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March, 2022

GCRC Leadership

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A Message from Chairman, John D. Myers

FAREWELL

Fellow Goochland Republicans, again, I would like to thank you for the honor and privilege of allowing me to serve as Chairman of the Goochland County Republican Committee for the past six years. Together, we have accomplished quite a lot. Among my objectives when I became Chair in 2016 was to increase Committee membership, appoint District Chairs and renew our newsletter. As a team, we began increasing our membership within the first two years. Unfortunately, those other two objectives took five years, but we did get them done. Another important objective was eliminating the monthly luncheon meetings and beginning monthly business meetings. It had become increasingly difficult to arrange for speakers. Occasionally, a scheduled luncheon speaker would back out after it was too late to find a replacement. That was certainly one of the reasons for the change, not to mention that many of our members and other Republicans were still working during the daytime and found it difficult to attend. Fortunately, I did not have to initiate this. My very good friends, Pam Johnson and Susan Lascolette brought it up in an Executive Committee Meeting, and it passed unanimously. I think it was a very good decision. The attendance at our evening business meetings far exceeds that of the noontime luncheon meetings, and we have far more time as a group to discuss matters of importance.

To the best of my recollection, the GCRC had not had any fund-raising events, and as Chair, I knew we needed funds to help Republican candidates. We had three successful fund-raising events, Rally in the Park in 2017, Homestretch Rally in 2020 and the Grand Old Picnic in 2021. These were successful thanks to many of our dedicated members.

But of course, my primary objective as GCRC Chair was to win elections. Since 2016, every nominated candidate for a Goochland County Elective office has won, including our Board of Supervisor candidates and our nominated Constitutional Officers. All but one of the endorsed candidates for Goochland County elected officers have won. All Republicans representing Goochland as part of larger districts have won the Goochland vote, including the House of Delegates, State Senate, and U.S. Congress, even if they did not win the overall district vote. Every Republican statewide candidate has won the Goochland County vote, whether or not they won the overall vote, and the two U.S. Presidential elections during the past six years had Donald Trump winning in every precinct. We managed to turn one traditional Democratic Precinct to Republican during the process. And Goochland contributed a large portion of the victory margin for our three statewide candidates in 2021, Glenn Youngkin, Winsome Sears, and Jason Miyares.

To that age old adage, "Together we stand, Divided we fall", I say Amen. When we are united, what we can accomplish is limitless. Our success here in Goochland is not due to any one person. We won as a team, and our team is not yet done. Back in early 2011, our county was not doing well. Our schools were among the worst in the state, our taxes were going up, and the county was paying interest only on the sixty-million-dollar loan it had taken out with the Virginia Retirement System to finance the Tuckahoe Creek Service District because we had no credit rating. Incompetent was the best way to describe our Board of Supervisors. Pam Johnson and I decided to get District One Republicans together to discuss what could be done. We had two meetings, the first one at Pam's home, and the second at my home. Pam had sent out the notice to not only District One Republicans, but to Republicans countywide. We were quite surprised at the turnout of both meetings.

Later that year we had challengers for four of the five election districts. We also endorsed five members to challenge the entire school board. The rest is history.

All it took was people working together to accomplish goals. I extend my sincere gratitude for the hard work you have all done and for the dedication you have given to make the “Goochland Revolution” happen, and to keep it going.

While we have done much to bring our County from the brink of insolvency, and began our work here in the great Commonwealth of Virginia, this is just the beginning. Although we won the three statewide Executive offices, Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General and won control of the House of Delegates, our State Senate is still in control of the Far-Left Democrats. Seven of Virginia’s eleven member U.S. Congressional delegation are currently Democrats, as are both of Virginia’s two U.S. Senators. We can’t change what happens in other states regarding who they vote for U.S. President, U.S. Congress, or the U.S. Senate. But we can, together, change what happens here in our Commonwealth.

As you are aware, I will no longer be serving as GCRC Chair, but our committee has a great new Chairman, Ira “Buddy” Bishop. He is qualified, smart and a dedicated conservative. He has been a hardworking and loyal First Vice Chairman who has also worn the hat of technical director. Buddy is ready for the days ahead! Please give him the same respect and cooperation that you have shown to me over the past six years. He will not let you down.

Farewell,
John

A Message from Chairman, Buddy Bishop

What I’m writing here is a distillation of my own thinking that has been honed and challenged over the past two years.

It began with the lock downs, remote work assignments, later followed by a band-wagon company enforced vaccination mandate. Starting in 2021, the company I work for made February 2022 a deadline for compliance. This was later extended to June 2022. The mandate was for up-to-date vaccinations as prescribed by the CDC for all associates both in office and fully remote workers. They did reference that an employee could make a medical or religious accommodation request. By this time, I had become a basement dwelling worker already. The rule didn’t make sense especially after a consult with my manager where he stated that he was happy to keep me on as a fully remote worker and as such, I wouldn’t be a pathogen threat to anyone at the company. It shouldn’t be a problem he thought.

But it was. I had no intention of being coerced into anything. But I decided that I needed to try to inquire into what options I really had. I made a request to have a discussion with the company’s Human Resource department. I had a few questions. I was being as professional and courteous as I was able.

I hadn’t yet submitted any request for accommodation. I wanted to see if there was any guidance on making a request that would be getting at what they were looking to evaluate. I wanted it to be of content that would be useful and not needlessly wordy or philosophical. Just to the point and concise.

So, I began with asking if they had on the review board any degreed theologians, or experts in religion in general. The answer was simple – “no”.

I asked how many religious exemptions have been granted so far. The answer – “none”.

I asked if they could help me understand why they made the provision available when there was apparently no intention of granting any. The answer was – “Because we have to”.

Lastly, I asked what liability they as a company would incur if I was harmed or died as a result of compliance. The answer was very quick on this one – “oh no, we carry no liability whatsoever”.

I thanked them for the clarification and went and filled out the accommodation request form.

(Required) Describe your request for accommodation and include the type of religious conflict that exists and your suggested accommodation.

I have approval from my manager to continue as a fully remote worker and I request that the accommodation be that this continue. My sincerely held beliefs do not allow for the mandate to be an option for me.

A company meeting was later held where I simply listened. I heard all I needed to know:

- In office and remote workers are required to be vaccinated because it's fairest and safest for everyone.
- Medical exemptions will not be granted even for natural immunity for the same reason above.
- The company has a right to protect itself and its interests.

Months later I was informed that my accommodation request was denied. Not surprising at all.

I contacted my managers manager and relayed to him that my position was my own and I regretted that I in being "one of those people" not uploading vaccination status had impacted him in any negative way. He asked me to be patient and assured me that I wasn't the only one. By this time several people had already departed the company and a new employee recruitment effort was underway. To me the reason was obvious.

The thing was, and is, that I like the work I do. I like my team as they're the best I've ever worked with as are my immediate managers.

So, I've been slowly preparing to move on. Seeking a new position somewhere at nearly 60 years of age. Boo-Hoo for me, right? Glenn Youngkin's administration lifted this same problem from my wife Colleen. We have no kids, we have never served in the military, we're not front-line health care workers, and we're not truck drivers. Also, there is an ongoing demand for what I do for a living. The honest point is that this has mainly been an intellectual choice of principle of my own and in no way is to be compared to others who face genuine hard-ship and family disaster for striving to live in accordance with their convictions.

But the title of this Article is "The Proper Role of Government". To that end, I'll share what I heard from two candidates recently about that question. One answer was "to ensure public safety". Another was "Just go to the Constitution". I paraphrase the wording of these responses.

The U.S. Constitution does have a general welfare clause. Some take it to include things such as living standards and healthcare, but "General Welfare" is totally unspecific. Typically, it has been applied to economic and social rights on the Federal level. Well, until "Obamacare" at least.

During the past two years, we've all seen the serious level of socialistic over-reach utilized by government (and corporate) measures to "keep us safe". As a result, the constitutional right of Free Speech is now a public safety issue wherein any and all speech (including parents at School Board meetings) that displeases the over-reaching is now a security issue if not out-right terrorism. Freedom of Worship and the right to Self-defense have obviously been targeted for some time in the name of "Safety". Three down seven to go – they're making progress!

I think the traction of this progress of eroding rights and freedoms can be in part linked to one thing:

The under-pinning premise of the constitution is widely missed or ignored both deliberately and by default. In my understanding, the proper role of government is to accomplish one thing: The preservation of Individual Liberty in an orderly and jurisdictionally separated method of temporary representation by citizens who already maintain and govern themselves as responsible individuals.

I want my liberty and I want you to have yours. I also want "them" to have "theirs". The reality is the price of the alternative - as Patrick Henry famously declared. The point between the two is known as bondage. We have the option to choose of the three. Patrick saw the choice unwaveringly as only two. I've learned that I do as well.

**For emphasis I'll repeat: The key role of government, in America, was designed to be:
The Preservation of Individual Liberty**

To conclude the story, an email came in today that reminded everyone to upload their vaccination status or to pursue an accommodation. I decided that after two years I better understood the components of my conviction. So, I re-did my accommodation request.

(Required) Describe your request for accommodation and include the type of religious conflict that exists and your suggested accommodation.

My request would be to remain at <company> as a full-time remote worker and to accept the impact that may have in connection to any future advancement as an employee. It should be recognized that this has already been successfully in place for two years and has the support of my manager for it to continue.

For me, the religious conflict is essentially based on the book of Mark chapter 12, verses 30-31. (Bible verse referenced, not quoted)

When confronted with dismissal for not accepting a vaccination mandate that I relinquish a portion of my health care without any connected liability on the part from the entity that has so mandated, I apply the reference above in this way:

In my mind, for sacrifice and reverence to be found acceptable to "nature's God", I must - with my own deliberate volition - maintain the integrity of my person, my principles, my freewill, and self-governance in all matters regardless of the level of cost the sacrifice and reverence requires. In addition, this extends to the same level of respect for others whether they share my position or not, and for their wellbeing as far as my personal power and preserved independence extends.

After I finished this version of my conviction in writing I re-read it and wondered if this was a waste of time. My mouse hovered over the submit button. I was about to click it, when another email came in and I was informed that my previous request had now been somehow granted. Apparently, recruitment needs, and pragmatism seems to have prevailed as the mayfly currency of wokeness is slowing down for now.

Am I out of the woods on this? Maybe. Maybe not. Virginia is Red, Goochland is Red. Maybe the country will go that way too at some point. For how long? The work we do as conservatives is critical and life-long, I'm sure. I'm just lucky perhaps. Lucky how? To understand this better and to have conservatives like all of you to work on it together with.

GCRC March Mass Meeting

7:00 PM, MARCH 16TH, 2022 AT AMERICAN LEGION POST 215, 3386 RIVER RD WEST, GOOCHLAND, VA

The mass meeting concluded well. We had 102 registered delegates out of the 127 that were properly credentialed.

It was a treat to have Pam Johnson preside as temporary chair once again.

The newly constituted GCRC now has the following officers:



- **Chair – Buddy Bishop**
- **Secretary – Susan Lascolette**
- **First Vice Chair – Jim Herring**
- **Second Vice Chair – Chuck Henley**
- **Treasurer – Pam Duncan**

Challengers to the Vice Chair positions Delbert Horn and Mike Sheliga presented their case for election and raised points that we intend to consider carefully. Among the points raised were transparency, engagement, outreach to minorities and young people, and improving the experience of newcomers are wholly correct and laudable. They are to be commended for contribution. See the known emails regarding their campaign to the delegates for more information. (Page 5)

We have 73 committee members to start the next two years with and we expect to add a dozen or more next month. 87 properly filed delegates to the 5th congressional district convention were also elected.

Messages from GCRC Vice-Chair Candidates (This was a tough choice!)

(In the order they were received)

EMAIL FROM **JIM HERRING** 3-9-22

Great job! Congratulations on becoming a Delegate to the 2022 Goochland County Republican Committee Mass Meeting. As a Delegate, you will have an opportunity to cast a vote for officers within the GCRC. This is where activism and actions start to make a difference in your community, your state, and your country. You see, it's not enough to take a stand, you have to move to make something happen. My name is **Jim Herring** and I am running for 1st Vice Chairman of the GCRC in order to do just that.

My involvement in politics began 41 years ago as a Ronald Reagan Republican. Growing up in Short Pump, VA (on the Goochland County Line) was a great place to learn the values of grass roots conservatism from the elected officials I came to know and grow from. I was President of the Young Republicans, Vice-Chairman of the Henrico County Republican Committee, Delegate to numerous District and State conventions, emceed three Trump rallies, three for Mike Pence, numerous political rallies for Congressmen and Senators as well as local officials and was also elected to serve as a Delegate to the 2020 National Convention representing President Donald Trump. In addition, I participated in the very first Republican Advance and even the 37th Annual one this past December, and over 20 in the years between the two.

Three years ago, in 2018, I made the move to Goochland and realized it was one of the best decisions I would ever make. I wrapped up a 39-year radio broadcasting career and, with my son on his own in Texas, decided to get more involved in Goochland politics. I have been active in the former 7th Congressional District as well as keeping up with State Central Committee activities and members. I have also been active in the newly formed 5th Congressional District and, of course, active in the GCRC. This is why I feel now is the time to offer up my service and time to the position of 1st Vice Chairman of the committee.

All local politics has its share of differing viewpoints and competing ideas, and sometimes those can bring about division. I have spent most of my time in politics working to unite us behind our common goals and conservative principles. Only a clear vision of unity will bring about victory such as what we saw this past November.

I hope that you will consider a vote for me to continue my political journey and involvement with the Goochland County Republican Committee on March 16 at the Mass Meeting. Check in starts at 6 PM and the meeting will begin at 7. Hopefully I will get a chance to shake your hand and speak with you face to face but, in the meantime, please feel free to e-mail me at JimHerring@msn.com if you have any questions.

I am an American Constitutionalist and I hope to have your vote.

EMAIL FROM **DELBERT HORN** 3-10-22

Thank you for investing the time and effort to participate in our upcoming mass meeting. My name is Delbert Horn, and I am running for 1st Vice-Chair. I want to give you some background on me and my involvement with Goochland County to help you with your decision.

As the son of a career Army warrant officer, I grew up on base in Germany where we defended Europe against the Soviet threat. Back in the states, I cast my first ballot for Ronald Reagan and have voted for conservative candidates ever since. I've been a nuclear engineer with Dominion Energy for 33 years now, where conservatism in engineering, analytical thinking and decision making have also carried over into my personal and political life.

It gives me a real sense of pride when I tell people "I Live in Goochland County." My wife and I bought land here in 1998 and built our forever home together. "We got here as soon as we could!"

I graduated from the Goochland Leadership Enterprise and the Goochland Sheriff's Citizens Academy in 2017. I feel these are both vital steps on the way to a full appreciation of this county and all it has to offer. I urge anyone striving for a leadership position in the county to take advantage of these two amazing courses.

I'm active in the Rotary Club of Goochland, I run their website, was elected as Fundraising Chair last year, and most recently elected to Sergeant-at-Arms for the upcoming Rotary year. Our Rotary motto is service above self, and as you know, we support many organizations and projects throughout the county.

I've been active in the Goochland Tea Party leadership team and run their website as well. Last year was simply amazing. We had our tents setup in front of the Centerville Food Lion for 22 Saturdays between June and Election Day. We started in June in order to get out ahead of early voting. We engaged hundreds of people from Goochland and surrounding counties and handed out over a thousand yard signs. They came to vent and share their hopes and fears with our team of like-minded conservatives, but always left more energized and motivated.

Over the months we saw hundreds of people come with their friends to pick up shirts, flags, stickers, and hats. But the most exciting thing was seeing young people come with their parents to register to vote before heading off to college. We hosted a big free family picnic for Constitution Day. Overall, it was an amazing thing to contribute to and to witness the energy buildup leading up to the victories in November.

I've also been very active in the GCRC, and I volunteered last year as the District Three Chair. This provided me the opportunity to actively participate in the Executive Committee calls and the decision-making process. As District Three Chair, I was responsible for recruiting large sign locations, staffing, and of course helping man the District Three table on Election Day. I also volunteered several days to help man the table at the early voting location. Independents and even Dems approached our table and quietly shared that the *Democrat* party had gone too far, and they could not vote Blue anymore. Even on that cold, rainy, dreary Election Day the energy was palpable. I was so proud to witness first-hand all our hard work come to fruition.

If elected, my goals as 1st Vice-Chair would be to continue to promote and elect conservative candidates to office, support our Republican Creed, help foster team unity by providing better team communication and transparency, grow the committee, and especially attract younger conservatives to continue our legacy.

In conclusion, I'm not a newcomer to Goochland. Over the last 24 years I've seen our county grow and thrive under conservative leadership. After putting in hundreds of volunteer hours last year alone supporting local and state conservative candidates, I hope to move up to an elected 1st Vice-Chair position in the GCRC with the help of your vote. Please reach out if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration!

EMAIL FROM CHUCK HENLEY 3-15-22

Good evening, everyone,

I just wanted to thank you for signing up for the Mass Meeting tomorrow. As a reminder registration/check in starts at 6:00 and the meeting starts at 7:00. The location is at 3386 River Road West, the American Legion Post 215. I hope you all can make it and I look forward to seeing you there. I ask for your support on my reelection to the Second Vice Chair position.

Chuck Henley



Congressman Good Statement on Russia Sanctions and Passage of Omnibus

March 9, 2022 Press Release (Source: <https://good.house.gov/media/press-releases/congressman-good-statement-russia-sanctions-and-passage-omnibus>)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Tonight the U.S. House of Representatives voted on the \$1.5 trillion Omnibus government funding bill and Russia energy sanctions. Congressman Good issued the following statements.

“I do not support Congress spending trillions of dollars we don’t have in order to provide a grab bag of liberal goodies to special interest groups buried in a 2700-page bill that was released in the middle of the night. Speaker Pelosi did not give us the opportunity to have a standalone vote on the Ukraine Aid, something that had overwhelming bipartisan support. It is especially troubling that the larger spending bill continues to fund vaccine mandates, it fails to build the border wall as drugs and crime pour into our country, it fails to fund a robust domestic energy policy, and it contained billions of dollars of earmarks designed to help incumbents get re-elected,” said Rep. Good (VA-05).

Congressman Good voted in favor of the H.R. 6968 The Suspending Energy Imports from Russia Act.

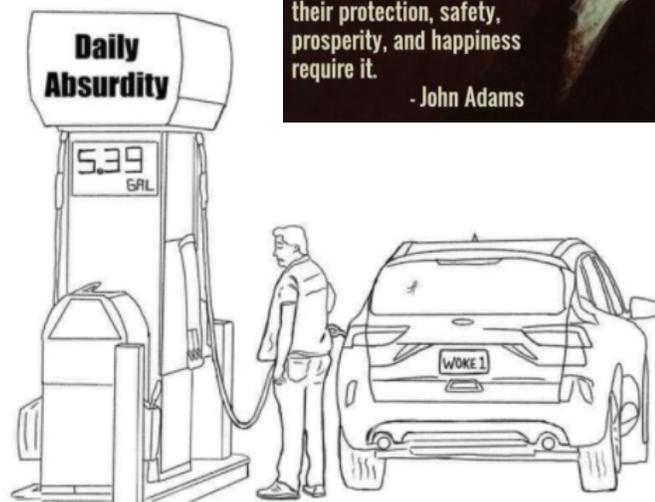
“Tonight, I voted to send a unified message to Vladimir Putin that we do not wish to enrich Russia as it continues its unjustified invasion into Ukraine. Unfortunately, this legislation and President Biden’s ban will have little practical effect on Russia’s energy profits without a unified effort from our friends in Europe. I call on the Biden Administration to do more to rally the alliance he claims to have built to this cause and impose real economic sanctions on Russia.”

“President Biden failed the American people on day one of his administration when he canceled the Keystone Pipeline. For the past fourteen months, the American people have been paying the price at the pump for the Democrats anti-energy agenda, while losing our leverage against the Putin regime. America should be unleashing our energy. America should be taking control of our own resources. America should develop more policies that drive down the cost of fuel for the American people and free our allies from dependence on Russian oil. Sadly, as long as President Biden and Congressional Democrats continue to support a radical climate agenda that hinders America’s economic and national security, the American people will suffer the consequences,” said Rep. Good (VA-0



Government is instituted for the common good; for the protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness of the people; and not for the profit, honor, or private interest of any man, family, or class of men: Therefore, the people alone have an incontestable, unalienable, and indefeasible right to institute government; and to reform, alter, or totally change the same when their protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness require it.

- John Adams



Todd hated his daily reminder that there are some things worse than mean tweets.

The 5th Congressional District Convention

May 21st, 2022 at Kirby Field House/Hampden-Sydney College, 198 Athletic Center Drive, Farmville, VA 23901.
Registration opens at 8:30 AM and the Convention starts at 10:00 AM.

The filing deadline was March 7th to register be a delegate from Goochland at the convention.

Save the Date! June 18th, 2022 GCRC Grand Old Picnic!



Tickets sales are pending, but mark your calendar now!

The venue will be the same – the Hilltop Barn at Rassawek Vineyard. We're planning the same family friendly old style summer picnic atmosphere. Burgers, Dogs, Ice-Cream, Watermelon, music, fun, and more!

Bring your friends and family, your coolers, lawn chairs, and maybe an umbrella or two. Bring your Dad! It's a great way to celebrate Fathers' Day!

We believe that our Goochland community is special. We sincerely want to do what we can to preserve the kind of conservative government that we have enjoyed locally.

Not only have conservatives benefitted but the results and facts show EVERYONE benefits by it. Help us fund and preserve it by attending the 2nd Annual Grand Old Picnic!

RPV Advance 2022

ADVANCING INTO THE MIDTERM ELECTIONS

The Annual Donald W. Huffman Advance: April 28th – May 1st

The 2022 Advance is expected to draw hundreds of Republican activists, legislators, and statewide leaders. The Advance will be held in Northern Virginia and will focus on the exciting future for the Republican Party of Virginia. The 2022 Advance will feature breakout sessions led by grassroots activists, conservative advocacy groups, the business community, and your leaders in federal and state government.

Advance Attendee registration includes access to the 2022 Republican Party of Virginia Advance and is REQUIRED for all Advance guests. Tickets are sold exclusively online - <https://advancevirginia.eventbrite.com/>

If you have any questions, please reach out to events@virginia.gop for more information.

If you would like to contribute to upcoming editions of the Patriot's Voice newsletter,
Email your contribution to Chair@goochland.gop