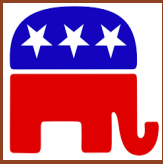
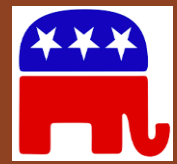


CHARLOTTE COUNTY REPUBLICAN CLUB

(Est. 1995)



NEWSLETTER



October 2023



President's Message **A Lesson from Plato**

What a month! At the September Mixer, we packed in over 100 people who came to ask candidates who are running for Punta Gorda City Council some tough questions, as people should be doing. The Greek Philosopher Plato said, "One of the penalties of refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors." People who attended certainly didn't want to be governed by their inferiors.

At the end of the month, the members of the local Republican GOP, who are elected as representatives of the 70 voting precincts throughout Charlotte County, decided they didn't want to be governed by their inferiors either. They stood in solidarity during the summer and authorized their organization to create an endorsement process that was designed to invite, vet, and try to determine if any Republican candidate for local office was worthy of the Party's endorsement - something that political parties routinely do across America.

Bravo to the members of our local Republican Party for their conviction, courage and determination to take this bold step because, perhaps they too, are sick and tired of being governed by their inferiors.

We are pleased that it was one of our own Club members, Dr. Debi Lux, who stepped up and ran for

City Council. Perhaps she heard us all year encouraging members to march towards the sound of the guns if we want to return our communities and our Nation to the conservative values that are enshrined in our Founding documents. And that's exactly what she did. But she didn't just march – she enthusiastically and boldly ran towards the sounds of the guns! And did so with such passion and a sound platform that she earned the endorsement of our local Republican Party.

I've heard members say over the past year, "*When is enough, enough?*" **NOW**, that's when!

I don't know about you, but I've had it! The Democratic Socialists and Marxists that control our government are doing everything in their power to prevent a Republican from gaining control of the White House and Congress. Our guest speaker at our November 15 dinner meeting at the Isles Yacht Club is Trevor Loudon, author and filmmaker, who will tell us about Marxism in America, including the White House and Congress.

Control of our Federal government is certainly the issue for 2024. In the meantime, we have an important local election currently before us.

The Punta Gorda City Council Election will determine who will prevail. It will be either the taxpayers who live here and want to preserve the "small town" atmosphere by electing Debi Lux, or the people who want to begin turning "here" into

President's Message (cont'd)

“there” - those urban, congested areas that they came from and we wanted to get away from.

The local GOP did what state law and the Rules of the Republican Party of Florida allow, and that is to officially get behind the candidate that best reflects the conservative values of our residents.

When both candidates for PG City Council were asked to support the Party’s platform, one candidate embraced the Republican Party’s support and one candidate shunned it, characterizing the GOP’s process as ***irregular, unethical and destructive***.

I know many of you remember the 1994 campaign season, when Newt Gingrich and several other Republicans came up with a ***Contract with America***, a platform which consisted of 10 specific GOP planks. This document was signed by all but two of the Republican members of the House and ***all of the Party's non-incumbent Republican congressional candidates***. How is it that it was considered a stroke of genius then, by uniting the Party, but it’s suddenly unethical and destructive for the GOP to ask candidates to pledge their support to the Party platform?

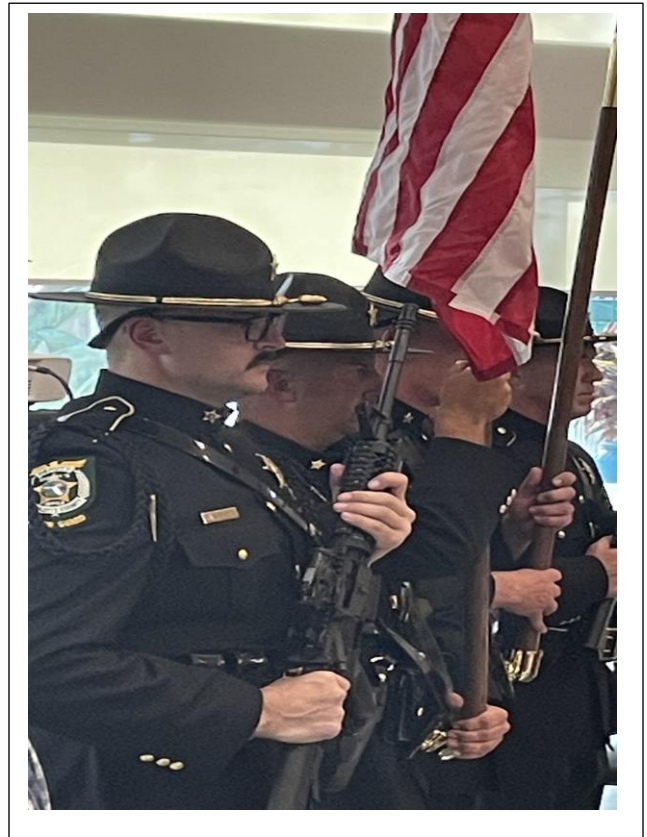
This is neither controversial, irregular, unethical nor destructive. Many are saying, it’s ABOUT TIME that the local GOP get pro-active in local matters!

Also, the Club was publically criticized about our *Candidate Forum* at our September Mixer. Constructive feedback is welcomed, but cheap shots are not.

As loyal Republicans, you are invited to get behind our Party and our Party’s candidate, Dr. Debi Lux. Even if you don’t live in Punta Gorda, you can help out. Contact her campaign if you want to help, especially if you are tired of being governed by your inferiors.

Bill Abbatematteo,

CCRC President



We had the pleasure of a visit from the Charlotte County Sheriff, Bill Prummell, and the Honor Guard at the Isles Yacht Club business dinner in September.

A WORD FROM OUR MEMBERS!

Solutions Desired, Mediocracy Won't Do

For almost 50 years, either as a visitor or an owner, I have seen most of the major changes in Charlotte County. We bought property in Venice but moved to Punta Gorda in PGI upon retiring in 2011. I felt like a local who had been born here. I had seen the growth of the infrastructure and knew that "If you build it, they will come." It was only when Hurricane Charlie did its damage did I realize that the City of Punta Gorda had no idea of what it wanted to be. It was a blank slate and those who were elected to "be prepared" were not only unprepared, they abandoned their oath of office.

These Part-Time officials succumbed to unelected groups with names meant to pacify, but in the end, sacked those who could not say no. What was worse, the City Council did not have the ability to stand up to the demands made by those who chorused "We need to do something." The something that was agreed to was nothing the public approved. It was done by "the self-anointed" experts who spoke for few at the detriment of many. The idea that after "Charlie" the council was constrained, has never been explained and is, for all intents, gone.

We are consumed with what to do with the empty land in "downtown." Nothing that has been offered is going to work. The owner, content to leave it empty, can by law do just that. We are now part of a contest of two candidates, each with a "vision" of Punta Gorda and how it could be done. Each vision has its benefits and its detriments. Each does not fulfill the wants of a majority and for that, each will suffer. The City Council relies on a city manager who is more than capable of doing what city managers must do, and that is to make sure the city can pay its bills. The city has increased its reserves and cut its budget to be more in compliance with what is necessary by law. No one is pulling their hair out because "all I see is empty space." If they live in the "Bird" section of PGI, their mind is not consumed by empty space.

Our downtown is a figment of our imagination, but an increase in taxes is not. Reality, a word few deal with, is in the form of 400 million in investment; something that is needed, if Punta Gorda is to be the Punta Gorda we all want. Should that not happen; should the investment needed to meet our obligations fail to materialize or should our City Council fail to rise to the level needed, the obligation will fall on all those residing in Punta Gorda. That obligation, in the form of a tax, will not stand well with all the taxpayers, including those part of the "We had to do something" group.

While we chew our cud, Sunseeker will come to fruition and those who want to be part of a "gastronomic" experience and enjoy entertainment at the high level, will drive through our streets, park in our garage, take an Uber to the venue and stick us with the bill. In short, the Charlotte Harbor CRA, or its successor, will look to incorporate the area and with Punta Gorda as a lesson in "what not to do," become a thriving, albeit very busy area, collecting tax money that should have been collected in Punta Gorda. I know I will be castigated for an oversimplification of what is going on, but if we use Occam's razor, "the simplest solution is usually the best solution" as a measure, I am close enough for government work.

The Punta Gorda city council needs to jettison all the "advisors" and learn more from their own experience than those who whisper in their ears. Admitting to not being the smartest person in the room shows that a candidate is correct and does not have what it takes to be in the position he represents. I say this, not with animus, but with my skin in the game. I expect expertise at all levels. I know my expectations will never be satisfied, but then, who says "I want a mediocre person to mirror my abilities?" The short form: the "downtown space" is the least of the worries in keeping Punta Gorda something people like. We need to "see" something, models, drawings, Ai-produced videos to get our adrenaline flowing.

Richard Pitz

(Member Input Cont'd)

Capitalism Did Not Create Poverty, It Inherited It!

Compared to centuries of pre-capitalists, living conditions and starvation of the poor in the early years of capitalism was the first chance the poor had to survive. As proof, there was enormous growth of the European population during the nineteenth century, a growth of 300 per cent, as compared to the previous growth of 3 per cent per century. Now why was that not appreciated? Why did capitalism, the truly magnificent benefactor of mankind, arouse nothing but resentment, denunciation, and hatred then and now? Why did the defenders of capitalism keep apologizing for it? The intellectuals and the so-called idealists are determined to make socialism work. How? By the magic means of irrationalism, somehow.

Part of the modern intellectual's dream is Socialist England. Here was their literal dream, bloodless takeover of socialism. Force was not used for murder, only for expropriation, where lives were not taken, only property, the meaning and future in their lives. Here was a country that had not been murdered but had voted itself into suicide.

This part of my letter was written by Ayn Rand in 1961 in her Objective newsletter, Ms. Rand could foresee the way of the future and we cannot. The perpetrators' vague hope that "somehow, my gang will do better—ie Socialism. This is what the American people have voted into their lives, lies, thugs, anarchists, along with BLM drug cartels and Communists. This is our future... what is the US going to do? Stand by with apathy and look the other way or realize what is right in front of their eyes.

Christa Terry



Dr. Debi Lux (CCRC Member) and her opponent Mark Kuharski square off with a lively debate during the September Monthly Mixer at Beef O'Brady's.

Dr. Lux was recently endorsed by the Republican Party of Charlotte County. We hope you will get out and vote in the Nov. 7th City Council election!

IMPORTANT VOTING ANNOUNCEMENT!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The City of Punta Gorda will have an election on NOV. 7, 2023! It's PERTINENT YOU CHECK to MAKE SURE YOU ARE SET to VOTE! Go to the Supervisor of Elections website SOECharlotteCountyFL.gov to check your status.

You can choose one of the three ways to vote:

1. **VOTE BY MAIL:** As of Nov. 8, 2022, prior vote-by-mail requests have expired! YOU WILL NEED TO RENEW YOUR REQUEST to Vote-By-Mail. CALL 941-833-5400 or GO ONLINE to renew at: SOECharlotteCountyFL.gov
2. **VOTE EARLY:** Vote in person between Oct. 9 to Nov. 6, 2023 at the City Clerk's Office at 117 Herald Court, Unit 211 in Punta Gorda.
3. **VOTE ELECTION DAY:** Vote at your assigned polling location on Nov. 7th, 2023.

Note: ALL Charlotte County voters should check their voter status *prior to* the 2024 election! Go To: SOECharlotteCountyFL.gov

*Whoever is careless with
the truth in small matters
cannot be trusted with
important matters.*

- Albert Einstein

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, October 9th, 2023

Monthly Mixer

4:45 PM-7:15 PM

Beef O' Brady's,
1105 Taylor Rd, Punta Gorda
\$10/person

Enjoy appetizers, iced tea,
networking and listen to a
speaker.

Sunday, Oct. 15th, 2023

CCRC Charity Fashion

12:30 PM-3:30 PM

Kingsgate Golf Club
2400 Rampart Blvd., Pt. Charlotte

Join us for a Charity Fashion Show. All proceeds to benefit our 2023 Club Charity *Valerie's House* and children and families of Charlotte County. This event is open to the Public. Tickets \$40 each. Lunch, Cash Bar, Raffles and lots of fun. Call 941-740-1660 for tickets. Refer to the flyer for more details.

Thursday, October 19th, 2023

**FREEDOM Thursday
Speaker Series 7:30-9:00PM**
All-Star Sports Grill
2360 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte,
FL 33952, USA

This event is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Bring a friend. Doors open at 7:00 pm if you want to arrive early and have dinner prior to the meeting.

Wednesday, October 25th, 2023

Monthly Business Dinner Meeting 4:45-7:15 PM

Isles Yacht Club

1780 W Marion Ave., Punta Gorda

Visit ccflrc.org to make reservations online, or call Debbie A @ 518-420-7583 or email her ccflrc@gmail.com with your dinner choice(s). \$40 per person. \$45 for walk-ins without a reservation, if space is available. Pay at the door with cash, check or credit card.

COMING UP!

Picnic With The Party

SAT. Nov. 4th

11:00-3:00 PM

Bayshore Live Oaks Park,

Charlotte Harbor

FREE For Members & Guests

Food, Music, Fun,

Games, Speakers

Tickets available at our October events or call 941-740-1660

WELCOME NEW CCRC MEMBERS

297 total members

Debbie Lynn Dick Rotonda West
John & Pam Joiner Punta Gorda



A special **THANK YOU** to Ginnie Dobrek (left) for all you do to promote CCRC membership and involvement through the OUTREACH PROGRAM.

If you would like to submit an article for the CCRC Newsletter, please send your article to Jeannine Polk at Freefloridagirl@gmail.com or call / text me...941-628-0994