



On The Move!

Pinellas County Republican Executive Committee

Republican Party of Pinellas County

4707 140th Avenue N. Suite 208

Clearwater, FL 33762

Official Call to PCREC Members

Monday, April 14, 2008 7:00 P.M.

Meeting: TUCSON'S
13563 Icot Blvd., Clearwater, FL

For additional information:

Call: HQ — 539-6009 FAX: 536-5902

Email: pinellsgop@verizon.net

Web: www.pinellasrepublican.org

CALENDAR

Executive Committee Meeting – 2nd Monday

7P Tucson's, 13563 Icot Blvd., Clearwater Call: 539-6009

St Petersburg Republican Club – 2nd Wednesday

6P Dinner 7P Meeting Picadilly Cafeteria 1900 34th St, St Pete
Call: 526-2492

Central Pinellas Republican Club – 2nd Thursday

11:30A Super Buffet, Seminole Mall, 11227 Park Blvd. N.,
Seminole Call: 397-3449

Suncoast Republican Women, Fed. – 2nd Saturday

11A Piccadilly Cafeteria, 1900 34th St, St Pete Call: 548-6642

Belleair Women's Republican Club – 1st Friday

11:30A Wine Cellar, North Redington Bch Call: 584-6642

North Pinellas Republican Club – 3rd Thursday

6P Dinner-6:45P Mtg Kally K's Restaurant, Dunedin
Call: 725-4241

Republican Club of Greater Largo – 3rd Monday

6P Alfano's Restaurant 1702 Clearwater/Largo Rd, Largo
Call: 524-3048

Republican Club of On Top of the World – 3rd Tuesday

7P East Activity Center Sunset Pt Rd, Clw Call: 796-5775

Pinellas County Black Republican Club, - 4th Tuesday

6P Panera Bread 1914 4th St N, St. Petersburg.

For Information Call: 822-1708

Tarpon Springs Republican Club – 3rd Wednesday

Mtg 7P Hampton Inn, 39284 US19N, Tarpon Springs
Call: 942-8722

Republican Club of Greater Seminole –

Meeting Dates to be announced Call: 397-4292

Greater Pinellas Young Republicans – 2nd Tuesday

6:30 P, Chili's Clearwater Call: 514-3741

From the Desk of Chairman DiMatteo:

Dear fellow Republicans,

Spring is here and we are now enjoying not one but two "March Madness". The NCAA basketball tournament is in full swing and so is the Democratic Party civil war. I have spoken to many Republicans in the past few weeks, and the vast majority of them are filled with glee to see the divisions in the other party, but let's be very careful and not underestimate their resolve when they finally come together behind one candidate. We have a great leader in John McCain and we can not afford to give the other side any quarter, we must work smart and hard and get behind John McCain, and **ALL** of our Republican candidates this fall. With all of your hard work and dedication to the GOP I know we will be successful in November.

Hope to see a great turnout at our next meeting at Tucson's.

Tony DiMatteo

PCREC Board

Tony DiMatteo, Chairman

Neil Brickfield, Vice Chairman

Glen Schultz, Secretary

Chet Renfro, Treasurer

Brian P. Battaglia, Legal Counsel/ Parliamentarian

Mary Moser, Newsletter Editor

State Officials

Jim Greer, RPOF Chairman

Paul Bedinghaus, State Committeeman

Nancy J. Riley, State Committeewoman

"*On the Move*" is a monthly publication of the Pinellas County Republican Party. Comments reflect the opinions of the writers, not necessarily those of the Party or the Executive Committee.

MR. OBAMA, WHAT IS WRONG WITH A SYMBOLIC EXPRESSION OF LOVE OF OUR COUNTRY?

By Michael Guju, Esq.
Membership Chairman, PCREC

In October, Barack Obama decided to stop wearing an American flag on his lapel. Obama said that such symbols “became a substitute for, I think, true patriotism” and that he was “going to tell the American people what I believe, what will make this country great, and hopefully that will be a testimony to patriotism.”

Obama, and Democrats in general, seem uneasy about showing their patriotism. Apparently, wearing a simple American flag on your lapel makes them nervous, like America is not worthy of their love and respect. But America is deserving of everyone’s respect and honor. For it has been said by philosopher Richard Rorty that “national pride is to countries what self-respect is to individuals: a necessary condition for self-improvement.” You want your children to grow up stable and well adjusted? Show them continual and unconditional love and respect and they will.

Patriotism is, oftentimes, intimately connected to symbols. How else does one express patriotism on a continual basis except through little symbols like the American flag. After all, I still hang a flag on my home on national holidays even though my neighbors know I am patriotic. I do it to emphasize my patriotism and I urge others to be a supporter of my county too.

In short, it is not just enough to say occasionally that you love your country. Continuous use of symbols, like the lapel pin, emphasizes your patriotism and tells viewers you love your country even when the wearer is unable to do so. It is curious, then, that Obama, campaigning to lead a country, would consciously eschew wearing a flag pin and risk someone questioning his devotion to his country’s political ideals. Why would someone do that unless he is uncomfortable with what his country stands for and its ideals? If that is the case, should he be the country’s leader?

PCREC ABSENTEE POLICY UPDATE

There are times that conflicts arise and you can not make a PCREC meeting, and that's why there is a rule that allows you to miss two in a row, come to one (or get an excused absence) and then miss another two and so on. The RPOF just enacted a rule that states that Chairmen and State Committeemen/women must attend two of the three tri-annual meetings or their office is deemed vacant. There are no excuses for any missed meeting at the state level. The feeling of the state party members is that you can not do your job if you do not attend, and the vote was unanimous. In our bylaws **ALL** excused absences must be in writing (E-Mail is OK) and submitted before the meeting to be missed. You do not have to worry about an absence if it is not the third one in a row. It has always been our policy to work with all of our members and side with them to accommodate their situations, however chronic absenteeism can not be accepted if we are to have informed members that participate in the party business. We all have choices in our lives, but as party leaders in our county we have the responsibility to be informed and spread the Republican message to our community and it is hard to do this if you do not come to the monthly meeting, attend a club meeting once or twice a month, and support the party by attending party events like Lincoln Day Dinner.

The vast majority of our members do the right thing, but for the few that do not, we would encourage you to step up to the plate and give the rest of us a hand because this next election will mean a lot to your children and your grandchildren. We must have everyone working together this year to insure that Pinellas goes for McCain and keeps Florida a red state.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT HEADQUARTERS

Volunteers are currently needed at Republican Headquarters to help with data entry, so anyone with entry level computer skills should contact Marilyn, to let her know your availability. Hours of operation: M-Th (9-2) and Fridays (9-noon). Just a couple hours of your time can really make a difference, and please spread the word.

Pinellas County Republican Headquarters:

Address: 4707-140th Avenue North, Suite 208
Clearwater, FL
(Near Ulmerton Road and 49th St. N.)

Tel. No.: 539-6009

Let’s all not forget that this is a very important election!!!

Letter about John McCain taken from Friends of John McCain at JohnMcCain@gop.com

March was a memorable time for the Americans who were released from captivity in North Vietnam back in March of 1973. The pathway to freedom began in February, as the war in Vietnam was concluding for America.

John McCain, one of those American heroes, returned to freedom on March 15th, 1973, released from Hanoi that day along with other very happy American Prisoners of War. His journey home was the continuation of a remarkable story with chapters yet to be written. Having survived life-threatening and disabling injuries, along with the brutality of the POW experience, John had steadfastly resisted communist efforts to exploit him and his fellow POWs. John's homecoming began a new phase of his life. His courageous service and his political career are well known today, and now he is the presumptive nominee for the Republican Party to be the next President of the United States.

We are but representatives of over eighty former POWs who shared those heady days of freedom and those years of captivity and suffering with John McCain. Collectively, we are proudly doing all we can to help our dear friend, John McCain, become our next commander in chief. We are campaigning with him, helping him raise money, speaking on his behalf and, in constant conversations, promoting his candidacy among our friends and family all over the country. We are doing so because we believe in John McCain.

Our convictions about John's character were born in the crucible of adversity. We have witnessed his courage, integrity, character and intellect. We know and respect his sense of honor and his tenacity in the face of grave danger and prolonged hardship. These qualities, combined with his life experiences, make John ready for the enormous challenges facing the leader of our country. No one -- no one -- is more qualified to be president, to lead our country, to protect our nation and our children and grandchildren. We know him. We know his strengths, his love of country and his commitment to serve it. He has been severely tested, and we have witnessed him under pressure. We trust his judgment and his ability to lead our country in these difficult times.

We are joined in that trust by over 130 retired Flag and General officers who are members of Senator McCain's Military Advisory Council. They know and have worked with John McCain over the past three decades dealing with major national security challenges. They know leadership and they know danger and challenges. They know experience. They know quality. And they chose John McCain for president.

We must elect a leader who is ready on day one for these difficult and dangerous times. We need a leader who will insist that we win in the struggle against radical Islam. John is committed to let our troops win! We need a leader who will take on the big problems that most politicians seek to avoid. Leaders take on the tough issues. John McCain is that sort of leader. He knows the American spirit -- he has lived it like no other candidate. He knows we can do better and that America's best days are ahead.

Commander Everett Alvarez, USN (Ret.)

POW for 8 ½ years

Colonel Bud Day, USAF (Ret.)

Medal of Honor

POW Over 5 Years

Rear Admiral Robert Shumaker, USN (Ret.)

POW for 8 years

Colonel Leo Thorsness, USAF (Ret.)

Medal of Honor

POW for 6 years

Commander Paul Galanti, USN(Ret.)

POW for over 6 ½ years

Captain Mike Cronin, USN (Ret.)

POW for over years

Major General John Borling, USAF (Ret.)

POW for over 6 ½ years

Captain Richard Stratton, USN (Ret.)

POW for over 6 years

Lt Colonel Orson Swindle, USMC (Ret.)

POW for over 6 years