



Holiday Greetings To One & All

As we approach the end of the year we Republicans have good reason to be proud of our accomplishments. Watching Nancy Pelosi hand the gavel over to John Boehner in January was a moment to savor. She was forced to step down because of the determination of tens of thousands of grassroots volunteers and millions of voters who elected dozens of conservative Republicans to replace incumbent Democrat congressmen.



Florida played a key role in firing Pelosi. Daniel Webster sent Alan Grayson packing. Allen West, Steve Southerland, and Sandy Adams also defeated incumbent Democrats. Collier County deserves a share of the credit. We elected David Rivera who stunned political pundits by defeating a liberal Democrat Party hack who had been favored to win that election.

Elections have consequences. In January Rick Scott was sworn-in as the 45th Governor of Florida. He promptly canceled the taxpayer-subsidized high-speed rail boondoggle.

Kathleen Passidomo and Jeanette Nuñez joined other Collier County Republicans in a solidly Republican Florida Legislature to balance the budget without raising taxes.

Despite these impressive wins, I am confident that Republicans are not resting on our laurels. It is striking that there has been so much volunteer energy in an "off" year.

Thanks to the hard work of fellow volunteers our headquarters is open during regular business hours. That would be expected in a presidential election year but is a remarkable achievement this year.

One volunteer in particular has literally made thousands of phone calls to Republican households. His hard work has more than doubled our list of active Republicans.

This newsletter is another example of a volunteer-led effort. Its contributors come

together with a common goal - the advancement of Republican principles and the defeat of socialism. The crowds who cheered our float in the Swamp Buggy parade last month were a manifestation of the depth and breadth of Republican support in Collier this year. This was a vivid contrast to the tepid welcome we received in the parade shortly before the devastating 2008 elections. Nearly every viable candidate for elected office in Collier County is a Republican. According to the Supervisor of Elections web page there are now 87,00 registered Republicans, 42,000 Democrats and 40,000 others. Our registration advantage is increasing.

The Democrats face an uphill battle to retake Congress in 2012. Who could have predicted in January that Anthony Weiner would replace Nancy Pelosi as the face of the Democrat Party by June of 2011? Sweeping Republican victories in 2010 mean that we will control redistricting in many key states. Early victims of redistricting and demographic shifts may be Dennis Kucinich and Barney Frank.

This is good news as we enter the holiday season. Thankfully, some of the worst ghosts of Christmas past have been defeated or are retiring. Despite positive signs in congressional races, we face two alternate futures for the White House in 2012. Will Americans choose four more years of a drift a drift toward European-style socialism and a further erosion of American exceptionalism? Or will we elect a champion of the Constitutional principles of greater individual liberty and more limited federal power?

The first caucus is just a few weeks away. Florida Republicans will go to the polls next month with the solemn duty to elect the single best person to face Barack Obama.



As we enjoy our holidays let us pray that God gives us the wisdom and energy to prevail next year!

Frank Schwerin, Chairman

Holiday Happenings

**Bonita/Estero
Republican Club
December 1**

at

Barefoot Beach
Marina Boathouse/
Clubhouse, 5025
Bonita Beach Road
6-8 p.m.

Beer & Wine, light
snacks. Social hour
and a speaker.

For more information

Contact Robert

Sharkey at

sharkeyrh@gmail.com



**Republicans
After 5
Christmas Party
December 21**

at

Vergina's
700 Fifth Ave So
5-7 p.m.

Happy Hour
Cocktails and
Complimentary
Appetizers.

RSVP

5@samsaad.com

Questions Call Sam
at 239-784-3333

**THE COLLIER
REPUBLICAN CLUB**

meets the second Monday of
every month at the Bella
Serra Hotel.

**Special Holiday Dinner
December 12th 6-8 p.m.**

\$20 per person

RSVP Required

Contact Scott Lepore at
slepore@johnrwood.com

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
FEDERATED
REPUBLICAN WOMEN**

meets first Monday, 11:30 am
at Arbor Trace on Vanderbilt
Dr. December's speaker TBA
For more information, contact
Anne Brown 254-9979

anneub@embarqmail.com

**REPUBLICAN MEN'S
CLUB OF COLLIER
COUNTY**

meets the first Friday 7:45 am
at Pelican Marsh Golf Club.
December speaker is U.S.
Senate Candidate Adam
Hasner.

\$15 members, \$20 non
members.

Contact Mike Brennan 304-6453
colliermensclub@gmail.com

Spotlight on CCREC Volunteers

Editor's Note: Each month we will spotlight a HQ volunteer.

Our Volunteer of the month is Anne Brown. Anne has been active with the Republicans of



Southwest Florida for the past nine years. She is from the suburbs of Philadelphia where she raised five children yet found the time to be politically involved with the Republican Party.

Anne stays busy. In addition to being a Realtor, she is the president of the SFFRW where she presides over the board and club meetings. Her duties include coordinating club achievements with the Florida and National Federated Women's organizations and the selection and appointments of special committee chairwomen. She also serves on

the by-laws and budget committees. As if that wasn't enough, Anne is a precinct committee woman in Collier County, a charter member of the Collier Republican Club, a Tea Party activist and a 912 Project supporter. And guess what, Anne also volunteers as a Day Manager at Collier Republican headquarters at least one day a week, sometimes taking extra shifts when needed. Anne Brown is a team player and an asset to the CCREC

December Schedule for Collier Republican Headquarters

Open 10 to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Closed from December 19th to 31st

Call 732-0885 to make special arrangements.

Continuing Education At Headquarters

Bill Greystone presents

Lion of Liberty

Patrick Henry And The Call To A New Nation

This book study meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 6th at Republican Headquarters and at 9:30 a.m. at Calistoga Coffee Shop. In this action-packed history, award-winning author Harlow Giles Unger unfolds the epic story of Patrick Henry, who roused Americans to fight government tyranny - both British and American. Remembered largely for his cry for "liberty or death," his passion for liberty (as well as his very large family), suggested to many Americans that he, not Washington, was the real father of his country.



For information call Bill at

239-455-6468
willstone@live.com

Deana Bess presents

Republican Precinct Orientation Class

Saturday, January 28th 10 am. to Noon

No classes over the Holidays.

Merry Christmas



Collier County School Report



By Deana Bess

BUDGET: The Superintendent agreed to stay with the monthly vehicle costs agreed to in June during the November 15th school board meeting. I am still waiting for a response about the inventory recommendation from last month's report. I am currently researching the District's FTE (Full Time Equivalent) per student. This is a complicated term for dollars per student. In the [2011/12 budget](#), as in past budgets, FTE allocations for each school are different which makes no sense to me. For example, why does it cost \$793 per student at Immokalee High School and \$1096 per student at Naples High School? I'm sure there is a reasonable explanation; look for the answer in the next newsletter.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS: I was able

to attend the Superintendent's Town Hall meeting at Golden Gate HS on November 2. The GGHS Jazz band and JROTC flag presentation was outstanding. After a young boy led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, Dr. Patton presented some of her initiatives for the District. Dr. Patton appears to be making every effort to improve learning throughout the schools in our District. A strong communicator, our new Superintendent answered the audience questions clearly and quickly. I had submitted a question online several weeks in advance and my question was answered. It is my understanding these Town Hall meetings will be offered again in the spring; please make time to attend.

SCHOOL BOARD CHANGES: At a November 22 school board organizational meeting, [Roy Terry was selected as Chairman and Barbara Berry Vice Chairman](#). If you have been attending or watching the meetings on cable channel 99 or online, you'll see the meetings are much more interesting and various students perform for a few minutes at the beginning of each meeting. You can watch the most recently televised version online [here](#). In this latest episode from the November 15th meeting, elementary students performed a beautiful rendition of America the Beautiful and

America for Me; high school Choir sang our National Anthem. Please take a few minutes to watch these students perform; they really were amazing!

DISTRICT HEALTH CARE PLAN UPDATE:

The November 15th meeting video online contains the staff presentation regarding the District's Health Care plan. Annual projected costs for 2012 are \$47.2 Million. More of the district's staff and faculty are participating in preventative care programs. The District does not expect to see results from the preventative care until 2013. The District's goal is to reduce claims by 4% from 2013-2017.

As always, I thank all of you who have been involved and I encourage all who are interested to join me in learning more about our County Schools, providing feedback and input to the Board and Staff, and sharing what we know with our liberty-loving Republicans. Feel free to contact me anytime via e-mail at deanabess@gmail.com or phone, 234-6402.

Got Club News?

E-mail by 26th of month to dalcylne@embarqmail.com

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!
PLEASE JOIN US TODAY!**

COLLIER REPUBLICAN CLUB



A club of like-minded men and women, organized to promote the ideals and philosophy of the Republican Party by:

- Identifying new members and energizing Republicans to participate in the political process.
- Supporting elected officials and future candidates of the Republican Party.

Scheduled meetings Second Monday of the month at the Bellasera Hotel.

Holiday Dinner 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. \$20

The Elephant Club \$100 (Patron) General Membership \$25
Make checks payable to: Collier Republican Club
Mail to: PO Box 2997 Naples Florida 34106

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The Collier County Republican Executive Committee

meets the first Monday of the month in 2011. The next meeting will be 7 p.m. December 5, 2011

T-SHIRTS • T-SHIRTS • T-SHIRTS • T-SHIRTS



Have a T-Shirt Party! It is simple, just invite over a few friends and ask for a \$35 donation to CCREC which includes a T-shirt that promotes FREEDOM, our most important Right.

Call for details, Kathi Gray 239-331-0042
TO ORDER A T-SHIRT Call 239-732-0885 \$15 each



CCREC Members

Two new applicants will be presented to the membership for approval

**Tom Macchia (315)
Ronnie Sopena (434)**

**Send thoughts and comments to Levin Lilly
k_lilly@comcast.net**

120 CLUB NEWS

78 members and 5 sponsors.

Thanks to the generous contributions of time and money the 120 Club has helped maintain a full-time headquarters. Your annual payment of \$120 helps meet monthly expenses and other operating costs.





Freedom 2012 Update

On November 15, 2011 we held our first, Freedom 2012 fundraising event. Naples Lakes and Country Club provided the opportunity for Republican neighbors to gather for cocktails and listen to our riveting speaker, Mr. Wayne Smith. *Please read the following interview with Wayne highlighting his captivity of over 5 years as a POW.*

We raised \$1,000+ for CCREC, added names to the newsletter and sold T-shirts with a \$35.00 donation to headquarters! Small local fundraisers do reach voters, provide a connection and build support! **Please let us know if you would like to host an event with our assistance. They are important!**

We are now focused on the Candidate Forum Cruise, February 18, 2012 and the Lincoln-Reagan dinner on March 24, 2012. Please plan to attend these events to support our candidates and Party.



Kathi Gray

Fundraising Committee

graykathi@yahoo.com 239-331-0042



Freedom Isn't Free

This is a recent interview following a fundraiser for CCREC, featuring Mr. Wayne Smith, a former Vietnam War POW.

Surviving such an ordeal no doubt raises questions about one's strengths, values and hopes. With this in mind, the interview started with asking if anything in his childhood could have prepared him for such an ordeal.

Wayne recalled his childhood in rural Richmond, Kentucky where he was raised by his mother and grandparents. His grandfather was strict and religious! So, faith in God was a major part of his life that would come to serve him well in the years ahead. His early school days usually ran from 8 am to 6 pm and he learned discipline and focus. He received a great education at the area's teachers college, Eastern Kentucky University, participating widely in sports, academics and music. He was playing Mozart's piano concertos by age 12 and was only 17 when he received an appointment and entered the Air Force Academy, graduating with an engineering degree.

After a year and a half of pilot training, Wayne was then quickly called to duty in Vietnam as a weapons test pilot at Eglin AFB, which he assumed would be fairly permanent. He was rapidly deployed to Ubon Thailand to use the new weapon systems. After 90 missions, he was shot down in 1968 and began a 5 year, 2 months ordeal as a POW.

KEEPING SPIRITS UP IN CAPTIVITY

Upon arriving at the Hanoi Hilton, Wayne soon learned to his dismay, that another prisoner

had been shot down 18 months prior and as this brave American walked by his cell one day he said, "Keep your spirits up, God bless." Immediately, Wayne knew that if he could do it, so could he! Encouragement, secret communication, praying together and even learning 4 new languages became motivators in this freedom-less environment. Yes, torture was a regular part of this existence. But Wayne was quick to point out that, "no one came out bitter". In fact, they were strengthened by their mutual suffering with hope for the future, and many went on to become successful businessmen after the war. Wayne attributes this to the fact that after their ordeal, there wasn't much they were afraid to try or do!

FEELINGS OF FREEDOM

Wayne was released on March 14, 1973! Truly believing this day had finally arrived took awhile for the former prisoners to grasp. The doors opened, they were given shavers to look presentable and were loaded onto a plane. Wayne related that, at first, things were pretty somber and there wasn't any celebrating - just a quiet nervous mood on the plane. They took off, gained altitude and started their journey. After a time the pilot came on and announced, "Gentlemen, feet wet!" This meant they were over the Gulf of Tonkin and the enemy could no longer fire at them, the plane broke out in huge jubilation and tears! These brave Americans now realized they were going home to their lives!

(continued on page 8)



FREEDOM *(continued from page 7)*

DID IT CHANGE THEIR LIVES?

Yes. Wayne confirmed that no one came out resentful and bitter and that they were forever personally strengthened. What a great model for us all! When mankind is FREE our spirits soar!

Here are a few unknown facts about the returning POWs.

50% were divorced while in captivity

85% were held in secret, so their families did not know if they were alive or dead.

9 years was the record for one prisoner's captivity

And lastly, I would like to thank Wayne for giving his time and unvarnished discussions about his captivity. Wayne and his wife, Jean, have been married for 45 years. God bless!

A few of Wayne's honors for service in combat include Two Silver Stars, The Legion of Merit, Two Distinguished Flying Crosses, Two Bronze "V" Stars, Seven Air Medals, and The Purple Heart.

Submitted by Kathi Gray

Edited by Wayne Smith



Gary Tincu, Wayne Smith and Kathi Gray at the Freedom 2012 fundraising event held at Naples Lakes Country Club on November 15.

*Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year*