

BARROW REPUBLICAN NEWS

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 12 DECEMBER 2017
BARROW COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY
P.O. BOX 1054 WINDER, GA 30680-1054

MEETINGS

Our Next Regular Meeting – Mon., Jan 15 7:30 PM
@ Winder Woman’s Club (behind Winder Fire Dept.)
 Barrow School Board Meeting – Tue., Jan 2 6:00 PM
 Winder City Council Meeting – Tue., Jan 2 6:00 PM
 Auburn City Council Meeting – Thur., Jan 4 6:00 PM
 Bethlehem City Council Meeting – Mon., Jan 8 7:00 PM
 County Commission Meeting – Tue., Jan 9 7:00 PM
 Statham City Council Meeting – Tue., Jan 16 7:00 PM
 Auburn City Council Meeting – Thur., Jan 18 6:00 PM
 Carl Town Council Meeting – Thur., Jan 18 7:00 PM
 County Commission Meeting – Tue., Jan 23 7:00 PM

VOTING MEMBERS – COUNTY COMMITTEE (29)

Clay Kelley – Chrm.	Lucretia Hughes	Kathy Hopkins
DuWayne Anderson – 1 st VC	Teeny Allison	Terry Raber
Leonard Koonce – 2 nd VC	Richard Pepper	Sara Pepper
Mark Staley – Sec.	June Miller	Beverly Kelley
Debbie Reid – Asst. Sec.	Tim Walker	Dianne Craig
Bob Lanham – Tr.	Charles Powell	Ken Young
Mike Pentecost – Asst. Tr.	John Reavis	Linda Reavis
John Stevens	Lynn Stevens	Marty Rahinsky
David Gunter	Gary Taylor	Janice Jones
Terry England	Pat Graham	

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Clay Kelley	770-560-4523
	email: BKCONSLT@comcast.net	
First Vice-Chair	DuWayne Anderson	404-285-0978
	email: reb7771@windstream.net	
Second Vice-Chair	Leonard Koonce	706-351-7441
	email: lkoonce1967@gmail.com	
Secretary	Mark Staley	770-539-0976
	email: staley93@hotmail.com	
Asst. Secretary	Debbie Reid	706-684-0065
	email: debbier72956@comcast.net	
Treasurer	Bob Lanham	770-867-5459
	email: lanhamrj@hotmail.com	
Asst. Treasurer	Mike Pentecost	770-868-6046
	email: MCPWinder@aol.com	
C.C. Dist. 1 Rep.	Lucretia Hughes	404-422-2558
C.C. Dist. 2 Rep.	Gary Taylor	678-449-5775
C.C. Dist. 3 Rep.	Open	
C.C. Dist. 4 Rep.	David Gunter	678-425-4127
C.C. Dist. 5 Rep.	Dianne Craig	678-367-9593
C.C. Dist. 6 Rep.	June Miller	770-867-5932
Barrow 10 th District Rep.	DuWayne Anderson	

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Reg. \$ 15, Adv. \$ 25, Barrow 100 \$ 100, Barrow 360 \$ 360

LOCAL ELECTED REPUBLICAN OFFICIALS ARE EXPECTED TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP!

7:30 PM

January 15, 2018

JIM BECK
CANDIDATE FOR INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
STATE SEN. MICHAEL WILLIAMS
CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR

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MEMBERSHIP COMPARISON (as of 11/30/17)

Membership	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17
Regular	48	46	44	63	39	36	26	30	26
Advanced	68	58	59	71	59	41	55	55	48
Barrow 100	17	16	17	13	8	13	7	9	7
Barrow 360	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Students				4	3	2	2	1	2
Total	134	121	121	152	110	92	91	96	84
Renewals	113	105	112	101	95	82	85	77	77
New	21	16	9	51	15	10	6	19	7

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www.barrowgop.org

ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017

7:00 PM - WINDER WOMAN’S CLUB

GUEST SPEAKER - TERRY ENGLAND
STATE REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 116

COST - \$ 10.00 PER PERSON
CONTACT US FOR RESERVATIONS
[PAY AT DOOR, NO-SHOWS MUST PAY]
NEED TO KNOW BY NOVEMBER 29

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REPUBLICAN: THE FREEDOM PARTY
LOWER TAXES *** LIMITED GOVERNMENT**
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Dec 4 (Mon)	Annual Holiday Dinner
Jan 15 (Mon)	Monthly Meeting
Feb 19 (Mon)	Monthly Meeting
Mar 19 (Mon)	Monthly Meeting
Apr 16 (Mon)	Monthly Meeting
May 21 (Mon)	Monthly Meeting
June 18 (Mon)	Monthly Meeting

HOW ONE LAWMAKER PAVED THE PATH FOR MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM

Patrick Hickey, *James Magazine*, September/October 2017

For Mark Burkhalter, love for the Falcons came long before he ever attained elected public office. It was high up in the upper deck of Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium watching football games with his father that his passion for the team grew, but it would be 40 years of fandom before he left his own indelible mark on the franchise.

Selling the public on new stadiums that use taxpayer dollars is far from an easy proposition. Just ask Oakland, San Diego or St. Louis – all of which have seen their precious NFL teams leave for greener pastures in recent years after they were unable to come to an agreement over what percentage of the construction cost would come from the pockets of their citizens.

Or ask the Atlanta Braves, whose inability to lock up funding from the city of Atlanta resulted in a bolt north to Cobb County and the eventual ouster of Tim Lee, the Cobb Commission chairman who helped engineer the move.

So how did Burkhalter, in 2010 the future speaker of the House of Representatives and a close ally of then-Gov. Sonny Perdue, manage to pull off a feat of legislation that has perplexed cities nationwide? Well, it wasn't always easy.

"It certainly took a healthy dose of political capital to sell along with the helpful vision of my colleagues," said Burkhalter, now a senior advisor with the Dentons law firm. "But I knew what to do, and I knew how to do it from serving on the oversight committee for the Georgia World Congress Center. I always told my colleagues – you've got to remember that a stadium is a selling point for the city."

What a selling point it is. The newly-opened Mercedes-Benz Stadium is the crown jewel of Atlanta's burgeoning downtown, serving as home base not only for the hometown Falcons but also as an attractive destination for Super Bowls, Final Fours, concerts, and bowl games galore. Not to mention the newly-formed Atlanta United FC, the Major League Soccer team whose rise to prominence under the careful watch of owner Arthur Blank has mirrored that of its shiny new home.

The key for Burkhalter was to keep the legislative process as transparent as possible. He promised no shady backroom deals, no late additions to unrelated bills, no tacking on funding at the last minute without debate. "I think the Falcons stadium is the most open process that you can imagine," he told *James* for this exclusive interview. "My bill was open to debate – all members of the House and Senate got to look at it and debate it."

His key piece of legislation – House Bill 903 – extended an already-existing hotel-motel tax through 2050, with 39.3 percent of that 7 percent tax going toward the construction and later upkeep of the new stadium. That funding mechanism proved important as a heavily Republican state legislature debated the bill. It raised no new taxes and put the majority of the burden on tourists, many of whom would be coming to the city for the explicit purpose of visiting the stadium or the neighboring Georgia World Congress Center.

Burkhalter also required that the stadium remain downtown if it wanted to get those public funds, an important piece of the puzzle for the native Atlantan. "I wanted the Falcons to stay downtown and so did (Arthur) Blank. It was something I wanted to do for them and for the community, no hiding that."

The bill was extensively debated under the Gold Dome, eventually passing both upper and lower houses and receiving the signature of Governor Perdue.

Still, its journey was not finished. As construction began in 2014 the use of bonds backed by the hotel-motel tax to help fund the stadium was challenged by a group of Atlanta residents. The case went all the way to the Georgia Supreme Court, where a decisive final ruling declared the funding mechanism to be constitutional.

A key cog in the city's economic engine, Mercedes-Benz (the Benz?) is about far more than football. "It's all about creating opportunities," said Burkhalter, "If they tore down the dome and moved to the suburbs what would that area have become?" While some local community leaders have been unhappy with their lack of input, (read: money) Falcons owner Arthur Blank has gone out of his way to work with the surrounding neighborhoods to make sure his new stadium helps more than just the corporations taking clients to games in their box seats. He generously compensated nearby churches and other buildings displaced by the construction, and has employed thousands between construction and staffing of the new building. Proposed hotels and other complementary buildings will likely develop around the newly-constructed stadium, so the impact on the community will reach far beyond Mercedes-Benz itself.

With the stadium complete and its inaugural season off and running, Burkhalter reflected on his role in the construction of what is now the world's finest stadium. "I just wrote the recipe that all the other chefs in the kitchen cooked from - the City Council, the mayor, Gov. Nathan Deal, the Falcons organization and the Georgia World Congress Center Authority all played a major role in the process."

"It's a great new day for the city and the state, and I only played a part in it. There were so many people who saw this through."

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Linda Greenhouse wrote a *New York Times* column denouncing the Trump administration's expansion of a conscience exemption to the Affordable Care Act's contraception mandate as a radical victory for the "forces of reaction against modernity." (She apparently dates modernity from the passage of the ACA.) The column contained a remarkably nasty little barb: "Conservatives, even the publicly pious ones, don't seem to have a problem with limiting the size of their families. (Vice President Mike Pence has two children, and Attorney General Jeff Sessions has three. Need I say more?)" She concluded that conservatives must therefore really object not to birth control but to the empowerment of women. Perhaps Greenhouse did not know that Pence's wife has spoken publicly about her family's years-long struggle with infertility. She certainly was not aware that the Pences in fact have three children. She also seems not to have considered an alternative explanation for her opponents' motives: that it is possible (a) not to object to contraception and (b) to respect the right of those who do object to it, or some forms of it, not to be compelled to provide it to their employees. No, Greenhouse need not say more. She has revealed plenty. (*National Review*)

OPPOSING SLIPPERY NATURE OF FASCISM, IN WHATEVER GUISE

Rob Jenkins, *Gwinnett Daily Post*, September 3, 2017

Since the events in Charlottesville last month, everyone from Vox.com to Fox News has cautioned us not to draw a “false equivalence” between the two groups of extremists – white supremacists on one side and “antifa” (short for anti-fascist) on the other.

I agree. Antifa poses a far greater threat to our republic.

Before I explain, let’s acknowledge the slippery nature of the word “fascist.” As I’ve noted before, and as Dinesh D’Souza explains in his new book “The Big Lie,” fascism is not, as it’s often portrayed, a “right-wing” ideology. It’s actually a form of statism, which is to say that it falls on the left side of the political spectrum.

Of course, today, when people use the word “fascist,” they usually mean “totalitarian” or “despotic,” willing to use violence to force others to act, speak and think only in ways the fascists find acceptable.

Kind of sounds like antifa, doesn’t it?

Anyway, for antifa and its fellow far-left travelers, “fascist” is mostly just a way to smear people they disagree with – and a justification for violence against those people. For them, anyone who isn’t an “anarcho-communist” (as they describe themselves) is therefore, ipso facto, a fascist.

I don’t doubt white supremacists would behave much the same way given the chance. There simply aren’t enough of them. Their rhetoric is so sick and twisted that almost nobody wants anything to do with it – and the mainstream media isn’t enabling them, as it has gleefully enabled antifa.

Also, in point of fact, the so-called “alt-right” has for the most part not gone out of its way to infringe on the free-speech and free-assembly rights of others. That’s antifa’s MO.

Yes, a white supremacist apparently murdered a young woman in Charlottesville. Assuming what we’ve read about the incident is true, I hope he gets the death penalty.

Are we to conclude then, that far-right nut-jobs are more violent than far-left nut jobs?

Hardly. How about the five police officers murdered in Dallas? Representative Steve Scalise? That antifa hasn’t killed anyone yet, while attacking peaceful demonstrators with knives, clubs, spiked sticks and bicycle chains, is nothing short of a miracle.

The truth is, white supremacists and antifa are both fascists – two sides of the same depraved coin. But of the two, only antifa has the organization, the funding and the popular support to effectively pursue their totalitarian agenda: not merely to impose their world-view on others but to ensure that no one, anywhere, is allowed to hold an opposing view.

Ultimately, our republic can survive the incoherent brayings of a few thousand wanna-be nazi jackasses. We can survive terrorist attacks, whether from jihadists or white supremacists.

But we cannot long survive as a free nation if law-abiding citizens are constantly threatened with bodily harm for uttering protected speech. That is what antifa stand for and why we must oppose them as vigorously as we oppose other forms of fascism.

A *CBS News* story reports that Iceland is currently leading the world in “eradicating Down Syndrome births.” The country has not discovered an innovative treatment for the genetic disorder. Icelanders are simply killing babies with Down syndrome before birth, through a combination of prenatal testing and abortion. This testing is optional, but doctors encourage it and the vast percent of Icelandic mothers who receive Down-syndrome diagnoses (which are sometimes false) have an abortion. The situation in the U.S. is not all that different. The West has made a moral rather than a medical breakthrough, and not a good one. (*National Review*)

PHAYKE NEWZ

Drive-by ratings are crashing – in part due to their relentless Trump-bashing. So they’re responding by . . . cheating. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, all three major broadcast networks regularly misspell the names of their lowest-rated programs – on purpose. They do this to fool the Nielsen automated reporting system. On Memorial Day, for instance, NBC retitled *Nightly News* “Nitely News” – so Nielsen reported it as a separate show, keeping the lower ratings from tarnishing total viewership. To keep advertising rates up, ABC repeatedly submitted “Wrld News Tonight,” and CBS listed “Evening Nws” a dozen times.

“It’s a little bit of gamesmanship,” explains TV consultant Bill Carroll. “It’s a practice that happens with a wink and a nod.” Or, a wank and a nad, as the case may be. Libs are known for “hiding the decline,” but this is ridiculous. Not only do the networks create fake news, they now use fake titles to create fake ratings. All this will continue to turn their customers off – and vice versa. Rinse, repeat. (*Limbaugh Letter*)

It’s easy to see why liberals love using “sin Taxes” to reduce the public’s consumption of tobacco or sugar: You get to take a hand in running people’s lives and take their money at the same time. When Illinois’s Cook County, which includes Chicago, enacted a tax on soda pop at the beginning of this year, the government expected the fiscal equivalent of a sugar rush, along with the vague prospect of better health outcomes in the indefinite future. The tax proved distinctly less popular, though, with just about every segment of Chicagoland’s population: tax-weary consumers, who did not like paying an extra 33 cents per liter (on top of the sales tax); vending-machine operators; and owners of bars, restaurants, and stores, for whom soft drinks provide some of the biggest profit margins. Moreover, the behavior-modifying aspect of the tax was vitiated by its application to artificially sweetened soda and by a provision waiving the tax for purchases made with food stamps. No surprise, then, that in October the hated tax was repealed, to general rejoicing. Students of American history could have told Cook County what happens when you put a punitive tax on the people’s favorite beverage. (*National Review*)