailed and covered most of the issues attendees wanted to have explained. At the conclusion of the presentation, Haggerty again took the lectern and began the Q&A session using the cards that had been collected. Some of the questions were answered by the content of the presentation. There was time for a few additional questions not covered in the program before adjournment at 1:30pm.



This and future issues of the newsletter are being distributed by email to all members who have an email address. Those members who do not have an email address get a paper copy in the 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

**Program News for April
by Patrick Haggerty – VP Programs:**

N.C. Treasurer Dale Falwell, who calls himself, "The keeper of the public purse," will be the Keynote speaker at the MCRMC April 22 meeting. Dale is colorful speaker



who, "yells it like it is." When he spoke to us several years ago, his content was so interesting, he received many, many questions from our members.

He oversees a \$100 billion state pension fund for 900,000 former state employees. His leadership of that fund earned it the rating of being among the five best funded pension funds in the country. North Carolina is only one 13 states with that high rating.

Dale also oversees the state Health Care Plan which provides medical care to 720,000 state employees.

The club observes all CDC Covid 19 distance precautions, so make your reservation early before the event sells out. It will be at the Country Club of North Carolina, 1600 Morganton Road, Pinehurst. The doors open at 11:30 and the program and lunch start at Noon.

Pat

Reservations: www.mcrmc.club

Elected Officials Contact Information:

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



Newsletter Information:

Wayne Boyles, The VPM Corner
2021 Volume 4

Oftimes history can be measured in inches or by narrow time frames in which the smallest deviation could have changed its course. The result being a much different history that is written, with extremely profound consequences.



This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the first Inauguration of President Ronald Reagan. I was there that day, having started my Capitol Hill career as a very “wet behind the ears” most junior staff assistant on Senator Mack Mattingly’s (R-GA) staff, two days before.

(In the 1980 US Senate elections, as you may recall, President Reagan had huge coat tails. Twelve seats flipped to Republicans, who gained control of the chamber for the first time since the end of 83rd Congress in January of 1955. Senator Mattingly defeated the legendary Herman Talmadge, who was running for his fifth term. This was part of the Reagan Revolution.)

I remember standing under an oak tree at the bottom of Capitol Hill’s West Front on the Constitution Avenue side – that is the Senate Side-- watching the limousine carrying then President Carter and President-Elect Ronald Reagan start to make its ascent up the Hill.

Both men, I remember, seemed to be having an amiable conversation – wishing I could have been a fly on the wall inside the limousine to listen in.

It was the greatest of times to be working in the US Senate with President Reagan in the White House. Those were among the best 8 eight years for our country, our nation was so blessed with President Reagan’s statesmanship and his divinely inspired vision for America as “A City on a Hill.” But that almost did not happen.

I remember going into work on March 30, 1981 in our offices in the Russell Senate Office Building – the oldest of the three Senate Office Buildings. The day started normally with the usual duties I had opening and sorting our mail for delivery to the Senator and our staff.

Later in the day news reports started coming in about the attempted assassination of President Reagan as he was emerging from the Washington Hilton on Connecticut Avenue following a speaking engagement to a group of labor leaders. His press secretary, James Brady, Secret Service Agent, Tim McCarthy, and Washington DC Policeman, Thomas Delahanty were also wounded.

The President, Jim Brady, and Tim McCarthy were all taken to George Washington University Hospital emergency trauma center. Officer Delahanty to the Washington Hospital Center.

(The best account of what occurred at the George Washington University Emergency Trauma Unit was published in an article in *The Washingtonian Magazine* on August 1, 1981, entitled, *The Saving of the President*. You can look it up online.)

As news reports continued coming in there was literally silence in the Russell Building. You could have heard a pin drop on its marble floors. Fear went through the building and it weighed heavily on all of us.

We later learned that a .22 caliber bullet from John Hinckley’s rifle had ricocheted off the Presidential limousine hit the president in the left underarm, breaking a rib, puncturing a lung, coming to rest in his chest one inch from his heart.

That one inch made all the difference in the direction of our and the world’s history. President Reagan believed that God had spared his life that day and I think all of us believe that. He further dedicated his service as President to God, for an even greater divine purpose for our nation.

History measured by an INCH!!!

Thanks for stopping by. See you at the next luncheon and in the newsletter.

Sursum Corda!!!

Correction: In the 11th paragraph in my article in the March newsletter, “Another important trait that all three of these men.....” Should have read “four.”

Bob Coates – Executive Committee
Member at Large

Lunch News – NOT!

As your lowly Luncheon Administrator our crack Newsletter Editor, Paul Shaffer, normally wants me to confine my submissions to just food and badges. But I guess he had some extra space to fill this month, so he has encouraged me to branch out a little.

I might have entitled this Thoughts While Shaving but since I've had a beard for 45 years I didn't think that would work. Maybe Miscellaneous Ramblings?

OK, I'll admit it – I'm a little discouraged. I mean what good conservative wouldn't be? We lost the Presidential election under dubious circumstances and then lost the Senate with the Georgia runoffs. But I learned a long time ago not to say, "Things couldn't get any worse." (This also applies on the golf course.)

I often wonder aloud that if people had known what Biden was going to do in his first 3 months in office would they still have voted for him? Remember when the US was energy independent? How about the 11,000 jobs lost by shutting down the Keystone Pipeline? How much extra are you paying at the pump these days? And all that oil that would have gone through the pipeline will end up still traveling somewhere but by truck or rail. It will cost more to do that, and it will be worse for the environment. Thanks, Joe.

And then there's the border "surge" – remember it's not a "crisis". Even the dumbest Dem can't really believe that this is Trump's fault like we are being told. How do you feel about our paying out \$284,000 to house a family of 4 "migrants" for 6 months in a hotel room? But take solace in the fact that at least these kids will have in-person teachers while yours will still be going to school online. Thanks, Joe.

And, let's be real here – for practical purposes haven't Donald J. Trump's First Amendment rights be trampled? He been booted off both Twitter and Facebook.

I don't watch much news these days – it's too depressing. But enough still filters through to keep me in a bad mood.

So, what keeps me going? I hope that we can minimize the damage this administration is doing. I am optimistic that Republicans can take back the House & Senate in 2022. It's time for that political pendulum to start swinging back the other way.

MCRMC Celebrate 5th AAH Anniversary



“What is AAH?” you ask. AAH is the acronym for Adopt A Highway. It's a program run by the NC DOT wherein volunteers (usually an organization) “adopt” a 2-mile section of roadway and commit to a quarterly cleanup. In April of 2016 MCRMC adopted the stretch of Linden Road the runs from the RR

tracks by Pinewild down to the 90° bend 2 miles to the west. For our efforts the DOT installs a sign at both ends of the adopted segment. Our sign reads “Adopt A Highway – Moore County Republican Men's Club.”

Roadside litter is a real problem in all of NC and Moore County is no exception. AAH is the Men's Club's contribution to helping to fix this. Many of you are members of other organizations (churches, civic groups, etc.) If your group has not already adopted a highway I would urge you to consider doing so.

Bob Coates - MCRMC AAH Coordinator

Jim Legg - Treasurer

As of this submission we have an available balance of \$3,609.50.



How are my dues spent? Good question! Let's take a look back to 2020. The most important mission of the club is to elect Republicans to office. Your dues, in part, enabled the club to contribute over \$13,000 to Republican candidates running in County, State and Federal offices. The club contributes monthly to the Moore County GOP Building Fund which helps pay the bills at GOP Hdqrs. in Olmstead Village. Hdqrs. plays a major part keeping Moore County Republican "red". The club has supported conservative causes, i.e., Frederick Douglas Foundation, Faith & Freedom Foundation. The club has contributed to get-out-the-vote campaigns. And, of course, the production and distribution of our monthly newsletter. The newsletter keeps you informed of current events, highlights featured speakers and much more.

Your dues are wisely spent. You have made MCRMC the biggest Republican men's club in NC. Moore County GOP is widely respected across the state for getting the Republican vote out at

election time. Your dues play a significant part in that endeavor.

You see, your dues are more than just attending a monthly luncheon meeting, they play an integral role in the accomplishment of our mission, to elect Republicans to office.

Please consider paying your dues even though circumstances may prevent you from attending our meetings. The club needs your support, as do the many candidates and conservative causes we support.

Money quote of the month by Carl Fox:

"Money's only something you need in case you don't die tomorrow."

SPECIAL Report : Proposed Bylaws Changes

At the February EC meeting, a proposal was presented by Club Secretary, Bill Scholtes, that there be three amendments to the club bylaws. These three amendments were discussed at the EC meeting and approved by the EC.

These amendments were presented to the membership in the March newsletter as required by the current bylaws. They will be voted on by the membership at our April luncheon meeting.

The full text of these amendments is again on the insert of this newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns about these proposed changes, please contact Bill Scholtes by email at bandjscholtes@nc.rr.com or call him at (910) 400-5042.

Moore County GOP News:



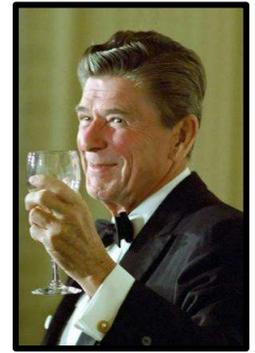
The Eighth Annual Reagan Dinner

Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Ascendance of our 40th President

MC GOP Chair - Tom Beddow:



Reagan Dinner To be held on April 17



Lt. Governor Mark Robinson commits as featured speaker

Saturday, April 17, 2021

The Country Club of NC
5:30 pm Sponsor reception
6:00 pm General reception
7:00 pm Dinner and program

Great News – We are sold out!

The 2020 dinner raised more than \$66,000 before expenses, including \$46,000-plus from sponsors. This generosity reaped wide ranging achievements by Republican candidates in the 2020 election. We have more work left to do on the road to 2021 municipal elections and the 2022 general elections.

Thanks to all the sponsors and attendees for this year's dinner. We expect to raise even more money than last year.

For more news and other upcoming event information, go to the Moore County GOP website: <https://moore.nc.gov/>

Moore County Republican Women News:



Message from the President

One of the most dangerous trends in our country is that

of "cancel culture," where people's lives and reputations are destroyed because they say or do things that go against the approved liberal messaging.





I say: Let's STAND UP and say what needs to be said! STAND UP and refuse to be silenced. STAND UP for all the freedoms that are now being threatened.

That's why I wrote the following Letter to the Editor, which was published recently in *The Pilot*:

STANDING UP

I totally agree with the ideas of Freedom Matters NC. Americans are not a people to take orders and blindly follow anyone and their directions. We are free-spirited.

This all has to stop. We went from the best economy in 50 years to shutting down businesses, taking children out of school, and making people so fearful of each other. Look at the closed businesses in our own community. How many more does The Pilot want to see?

What about our children? The O'Neal School has been in session since last August with no problems. We all need to stand up. Americans are not sheep.

MRW is standing up in every way we can think of to increase freedom and decrease "cancel culture." Thank you for doing your part!

Paulsine

#####

MRW Action Item of the Month:

In the past month, Democrats in the House passed HR1, a sweeping voting and elections bill, without one Republican voting for it. It now advances to the Senate, where it is called S1. Here is a synopsis of the monstrous legislation, which would drastically change our election laws: [House passes radical HR1 Election Bill](#).

In addition, Nancy Pelosi introduced and passed new legislation that purportedly affords the LGBTQ+ community protections against discrimination. Here, the Heritage Foundation explains [The Equality Act](#) and its terrible effects.

Here's what we ALL need to do:

Call and/or email Senators [Richard Burr](#) (202-224-3154) and [Thom Tillis](#) (202-224-6342) about both bills and tell them to vote NO and to urge Senators

Joe Manchin (WVA) (202-224-3954) and Krysten Sinema (AZ) (202-224-4521) to listen to their constituents and vote NO. [Call other Senators](#) who typically waffle on conservative issues (Murkowski, others) and tell them to vote NO.

We need to make it known that conservative voters are strongly against these radical bills.

Latest news from MRW

For complete information about the MRW, go to their website: www.mrwnc.org.

Tom Schroeder

Tom's News
Moore County Conservative News

Thomas Schroeder
email: tom@tschroeder.info
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Tom's Thoughts

Is the Cancel Culture
Canceling Itself?

It appears that it may be doing just that.
See the article below for more details

Please Pass This on To Others Who May Be Interested.

Key Points are Highlighted

Article

Harvard Harris Poll Reveals How Most Americans Feel About 'Cancel Culture'
redstate.com · by Jeff Charles

In case you needed more proof that cancel culture can't sustain itself forever, a recent poll revealed that most Americans do not favor the political tactic. It can be expected that the number of people who view cancel culture as a negative will only rise as the hard left continues to go overboard with their latest exercise in cultural Marxism.

According to a recent Harvard CAPS-Harris poll released to [The Hill](#), **64% of respondents**

claimed there is “a growing cancel culture” that is threatening to their freedom. Only 36% indicated that they did not believe it to be a threat to their freedom.

The Hill reported, “the poll found that 36 percent of Americans said cancel culture is a “big problem,” while 32 percent called it a “moderate problem.” Another 20 percent said it was a “small problem” and 13 percent said it is “not a problem.”

The survey was published only days after CBS announced that Sharon Osbourne would be stepping down from her position as co-host of “The Talk.” The announcement came after a heated conversation centering on Osbourne’s defense of British media personality Piers Morgan, who criticized Meghan Markle and Prince Harry after their interview with Oprah Winfrey.

Morgan savaged the couple, stating he did not believe Markle’s claim that she struggled with mental health issues and that she has been suicidal. As you could easily predict, this led to the usual accusations of racism and bigotry and blah blah blah.

Osbourne defended Morgan, saying, “I feel even like I’m about to be put in the electric chair because I have a friend who many people think is a racist, so that makes me a racist.”

The survey also found that 54% of respondents indicated they were “concerned” that if they express their views online, they would be fired. Conversely, 46% said that they were not worried about stating their opinions online.

“It is a chilling finding that most people in the country now are afraid they would be fired if they expressed their real views on social media,” said Mark Penn, the director of the Harvard CAPS-Harris Poll survey.

He continued, “The public generally gives negative ratings to social media companies and sees the movement as more about censorship rather than trying to correct wrongs. It is growing as a national issue.”

Cancel culture has become cancerous and has been steadily metastasizing into a danger to the idea of free speech. It seems that every week, hard leftists manage to dig up old social media posts that they deem problematic and weaponize them against people they don’t like. In recent years, this practice was targeted primarily against conservatives and others who refuse to bend the knee to the woke Sanhedrin.

But now, those who favor cancel culture are beginning to use the tactic against others on the left. Neither Sharon Osbourne nor Piers Morgan are exactly right-wingers. We have also seen this new trend in the story of media activist [Alexi McCammond](#), who was fired from her editorial position with *Teen Vogue* after 10-year-old tweets surfaced in which she made bigoted remarks against Asians.

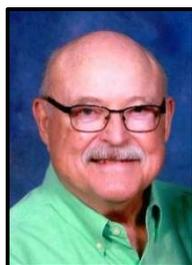
The results of this are yet another indication that cancel culture might not be as invulnerable as we might think. Indeed, it seems clear that most Americans do not support the tactic and are rightly concerned that it could threaten their ability to express their beliefs on social media. Now that the hard left is using cancel culture against their own, they will only continue stoking the flames of an angry backlash. (See: [Maybe Conservatives Shouldn’t Be All That Worried About Cancel Culture](#))

At some point, cancel culture will decline because the left simply can’t sustain it at this level over the long term. As more and more of its adherents continually abuse the tactic, Americans on both sides are going to reject it.

Of course, this is not to say that cancel culture will ever truly be definitively dead. There will always be people out there who wish to use shame to destroy the careers of their opponents. However, it will not have the level of prevalence in American society as it does now. But this will not happen tomorrow. It could take up to a few more years. In the end, the desire for freedom will outweigh those who wish to stifle it – unless the hard left manages to get the government involved. It will be up to those who value free speech to ensure this does not happen.

Tom’s News
Pinehurst, NC
Thomas Schroeder
email: tom@tschroeder.info
mobile phone: (910) 687- 4501

Your Newsletter Editor – Paul Shaffer



I hope everyone had a blessed Easter Sunday. For me, being able to go to church, inside, and worship was a welcome pleasure. Further, my wife and I were able to join her sister, Gayle and her husband Ed Geoghegan for an Easter dinner at their house. Ed is a long-time

member of our club and the one who asked me to a meeting as his guest which resulted in me joining. That was just a little over 18 years ago. I owe Ed a “thank you” and my eternal gratitude for introducing me to the Republican Men’s Club.

Resolve Blog:

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



By Steve Woodward

I was wrong. After Governor Roy Cooper issued a statewide restaurant lockdown order — without consent as required by the state’s constitution — on March 17, 2020, I was asked to articulate my greatest fear about what was to come.

The topic was local restaurants. All of them were shut down at 5 p.m. on St. Patrick’s Day. Some immediately accommodated carry-out only. Others were not ready for an overnight transition.

My biggest fear was “that they won’t be here” in a few months. I feared many of our restaurants, both long established and newcomers, would go out of business. I was wrong. We lost very few in comparison to the nationwide averages; several reinvented themselves and soldiered on, adding delivery options, improving carry-out operations. A few new places opened despite the lockdowns and are thriving.

(In early 2020, local restaurants battled to survive on take-out orders and gift cards.)

They did so despite promises of federal support evaporating. They did so despite banks demonstrating they were ill prepared to keep up with demand for funds moving through the pipeline from Capitol Hill to Main Street. They did so even as fattened unemployment checks



disincentivized staffs from returning to work as restrictions on dining eased.

Local government finally awakened to the dire circumstances after a few vocal elected leaders stood up and proposed expanded outdoor dining, using parking spaces that often are unoccupied during evening hours. Southern Pines led the way; Pinehurst soon followed.

My forecast was wrong because I did not give enough credit to living in Moore County. We were under the same tyrannical lockdowns as the other 99 counties, but, apparently, we are blessed to live in communities with fewer hysterical residents than those who bowed at Cooper’s feet in places like Mecklenburg and Wake. Our locals recognized that adhering to a stay-at-home “order” was not practical and, potentially, the first step toward economic suicide and sweeping malaise.

Many, not all, ventured out to visit restaurants they’d never tried before. They learned that carry-out dining is not such a bizarre alternative, and when local dining spots added delivery options using smartphone apps we all discovered ever more great places across our dining spectrum. Additionally, customers heeded the call to buy gift cards with every order, to infuse more cash into the restaurants. Our Moore Republican Party then collected stacks of those cards and delivered them to frontline healthcare professionals at FirstHealth. A classic win-win.

Restaurant owners and chefs rarely wear their ideological persuasions on their sleeves. But we staunch conservatives share in common with these now heroic figures qualities that surely brought us together during the slog that began one year ago this week. We are capitalists. We believe in and defend personal responsibility, loyalty and liberty as protection from the iron boot of government. We prefer to earn a living, rather than living to be bailed out.

This story does not have a feel-good happy ending. Not by a long shot. One owner told me his retirement plans were set back five years. Many of the charitable pursuits that bind our restaurants to the community have ground to a halt, which means those in need have been temporarily left wanting. Some restaurants that closed temporarily are now closed forever, taking jobs with them. And owners of dining establishments and other retail businesses now know how easy it is for government tyrants to lock us down without regard for consequences, immediate or long term. American resilience proved too much for the tyrants this time. Nice try.

Thankfully, that is not the only awakening triggered by China’s unleashing of a global virus. There is this:

The pursuit of absolute safety is the enemy of freedom, and a futile pursuit, indeed.

More From and About Our Members

Connie Lovell in The Pilot:

Column: Uncommon Year Can Still Provide Common Ground



Like you, my heart breaks to see the Capitol swathed in fencing and concertina wire. Who would take their families to visit this year with access denied and buildings boarded up or shut down?

Will you be able to stroll down the mall? Visit museums? Find lunch inside a restaurant? Feel proud? This is the image America is presenting to the world, a banana republic in need of protection by armed services.

This has been a year like no other. How many times have we heard “now more than ever...” as though Americans have not suffered great challenges in the past? Yet, the pain we experience is indeed unique because this is the first time our country has been threatened by internal sources rather than external forces. This degenerative pain is undeniable.

Consider the situation in which we find ourselves.

Most Americans have lost faith in our election process. One could argue that the election was “stolen” by the Russians in 2016 or voter fraud in 2020. Indeed, this charge has been around since at least 1876 with Rutherford B. Hayes.

Reasonable people of both parties must agree that the integrity of our electoral system is sacred for our representative government to function. Without faith in a fair election, conflicts continue to impede progress.

Is the remedy to give up all local control of our unique process with the passage of House Resolution 1, now pending before Congress? Reasonable people might agree that keeping control of the system under the scrutiny of local government would effectively preserve and protect our electoral system, restoring confidence in the process.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed HB 1280,

“The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act,” earlier this month. This bill puts into place enough regulations, law enforcement restrictions, bias training instruments, and arrest and detention stipulations to effectively defund the police. The cost to implement this bill cancels approximately 3,000 police officers in the initial rollout.

In late February, North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, in a settlement with the NAACP, released 3,500 prisoners early, citing COVID protocols, in addition to the 16 percent inmate reduction already completed due to the virus. Is this really what reasonable people of both parties want from their government representatives? Who will protect you when trouble comes? What agency will respond?

The biggest fall-out of this past year has been the damage to our children. Indeed, we mourn for the souls lost to COVID. We ache for those whose businesses closed. We sympathize with parents trying to cope with teaching their children and caring for family members while trying to maintain their jobs.

But the biggest impact is yet to come when our children grow into adults stunted by the unnatural desocialization they have been made to tolerate. The facts are starting to surface about the impact this has had on suicide, drug abuse, parental disfunction and crime.

Reasonable people of both parties know this lockdown has compromised our society in ways we have yet to understand. Who is holding these children for ransom? Where is the courage to open up the classrooms? When will the advocates for our children rise up?

Wearing a mask has done more than stifle COVID, it has impaired our ability to communicate with each other in a normal exchange of ideas. Our digitized communication has hampered our ability to debate freely with an open mind. Further, our reduced exposure to people outside our bubble has limited our imagination.

“Cancellation” has become an acceptable form of censorship with little consequence to the censor. Reasonable people might agree that cancelling book publications or removing historic monuments does not advance our education but in fact diminishes our knowledge and ability to discern truth.

It is reasonable to believe that sadistic lyrics in popular music and media might incite more bias than Dr. Seuss. Children quickly learn that being silent

and fitting in with the crowd is better for them than being canceled by bullies on the playground.

Together we have learned to smile with our eyes, hear through a mask and acknowledge each other from a distance. We have worshipped alone and texted our loved ones. We have complied.

As we emerge from this “year like no other,” let us remove the barriers we have constructed around our hearts and around the Capitol. Let us rally to the cause of restoring the integrity of our election system and by extension our country. Reasonable people might conclude this is a goal worth achieving in the name of all Americans.

Nancy Fiorillo Letter to The Pilot - Re: Above

Letter: Great Letter - Mar 23, 2021

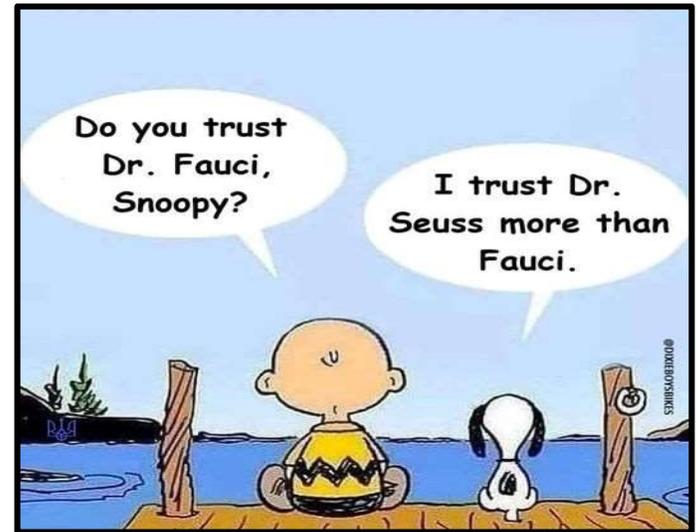
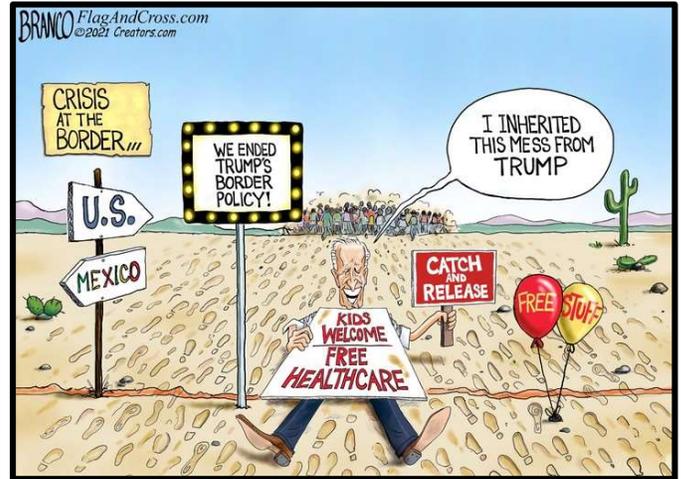


What a smart, sensible unifying letter written by Connie Lovell and printed in Sunday's edition of The Pilot. I truly hope the voice of reason prevails in the coming months.

From Outside the Club:

This and That!

The fact that Joe Biden is even considering opening our southern border to a group of unvetted migrants in a massive caravan—in the middle of a pandemic, while millions of Americans are unemployed—tells you everything you need to know about Democrats' priorities.



Reminder: The next luncheon meeting is on Thursday, April 22nd at CCNC. Reservations are required and can be made before Sunday, Apr 18 at: www.mcrmc.club

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