



In God We Trust

MOORE COUNTY, NC REPUBLICAN MEN'S CLUB



NEWSLETTER 2021



Visit www.mcrmc.club

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

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page)

President's Message by Tom Adams:



As I sit here in Southern Pines writing these thoughts on a beautiful 70-degree day, it is hard to believe it is the Third of December. Every day that we spend in this beautiful area we call the Sandhills is a gift from God. I thank him for this privilege.

The other reason it is hard to believe it is December is that the legislature is still in session in Raleigh! The Speaker, Tim Moore (R Cleveland) has indicated the legislators will be returning to Raleigh on January 3rd making the 2021 the longest session in our state's history. The members have now completed a state budget for the biennium that has been signed by the Governor, a major win for the Republican led legislature. They have also enacted plans for legislative and congressional redistricting. The Governor would have vetoed the redistricting plans if he had that authority, he does not. Good.

The budget which covers the next two years contains 52.9 Billion in funding. About half of that number is spent on Medicaid leaving about 25 billion to fund roads, schools, teacher pay raises and other items. Let's be clear here, Governor Roy Cooper hates this budget. Every indicator coming out of Raleigh says that he badly wanted to veto the legislation because it does not spend enough! He wanted to expand Medicaid, higher raises for teachers and state employees and more money for most state programs. It's not in the bill. Good.

When former Governor Jim Martin went into office he struggled to get people to understand how he was going to be a different sort of governor from all the democrats who had gone before him and in particular how he was different from his immediate predecessor, Jim Hunt who never saw a dollar he didn't want to spend. Martin hit on the idea of calling his new conservative agenda "Constructive Conservatism". When I look at this budget that's what I see.

The conservative elements are unmistakable. State spending will, once again, grow no faster than the combined rates of inflation and population increase. The budget initiates another round of pro-growth tax cuts that, when fully implemented, will reduce our tax rate on personal income to 3.99%, down

(continued on next page)

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Finance:

Jim Legg*

Fundraising & Candidate

Finance:

Tom Adams*

EC Members

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Bill Demastus*

Lunch Administration:

Bob Coates*

Nominations:

Bill Demastus*

Program:

Patrick Haggerty*

Bylaws:

Bill Scholtes*

Veterans & First Responders:

John Boesch* & Tom Maness*

*Committee Chair

(President's Message continued from previous page)

from 5.25% and eliminate our corporate tax altogether.

Lowering taxes while controlling spending. That in itself is a significant conservative victory. The budget's expansion of the Opportunity Scholarship program for families choosing private schools for their children means the pressure for reform in how we teach our children in traditional schools will continue to mount. Regarding the constitutional separation of powers, the bill clarifies that the governor does not possess the unilateral power to declare perpetual emergencies. After 30 days, an emergency declaration goes away unless extended by a vote of the Council of State.

I am also pleased to see language that clarifies that the attorney general cannot steal legislative prerogatives by unilaterally moving to "settle" lawsuits against the General Assembly to achieve a policy outcome that the attorney general may like but lawmakers do not. All good.

In short there is a lot in this budget for conservative Republicans to like. Our State Senator Tom McGinnis played a major role in shaping the final budget product as did Representative Jamie Boles. They continue the tradition of solid conservative Republican representation from Moore County to our state. Good.

As we enter the Christmas season, I take a moment to give thanks to God for our lives here in the Sandhills of North Carolina. I look at our rolling terrain, watch the towering pines bending in the warm southern wind and see the commerce of the golfing industry continue to grow, it reminds me every day of the bounty God has given us in this place and time. Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2022 to you and yours.

Tom

The December luncheon is at CCNC on December 16th. See Bob Coates' luncheon article later in this newsletter for details. In addition, there is significant information about luncheon changes in the first few months of 2022.

**Let's Have
Lunch
TOGETHER**

Newsletter Information:

This, and future issues of the newsletter are being posted on the Club Website, www.MCRMC.club. Those having an email address will get notice. 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



November Meeting Report:

The November meeting was, as usual, at CCNC. Attendees began arriving after 11:00am for registration, lunch payment and getting their name tag.



Attendance was strong as our members and their guests are coming back to meetings with the eased Covid restrictions.

As members took seats with the lunch hour approaching, President Tom Adams took the lectern, and was looking over his notes before calling the meeting to order at noon. His first act was to call the Club Chaplain,



Pastor Dubbs, to the lectern to open the meeting with a prayer and bless the lunch meal. Dubbs is seen here making a few opening remarks before his prayer.



After the opening prayer, the attendees stood as all recited the

Pledge of Allegiance. Adams then made his opening remarks, introduced new members, and recognized guests. As the meal, a delicious sliced steak with sides and dessert, was being served, Adams asked Tom Beddow, Chair of the Moore County GOP, forward for an announcement and remarks. Beddow brought the attendees up to date on local GOP activities with emphasis on the upcoming NY Tenors who performed on December 8 at the Pinehurst Fair Barn. The performance was a fundraiser to support the Moore County GOP and Local Gold Star families.



President Adams then announced that there was an important item of business in the November meeting. As required in the Club Bylaws, a slate of officers for the following year are proposed by the Chair of the Nominating Committee. Past President Bill Demastus came forward and offered the following slate of proposed officers:

- President – Tom Adams

- V.P. Membership – Todd Maness
- V.P. Programs – Pat Haggerty
- Secretary – Bill Scholtes
- Treasurer – Jim Legg
- Past President – Bill Demastus (vote not required)
- Curtis Iovito – Member at Large
- John McLaughlin – Member at Large
- Tom Brady – Member at Large
- David Hensley – Member at Large
- Non-Voting members are appointed by the EC and do not require a vote.

After presenting the proposed slate of officers for 2022, Demastus asked for nominations from the floor. There were none, so nominations were closed and the election, as called for in the Bylaws, will be held at the December meeting and those elected will be sworn into office.

Adams then addressed the audience speaking about Moore Republican Women's President Pauline Bruno. Adams stated, *"Most of you are aware that the Moore Republican Women are in the process of turning the reins of their Presidency from Pauline Bruno to the capable hands of Maureen Krueger. Pauline, would you please join me up here? We need to*



thank Pauline for her leadership these past two years she served as President. Pauline has worked tirelessly not just to build the Women's Club, but to advance the interests of our club (MCRMC) and the party (Moore GOP). She has more energy than anyone I know..... and is a master at getting you to do something you weren't planning to do! She has worked closely with both our past president Bill Demastus and with me. While I'm looking forward to working with Maureen.....Pauline, I'm not going to let you stray far from the clubs, even if you're serving on the school board. Please accept this Speakers token as a memory of our clubs working together and for the leadership you provided." The attendees then gave Bruno an enthusiastic round of applause.

As lunch was being concluded, VP Programs, Pat Haggerty, took the lectern to introduce the program speaker, Brian Rogers, CEO of the Jesse Helms Center. Rogers informative talk included how Jesse Helms ran for election at age 52 and served the state of NC for the next three decades. His service and career in Washington were filled with accomplishments and outstanding service to our state. Rogers also



The Executive Committee and I work hard to bring our club a very good political speaker each month except December. Each December, we have a Christmas program featuring Pinecrest High School students.



On December 16th, the Pinecrest Sinfonietta Orchestra will entertain us with a Christmas Program. The Orchestra has 18 members who will not only entertain us, but will have lunch with us. They will not sit together but will be spread out around the room so each table will have a student "guest" or two.

Register now by clicking on the following link to enjoy this wonderful Christmas tradition that puts everyone in a great Christmas mood.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/174MOOCxFJKN7OIUibVQvSvPo3D3q6a5OJAKr4LYQPwU/viewform?edit_requested=true

As a thank you, our club makes a donation to support their expenses."

Pat

pat@patrickhaggerty.com
301-466-7403

(Editor's Note: Following is a reprint of an announcement for the Pinecrest High Sinfonietta Orchestra who played at the Village of Pinehurst Christmas Tree Lighting on December 6th.)

Pinecrest High School Orchestra to Play at PCI



Plan on coming to the Village of Pinehurst Christmas Tree Lighting on December 6? Make sure to stop by Pine Crest Inn! As a special treat, we'll have the Sinfonietta Orchestra from Pinecrest High School



reminded those in attendance that Helms was known for his gift of humor when dealing with fellow Washington politicians as well as the public.

When asked by an attendee in the Q&A about Helms on a Zoo in NC, Rogers explained, when Senator Helms was asked about a zoo in North Carolina, the paper reported: *"When politicians proposed building a state zoo, Republican senator Jesse Helms suggested they just build a fence around Chapel Hill."* (Editor's Note: To learn more about the Jesse Helms Center, go to: <https://jessehelmscenter.org/>)

At the conclusion of the Q&A, the meeting was adjourned about 1:30pm.

See the following article about our annual December Christmas luncheon meeting.

Program News for December
by Patrick Haggerty – VP Programs:

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SET FOR
DECEMBER 16th**

playing holiday favorites from 6:00-7:30pm that evening.

The Sinfonietta Orchestra is a highly-ranked audition-only orchestra that has been invited to compete at the Festival of Gold in Chicago in April 2020. The orchestra is fundraising to attend this competition trip and will have a donation jar available while they play on December 6. In addition, feel free to make an online contribution toward their trip by clicking [here](#). Every contribution, no matter how small, is appreciated.

Elected Officials Contact Information:

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

www.moorecountync.gov/images/departments/board-of-elections/elected_officials.pdf



Wayne Boyles, The VPM Corner 2021 Volume 10

The Joy is in the Doing

Roger Stevens, the famous Broadway producer once said, “The joy is in the doing.” That is what it has been like for me these past two years serving as your Vice President for Membership, an absolute joy. It has been one of the highest honors of my life to serve you in this capacity.



My parents taught me that the best things you do for yourself are the investments you make in the lives of others. That is so true.

That is what makes our club so special. By our membership and fellowship with others in our club we are investing in the lives of each other.

In doing so we are following in the footsteps of our founders, Washington, Jefferson, Adams, and Madison. They made up, if you will, the original “Patriot’s Club” because they invested in others and in the future of our country. They nurtured the embryonic spirit of freedom and democracy to full term and led in the birthing of the greatest nation in the history of mankind. One not measured in dollars and cents, or the tangibles of life but the intangibles that Jefferson wrote about in our Declaration of Independence; “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Those cannot possibly be measured.

Our founders were by and large wealthy landowners who could have cut a sweet deal with King George III and further enriched themselves.

According to the folks at Mount Vernon, George Washington’s estate there totaled approximately 8,000 acres. His estate stretched from the southern end of present-day Alexandria, Virginia south down the present-day George Washington Parkway up and through present day Mount Vernon. Additionally, his land holdings, primarily in the Ohio Valley, brought the total up to 50,000 acres.

He left all that to serve and invest in others, leading our Revolutionary War Army in pursuit of freedom. In doing so, he and so many others established that “City on a Hill” that John Winthrop dreamed about and spoke about on the Arabella in 1630 as he and other pilgrims from England made their way to America’s shores.

Winthrop said, “..... we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us. So that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken, and so cause Him to withdraw His present help from us, we shall be made a story and a by-word through the world.”

Our club’s mission is to make Moore County that “City on a Hill” and we are doing that event by event, luncheon by luncheon. Our fellowship of members investing in the lives of others is making our county a lighthouse casting the light of “Life, Liberty, and pursuit of happiness” throughout the world.

I am excited about 2022 and what next year will bring. Our nominating committee has chosen Todd Maness, a superb candidate, to be my successor. He will be a great servant of our club as Vice President for Membership. I give him my wholehearted endorsement and urge you to do the same.

In closing, thank all of you for giving me the privilege of this office for these past two years. What an indescribable experience it has been for me.

In the spirit of the Christmas Season let us echo, from Saint Luke’s Gospel, what the angles sang to the shepherds on that night in Bethlehem when Christ came into our midst; “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth, peace, goodwill toward men!”

This is my wish for all of you, my fellow club members, who labor so diligently in the vineyard of democracy who produce great fruit now and will in the years to come.

God bless you and your families always.

Jim Legg - Treasurer

Money quote of the month, by Ron Kittle, 1987

"I'm so poor I can't even pay attention."

2022 dues are now due.

In addition to paying your dues at the check-in table, you can mail a personal check payable to MCRMC in the amount of \$30 to:

MCRMC
P.O. Box 1812
Southern Pines, NC 28388

Want to play Santa this year? Log on to our website and print a membership application. Give it to a like-minded family member, or friend, and encourage them to join. Click on the following:

<https://nebula.wsimg.com/f5ae25f1b9807b3c1f84265d92413f00?AccessKeyId=6C04C76230FB8BAC98D4&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

As of this submission the club has an available balance of \$17,812.72 All revenues have been deposited; all bills have been paid.

Bob Coates – EC & Lunch Administrator:

Important Luncheon News

Last CCNC Luncheon for a Few Months

December 16th will be the last luncheon at CCNC for MCRMC probably until September of 2022. CCNC will be undertaking major renovations to the main dining room, and we need to move our events for the first half of 2022.

We will be having our luncheons (still the 3rd Thursday of the month) at Little River which is exactly 5 miles north of the traffic circle on 15-501. It's a nice facility and we have had a lot of good reports on recent functions that have been held there. Full details on directions will be available next month. Perhaps you'd like to join the pool and guess how many people still end up at CCNC in January? Don't be that guy!



But for December WE ARE STILL AT CCNC ! On December 16th we'll have our Christmas Luncheon. Instead of a political speaker we will be entertained by 20+ members of the Pinecrest High School Sinfonietta Orchestra.

The menu will be:

Roasted pork loin
with cranberry and apple compote
Mashed potatoes
Haricots Verts
Dessert: Pecan pie

We hope to see you all there spreading Christmas cheer. And why not bring your 'significant other'?

Please register soon at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/174MOOCxFJKN7O1UibVQvSvPo3D3q6a5OJAKr4LYQPwU/viewform?edit_requested=true

Holiday wishes,

Bob Coates - Luncheon Administrator

Moore County GOP News:



Tom Beddow, Moore County Republican Party Chair has been watching the State Redistricting plans for the US House, the NC State House and Senate seats. Also of note are the changes in Moore County Board of Commissioners for next year's election.



The 2022 election will see a number of changes for Moore County residents. See the maps which show the new districts for North Carolina and Moore

County, following these remarks.

Moore County will now be entirely in the new 8th US Congressional district and Dan Bishop will run for reelection in the new district. Richard Hudson will

run in the new 10th US House District to our northwest.

Moore will now be part of the 21st NC senate district which includes a good chunk of Cumberland. Senator McInnis will run for reelection in that district.

Moore will now have three NC House districts. Rep. Sauls, Republican from Lee County will now have Carthage, Vass and Cameron.

Alan McNeill will not be running, so the new vacant district will extend from Randolph County further south into Moore and will include Pinehurst. That State Representative will be decided in the November 2022 election.

Jamie Boles will have a primary against fellow Republican Ben Moss. That district will include Southern Pines, Aberdeen, the lower tier of Moore, and all of Richmond County.

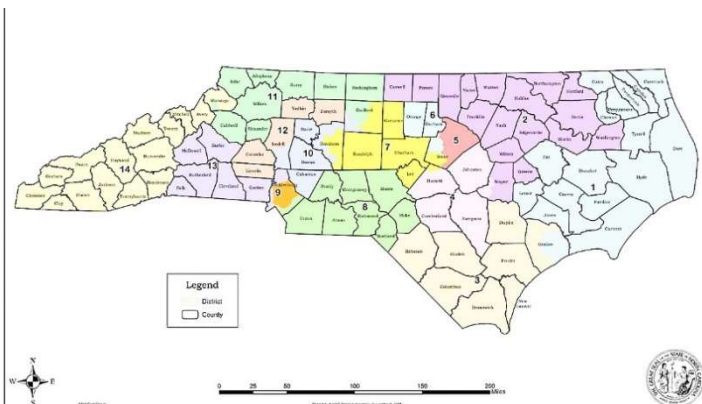
County Commission and School Board districts will also be changing for the 2022 elections. Combined with the US Senate race this all adds up to another critical election year in 2022 with the potential to recapture a US Senate majority, an additional 2-3 seats in the US House in NC and that majority, and super majorities in the NC House and Senate.

Candidate filing for 2022 races opens Dec. 6-17 and the primary will take place on March 8 for those races with more than one Republican.

Following are the maps for:

US House Representatives, NC House Seats, NC Senate Seats, and Moore County Board of Commissioners districts.

NC US Representative Districts (full state)

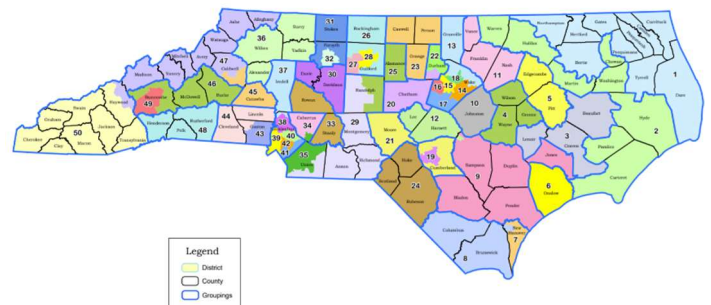


NC US Representative Districts

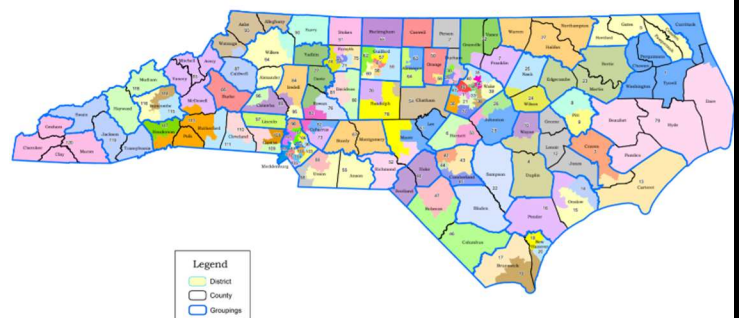
(Moore County Area)



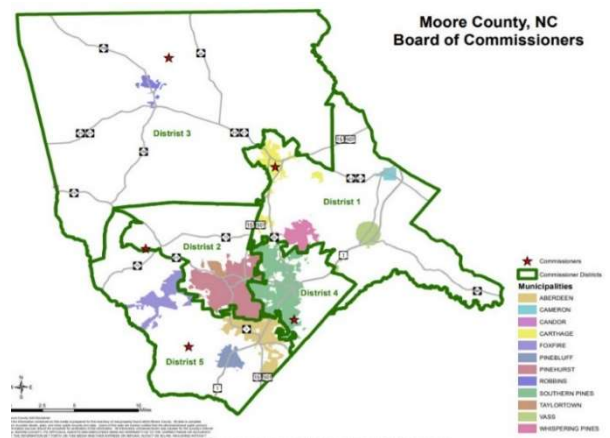
NC State Senate Districts



NC State House Districts



Moore County Board of Commissioners Districts



Watch for further updates on elections in this newsletter and on the new Moore County GOP website as noted following.

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To learn everything you ever wanted to know about the Moore County GOP, go to:

<https://woodwardstephen.wixsite.com/mooregop>

Moore County Republican Women News:



President's Message

To the Ladies of
Moore
Republican
Women:



You will never fully know how much you personally mean to me and how much I admire your class, beauty and extraordinary talent.

I've never been part of a group of women who are so kind, innately bright and educated. Getting to know all of you and working together has been pure delight. This has been such a wonderful experience for me, and I have truly tried to give it my all.

Thank you for your availability, your loyalty to our Club, your work and unending donations. You have each built this Club into the greatest in North Carolina. Our great common bond is a love for what we stand for: God, country, free enterprise and conservative principles.

This is not the end of the road for me -- it is the beginning of a whole new chapter. As you may know, I am running for Moore County School Board. I would appreciate your support so I can stand by our school board members, parents, grandparents and especially our kids. We need to protect them from the dangerous indoctrination which is infiltrating our schools.

I leave MRW in great hands, as Maureen Krueger leads our new Board, and we look forward to a huge red wave in 2022. I'm remaining on the board and promise to help our leaders achieve tremendous success.

Thank you. Thank you all. You are my heart and soul and have become my life.

Merry Christmas from my heart to yours...

Pauline

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To learn the "Latest news from MRW" and more, go to: www.mrwnc.org

Tom Schroeder

Tom's News

Moore County Conservative News

Thomas Schroeder

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Tom's Thoughts

U.S. Slips in Economic
Freedom Rankings; Canada in
Freefall



Here is a historical view from the article below:

"The U.S. had ranked in the top five for the past two years. In 1980 and 1990, America had ranked as high as No. 2."

Note that Venezuela is the lowest ranked in the world and "Canada is [sic] in Freefall."

According to a 2016 *Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania* [Report](#) and I quote (emphasis added):

"We are seeing in Venezuela the convergence of the trends of economic deterioration, political deterioration, the collapse of public order, and energy shortages; so it is really across the board," he notes, adding that the country's normal challenges have been "exacerbated by 10 years of horrific economic mismanagement done to prop up a political system that depended essentially on hand-outs and a kind of state socialism."

It appears to me, to be the same trends we saw in Venezuela are starting to show up in the US.

These US trends are just one more reason we need to come together and work hard at the 2022 and 2024 elections

For those who like details, here is some additional detailed information from the Economic Freedom Rankings report below:



[Executive Summary](#)



[Read the Full Publication](#)



[View the Dataset - Data by country](#)



[View the Dataset - Data for researchers](#)

 [View the Dataset - Gender legal rights adjustment data](#)

 [View the PowerPoint Presentation](#)

 [Read the News Release](#)

[View the Interactive Map, Graphs, and Dataset](#)

See the article below for more details.

Key Points are **Highlighted**

Article

U.S. Slips in Economic Freedom Rankings; Canada in Freefall - Carolina Journal

carolinajournal.com · by Andrew Dunn

With an ever-expanding federal government, the U.S. has fallen out of the top five countries for economic freedom, [according to a new report](#) from the Fraser Institute.

America now ranks as No. 6, behind Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand, Switzerland, and Georgia. The U.S. ranked particularly poorly in its size of government and freedom to trade internationally.

The Fraser Institute ranks countries annually based on nearly four dozen measures of economic freedom. The highest-rated countries score well for “protection of privately owned property, a legal system that treats all equally, even-handed enforcement of contracts, and a stable monetary environment,” according to the report.

Taxes must also be low, international trade available without onerous barriers, and allocate resources by free markets rather than government distribution.

High-ranking countries for economic freedom have a higher GDP per capita, higher incomes, less poverty, and longer life expectancy. Economic freedom is associated with faster economic growth and increased social mobility, as well, allowing people at the bottom of the income spectrum to rise to the middle class or above.

The U.S. had ranked in the top five for the past two years. In 1980 and 1990, America had ranked as high as No. 2.

“Where people are free to pursue their own opportunities and make their own choices, they lead more prosperous, happier and healthier lives,” said Fred McMahon, research chair in economic freedom at the Fraser Institute, in a statement.

While the U.S. slipped in this year’s rankings, America’s neighbor to the north is in free fall. Canada now ranks No. 14 after years in the top 10. The Fraser Institute cited increasing taxes and regulation for Canada’s drop in the rankings.

Hong Kong’s top ranking was based primarily on a small central government, low regulations, sound fiscal policy and easy access to international trade.

The lowest-rated countries are primarily in Africa and the Middle East: Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria, Republic of Congo, Iran, Zimbabwe, Algeria, Libya and Sudan. Venezuela came in last.

Other major country rankings:

- Japan: 18
- Germany: 22
- Sweden: 37 (tie)
- Norway: 37 (tie)
- Italy: 47
- France: 53
- Mexico: 75
- Russia: 100
- India: 108
- Brazil: 109
- China: 116

carolinajournal.com · by Andrew Dunn

Tom's News
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Your Newsletter Editor – Paul Shaffer



As we wind down another year it is time to make a few reflections for 2021 and look forward to a better 2022.

This past year has been a mixture of blessings and curses. What do I mean? First, a few things that I see as blessings. We have made great

strides toward moving back into a more normal functioning society. While there are government (mostly Federal) demands for continued masking, quarantines, vaccines and such, in Moore County like many states, we have seen masks disappear and peoples moving toward a more normal life. You can go out to eat, attend church, shop most anywhere and travel (outside of flying) to the destination of your

choice. Like many of you, my wife and I took advantage of this and traveled during the Thanksgiving holiday. We were able to stay with our daughter in South Carolina, and see some of our grandchildren who joined us for a Thanksgiving meal at Ruth Chris Steakhouse.

In addition, our club has seen a reduction of Covid meeting restrictions which has allowed our monthly meetings to get back to normal and grow in attendance. Despite federal efforts to keep us locked in and locked down, we are moving back to a normalized society, yeah!

On the negative front, our federal government under Democrat rule seems to be hell bent on dragging our country down while spending us so deep into a hole that we may not recover in our lifetime; and maybe in the next generation or two. With a slim majority in the US House and Senate (50/50 with a Dem casting the vote for a tie) the Dems have tried to push through their leftist programs. Thank God for a couple of sensible Democrats who have stalled the so called “build back better” mass spending leftist mess of a bill. And what can I say about our President that is not apparent by just watching him on TV reports. Not what the mainstream media tries to say he said, but rather what he says himself. It is bad, but mostly sad to realize that we have elected someone who obviously cannot lead and is being made a puppet of his staff. What I really wonder is who is calling the shots, or to stay with my earlier reference to a puppet, pulling his strings. This only goes to prove, beyond a shadow of a doubt, how important it is that we, Republicans, must elect a majority in both the US house and Senate in 2022. Stay involved, get your like-minded friends and neighbors involved and we can take back the reins next year!

See you at the Christmas Luncheon-Concert.

Resolve 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.resolveinc.blog (If reading this in the paper newsletter, type the link address in your web browser.)

Ashe heap

By Steve Woodward

I've recently escaped the encampment known as Asheville, North Carolina, where masking is pronounced and pronouns are never masked.

Asheville reminded me of remote Japanese islands after Japan surrendered to end World War II. Its people are walking around in masks as if the war on the Wuhan Virus is still raging, and we're only one bad data point removed from returning to 100% lockdowns, vaccines at gun point and citizen street patrols.

And, I sensed they'd actually prefer this scenario. Dude, c'mon! Mask up. My spouse was scolded entering a restaurant in the “arts district” for her failure to wear a mask during the six-step walk to our table. Fortunately, I was parking the car, or we would have moved along. (I snuck in, undetected by the mask cops).



Before there we mask mandates in Asheville, it appears there were stringent tattoo, body piercing and gender reassignment mandates. It's a

population grounded in government control and “woke” culture. But behold, says the tourism bureau, don't miss breathtaking autumn colors and horizons dominated by mountain peaks. So we lowlanders flock annually.

I, too, enjoyed the scenery, and the confines of the Grove Park Inn, where unmasked weekend guests crowded the grand lobby even as the staff was suffocating behind “mandatory” face diapers per a county mandate. The young adult crowd seemed comfortable spending \$10 for a lobby bar beer, and untold thousands of dollars for rooms and amenities to accommodate wedding guests, even as all complied with masking while meandering, but never when seated, talking, eating, drinking, and hugging. Someday, will they look back and regret their complicity after history unveils the farcical conditions under which we now live? The mask surely will join the ranks of the 1970s leisure suit. No one will admit to having worn one.

But, alas they did not have iPhones in the '70s.

Face coverings are not the lone weapon against societal norms. Did you know that hotel guests are destroying the planet and starving people? At The Grove Park, an Omni property, guests are urged to “opt out” of housekeeping services. By passing up on clean sheets and towels, you authorize Omni to donate a meal to a community organization. (No details about who coordinates it; are we talking a cheese sandwich or a four-course feast? No clue.). If you insist on being a jerk and expecting housekeeping, a guest still can earn “green” points by hanging a used towel. Or, leave it on the floor, you planet killer, and the staff begrudgingly supplies a fresh towel.

As with many hotel chains, green initiatives are marketing schemes designed to reduce operational costs. These cutbacks only have escalated during the Wuhan virus era. The Grove Park's many corridor walls are covered by photos of the rich and famous who've stayed in the hotel since 1913, guests who were welcomed with deference and denied nothing. In 2021, if you want coffee in the morning forget about room service. There is no such service. But please brew your own cup in a Keurig device. It's a paper cup, of course. Did Thomas Edison sip his coffee from a paper cup?

Closer to home, *The Pilot*, a newspaper serving Southern Pines but ideally suited to an Asheville constituency, complained in an editorial that the county school board is being derailed by “politics”. The editorial proclaims a school board is a “nonpartisan arena”. Sure, and Jeffrey Epstein's island was a spa and spiritual retreat.

Apparently, there is nothing partisan about nonchalance toward “Critical Race Theory” as a continuous anti-American thread woven into social studies curricula. Nothing partisan about pandering to a “land trust” shaming Moore County Schools until it accepted a racially motivated plea to purchase a former school property on the cheap. The three newly elected, “political” school board members voted against the land grab; and even brought a member over to their side in a 4-3 vote to ban CRT from curricula in Moore schools.

Everything is political, and always has been. Everything is not perverse, however. You would

not know that given the intent of so-called local Republicans in waging recent campaigns to defame Lydia Boesch and Kevin Drum, Pinehurst Village Council members, and Maureen Krueger, the former district attorney.

Political cannibalism is an enduring trait of the Republican Party for reasons that remain elusive. But there he was, Pinehurst Mayor John Strickland, recently claiming council members Boesch and Drum committed “ethics violations” on the flimsiest charges since the Steele Dossier was used to target Donald Trump's presidency. In the case of Drum, the charge was made weeks ahead of his re-election bid on November 2. Drum lost to a pair of first-time, novice candidates, including Strickland crony Patrick Pizzella.

Krueger made the fatal mistake of accepting a nomination to become President of the Moore Republican Women's club, an award winning club regionally and nationally, and the state's largest. The spouse of the current district attorney, Michael Hardin, whom Krueger did not endorse in 2020, mounted an expensive campaign to oppose Krueger for the club presidency. In a secret-ballot election on November 3 Krueger received two-thirds of the vote to easily secure the position. But if she was trying to sow seeds of division in the club, Victoria Hardin also scored a victory, perverse though it was.

Republicans at all levels of government have to figure out how to be more skeptical of the many frauds who slither into our midst. Consider the 13 House Republicans who last week voted in favor of the Biden administration's \$1 trillion “infrastructure” bill that will allocate a scant \$110 billion for legitimate infrastructure projects (*The Wall Street Journal*, November 8, 2021).

The Village Council's perversion may yet bring down its conspirators. Boesch, whose ethics violation is alleged to be talking to a village employee without permission, correctly sensed that Strickland and two fellow council members colluded to prepare a statement denouncing her before a scheduled October public meeting. Member Jane Hogeman was reading “her” statement rather matter-of-factly when Boesch interrupted to ask who had authored it. Hogeman was caught off guard and soon acknowledged that it has been “passed around”.

Boesch hired a well established attorney, who warned the council that it very likely violated state opening meetings laws by meeting on the sly to craft its denunciation of Boesch, herself an attorney.

Even the most betrayal minded Republicans cannot mask their intentions forever.

From Outside the Club:

This and That



Reservations for the December Luncheon Christmas Concert are required before Sunday, Dec 12 at: www.mcrmc.club

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