



Elephant Tracks



Newsletter of the Middlesex County Republican Committee
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ACE Hardware Owners Receive MCRC's First Free-Enterprise Award



Left to right, Sharon Phelps, Jean Rhame, MCRC Chair Trudy Feigum, Krystal and Grayland Horn, Tom Feigum, a member of the Middlesex Economic Development Authority, and Lynda Muller

Horn's Middlesex ACE Hardware at Cooks Corner was recognized April 29 with MCRC's first-ever Free Enterprise Award. The Horns were congratulated for completing their second year in business and thanked by MCRC members for choosing Middlesex County in which to do business. The award, initiated by MCRC, helps recognize the importance of free enterprise in Middlesex County and our country. As the Virginia Republican Creed states, "We believe the free enterprise system is the most product supplier of human needs and economic justice." The Horns employ about 10 people in Middlesex and, although being residents of Lancaster County, send three of their five children to Middlesex County Public Schools. Accepting the award, Grayland told MCRC members, "This is another fine example of how friendly, organized and supportive Middlesex County is. We are pleased to be here!" MCRC plans to recognize other new businesses in Middlesex—a great way to showcase free enterprise in Middlesex County!



AHOY!

***DELTAVILLE SEAFOOD FESTIVAL*
MCRC MEET & GREET TENT NEEDS YOU!**

Friday May 10 and Saturday May 11 are coming very quickly! Volunteers are needed to greet visitors and distribute campaign items from MCRC's Meet & Greet tent. Have only an hour or two to spare those days? That is perfect. Plan to be at the tent sometime between 12:00 and 5:00 Friday and/or 9:00 and 5:00 Saturday. All you need to bring is your smile!

Driving into Deltaville, watch for a sign "Vendors Parking" between Zoar Baptist Church and the DCA building to your left. The road is Jackson Farm Road, 17147 General Puller Highway, Deltaville 23043. Questions? Give me a call, 804-776-0833, or email TrudyF@Reagan.com. This event is a lot of fun... *and* you can eat your fill of seafood!

Last issue of ET [See *Elephant Tracks*, Vol. 4, No.2] I wrote that I am appalled to see many of this nation's public school children today being indoctrinated in support of socialism and against capitalism. I'm pleased that Dr. Peter Gretz, superintendent of Middlesex County Public Schools, responded to my statement, saying, "I don't believe it to be a true reflection of how our public schools have behaved...I cannot speak for every public school in the nation, to be sure. I have spent more days than not in classrooms in VA's public schools over the past (almost) three decades, and have never experienced a public school indoctrinating children to support socialist views or to devalue capitalism. It may be happening somewhere and I may not be aware, but I am unquestionably certain that it isn't happening in Middlesex."

Dr. Gretz went on to say, "I would not want the MCRC's perception and support of its community's schools to be influenced by a belief that we are indoctrinating children in such a way. ...it is with utmost respect I offer these remarks—I'm not trying to be combative or spark an argument. As I have many times before, I extend an invitation for anyone to come "see for themselves" what our teachers are teaching."

I assured Dr. Gretz that I was speaking in generalities, not focusing on Middlesex, given what I see and read in reports from across America. MCRC members have taken opportunity to review history texts taught in Middlesex Public Schools and substantiate Dr. Gretz's comments. As new textbooks are brought into the system, whenever that may be, it will be my recommendation for MCRC members to once again review the books for content.



Have you joined the Middlesex County Republican Committee?

If you would like to join or if you are renewing, now is the time. Membership is \$15 per single/\$25 per couple. Mail your check, payable to MCRC, to PO Box 396, Hartfield, VA 23071. If you can't or don't wish to attend meetings, that's okay.

The support and encouragement your membership provides helps keep MCRC operating and effective!

The mission statement of the Patriotic Millionaires is “Tax the Rich. Save America. Yes, it is really that simple.” The slogan doesn't hold water, though, when it's tested mathematically. In reality, some 48% of the current federal revenue comes from income taxes as a whole. Of that percentage, the top 1% of income earners is responsible for around 37.3%. What this means is, the rich already pay more taxes than the rest of the population — and it's not close. In fact, the top half of taxpayers pay 97% of all income taxes.

The Tax Policy Center found that some 44% of Americans will end up not paying any federal income taxes at all. Around 87% of all income taxes for the year 2018 came from the top 20% of income earners. This number has increased from 84% in 2017, meaning that President Trump's tax cuts actually increased the amount paid by top income earners — something you'll never hear CNN admit.

Under the category of “Did you know?” is this from Dr. Peter Gretz: “I do believe there is a higher degree of poverty among our school families than most Middlesex residents understand. That could be due to our higher composite wealth index and the fact that the state formula views our county as being able to support itself to a greater degree than other rural counties. Our elementary school has just under 70% of its students qualified to receive free or reduced lunch due to the low income of those households. We have many students we know whose only meals are those served in the school - and I expect several others in similar situations we simply aren't aware of.”

These eyebrow-raising comments from Dr. Gretz came in response to statements I made to Middlesex County Supervisor John Koontz about news of county school buses being used this summer to deliver children to county schools to provide meal(s). I was advised that one bus will be used which, plus the fuel, will be paid for by a River Counties grant, not by school funds.

If so many of our public school children are living in such dire straits, we definitely should determine if state formula figures are producing a false narrative of statistics or if we, the county of Middlesex, have a crisis on our hands. If it's the state's formula, it won't be the first time Middlesex has been unable to receive state aid due to the disparity of assessed values between waterfront and inland properties or generalized

formula algorithms being used that may be inaccurate for Middlesex. If it's a crisis, then we need to rethink where some of our local tax dollars are going. Funding Parks & Rec is a good thing, for example, but not if the very children who are eligible to participate in the department's programs are going hungry.

Dr. Gretz pointed out to me, "That citizens have stepped up and volunteered to secure grant funding to provide meals to children during the summer at no cost to Middlesex taxpayers is just another demonstration of our community's selfless expenditure of time, talent and resources to compensate for lacking state funds that other localities enjoy."

I applaud the efforts shown and pray the results are filled with success. My point is that we must look deeper and strive to address as a priority what's really happening in Middlesex. Perhaps, conversations with Senator McDougle and Delegate Hodges would be fruitful?



--UPCOMING EVENTS--

Deltaville Seafood Festival MCRC Meet & Greet Tent –

Friday, May 10, 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 11, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



MCRC Monthly Meeting – Thursday, May 16, 2019

Cooks Corner Public Conference Room, 2693 General Puller Highway, Saluda

Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

Speakers: Mae Burke, candidate for Middlesex County Commissioner of Revenue

Kathy Thrift, candidate for Middlesex County Treasurer



County Meetings

Board of Supervisors – First Tuesday of each month, 3:00 p.m.

School Board – Second Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission – Second Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.

(Historic Courthouse in Saluda unless otherwise noted)

Check county website for updates, committee, and Authority meetings

www.co.middlesex.va.us/

PARTING THOUGHT: “The truth is like a lion. You don’t have to defend it. Let it loose. It will defend itself.” --St. Augustine



...Beyond the Tracks

Beyond the Tracks is a forum for MCRC members and others to contribute opinions and insights about subjects of potential interest to fellow Republicans. Send contributions to TrudyF@Reagan.com, editor of *Elephant Tracks*. The editor reserves the right to reject any submission with no explanation. Comments to articles are welcomed and will be published at the discretion of the editor.

Help Make America Great Again

- Kat Stansell

The United States of America is at war. With ourselves. For the heart and soul of our constitutional republic. Beware, the enemy is within.

There can be no compromise, here, because compromise requires common ground. Where once we disagreed about HOW to solve America's problems, now one side in this conflict thinks that America IS the problem. They would destroy this nation and the beautiful system of governance that has, for 232 years, done more good for more millions of people than any other form of government in history. This is why history has been removed from our schools and replaced with inflammatory lies. For over 200 years America has been the world's last and best hope. And, that FACT does not fit the narrative of her enemies today.

Migrants all, we came here and generation after generation have joined hearts and lives to become AMERICANS. The foreign invaders

of today, who are being shipped by the millions across our poorly defended borders, wave the flags of OTHER countries, and SPIT ON ours. They burn and desecrate any symbol of America that they can. They are being brought for a reason. To collapse our social and economic framework. And, they are being bought and paid for by the enemy. (See Cloward and Piven, 1966.)

Even Saul Alinsky, the radical organizer of the middle of the last century, and Hillary's mentor, advocated against trashing the symbols of America and its system of laws. He said NOT to burn the flag or call police "pigs" for the organizer would be bringing about his own demise; he or she would be labeled TOO radical and be promptly "turned off" by the audience he sought. NEVER, said Alinsky, in his *Rules for Radicals*, should the organizers for change attempt to destroy the democracy that allows for protest. In his words,

"Let us, in the name of radical pragmatism, not forget that in our

system...we can still speak out...work to build an opposition political base...There is still that relative freedom to fight. I can attack my government. I can try to change it. THAT IS MORE THAN I AM ABLE TO DO IN MOSCOW, PEKING, OR HAVANA ... Remember...just a few of the violent episodes (*sic.* of protest) we have had here WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN SWEEPING PURGES AND MASS EXECUTIONS.”*

The Anti-American Left has violated their own radical teachings!

Today, we have but two political choices going forward: Pro-American or Anti-American. If you value your freedoms, your way of life, your family’s future well-being, you are a PRO-AMERICAN! Regardless of how you have ever voted, or thought to vote, before.

All previous party labels—R, D, L, and I—have been rendered meaningless by this precipitous slide to the left that we see today. Gone is the party of the common man! Gone, too, is the party of moral and fiscal conservatism. Part of the national angst that we are experiencing is that people are struggling to find their old allegiances. People of all parties are angry and frustrated at being called names of things they are NOT and divided from their accustomed norms of stability, such as the family, the church, and the community.

It is, therefore, incumbent on the vast majority of us who do NOT want to

live under the horrors of socialism to come forward and join hands, again, as our forefathers did when forming this great nation. Pro-Americans are to be found under every previous party label, every race, every part of our communities. We are, first and foremost, Americans and we MUST come together to save our constitutional republic from those who would ravage it. We must go back to history—REAL HISTORY—to have the chance to move forward. (After we have righted the ship of state, we can go back to arguing about the “how-to’s”!)

If we should lose our government to the socialist/communist enemy, by choosing to stay home, be uninvolved, keep the ostrich as our mascot, then that will be our last free choice. I am not willing to let that happen. I firmly believe that what unites us is SO much greater than those who would divide us. If you do, too, activate everyone around you. Get out there and work for our America. She needs us now more than ever.

In closing, again from Alinsky:

“People cannot be free unless they are willing to sacrifice some of their Interests to guarantee the freedom of others...quoting Tocqueville’s warning, ‘UNLESS INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS WERE REGULARLY INVOLVED IN THE ACTION OF GOVERNING THEMSELVES, SELF-GOVERNMENT WOULD PASS FROM THE SCENE.’” **| That’s their way of saying, “Get off the couch and out the door! We have a country to save!”

Patrick Henry, our fellow Virginian, was correct over 200 years ago. I want to bring you his words over the centuries, to take with you today:

“Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country.”

Because, as Edmund Burke paraphrased Psalm 34, “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

**Rules for Radicals, Vintage Books, 1971, Prologue, p.21*

***Ibid, p.25*

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[Editor’s Comment: Kathie “Kat” Stansell is known as The Earnest Patriot. She offers help in teaching and motivating folks who may never before have considered being involved in politics. Kat spoke to MCRC at our April 2019 meeting. She is a member of the Northumberland County Republican Committee.]

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