



*Is say is this so will need is to read "It does not require a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority keen to set brush fires in people's minds." –Samuel Adams*

# Town Crier Committee Report

Vol. 4 No 10

*The Truth makes us free...We live in an Era of Lies*

July 1, 2015



## School Board Defies the Public

### 5 to 0 vote for Sales Tax Hike on Special Election Ballot

Photos by TCC Staff

A unanimous vote by the school board rejected the public's will as expressed at the last County Commissioner's meeting on June 16, 2015. Six speakers spoke for the 25 or 30 audience members, consisting mostly of government employees, retired government employees and special interest lobbyists. This minority were, basically, the same people who spoke in favor of the sales tax at the County Commissioner's meeting. The School board was complimented on what a good job they had done. All the public comments were asking for a special election to pass a referendum to add an additional one half cent to the sales tax in St. Johns County.

This money would be used to build new schools in the northern, most expensive and elite part of the county. "We have to decide if we want to burden the people in Hastings and other less affluent areas with more taxes to pay for new schools in Ponte Vedra and Nocatee," Peter Royal, a Tea Party member, said after the meeting. Mr. Royal stated that he arrived on time. The meeting was already in progress, so he could not sign the speaker list. Since he could not sign the speaker list, he was not allowed to speak. However, the Tea Party member did get to speak to the public at large, as he was interviewed by First Coast News. Peter Royal recently moved to St. Augustine and doesn't agree with raising taxes. "If I have an itch, I need to be the one that scratches it," Royal said. "I don't want you to scratch it, I don't ask you to scratch it. The same thing goes with building a new neighborhood -- they should be the ones to pay for it in impact fees which should be significant enough to cover the costs." <http://www.firstcoastnews.com/story/news/local/st-augustine/2015/06/30/st-johns--school-tax/29546149/>

# How about the developers.....

The two largest developers in the United States are advertizing correctly that their homes are in the best school system in Florida. They are promoting reduced prices because of the lack of HOH or CDD Fees. This is made possible because they get away with low or minimal impact fees. There was no discussion about raising impact fees. The excitement was all about cutting St. Johns County's competitive edge in the marketplace by imposing a new increased sales tax.

The next event was a power point presentation about how the state had cut their funding to the county in order to contain the tax burden on Florida citizens. The presentation showed how the revenue they received was divided into two categories which they called silos. One silo was for Capitol expenses or investments and the other for operating expenses. Money cannot move from one silo to the other. The Sales Tax money could only be used for building more buildings, the capital silo. It will cost something to run these new buildings once you build them. For expenses like teachers, janitors and administrators, "That money will have to come out of the operating silo, don't you think? Now you're talking more Ad valorem taxes as well," Royal said.

There was a time when raising impact fees would have hurt the local building industry. "The former home builders that are still in business are no longer building new homes. Their numbers have been greatly reduced. The federal mortgage debacle destroyed them", St. Augustine Tea Party Chairman Lance Thate said. Mr. Thate had been a Building Contractor in Northeast Florida since 1985. The housing starts, today, in St. Johns County come from corporate builders. Their contribution to the local economy goes to only certain special interest groups. The only discussion of raising Impact Fees to the corporate giants, at the School Board meeting, was to minimize that approach. "It is said that two of the County Commissioners lost their jobs this last election because it was thought that they were in the back pocket of the developers. Do we need to ask the same questions about the School Board Members?" the Tea Party Chairman said.

The board spoke about the good job they had done but, said that they were blindsided by the growth of the county. Does the Board's lack of resources to solve the dilemma they find themselves in justify the need to spend an additional \$200,000.00 extra for a Special Election? "What's one more, since we have already had 3 elections in the last six months and we need our money right away?" appeared to be the consensus of the School Board. The vote was called and passed unanimously. Then they all went home.

"Maybe we should ask the School Board to ask the two largest home builders in the USA to pay adequate Impact Fees and pass the expense on to the people receiving the benefits of having the best schools in Florida", Tea Party member, Peter Royal declared.

July 4, 2015

# Stop the Communist Takeover

Speak Out  
Resist  
Fight Back



Photos by TCC Staff

## Join the Tea Party

That was one of the St Augustine Tea Party's (SATP) 4<sup>th</sup> of July banners that greeted the 60000 people who attended the County's Birthday in Nation's Oldest City. St. Augustine, Florida is celebrating their 450<sup>th</sup> this year. The banner was flying high in the rigging of the Dartmouth as picture above. The original Dartmouth was one of three ships from which the "Sons of Liberty" threw Tea overboard in Boston on December 16, 1773. The SATP maintains a 38' x 8' replica of the Dartmouth, which is used in special events and parades. Numerous public officials have spoken from her decks.



## Honor the Vets

Veterans were invited to be on board the ship during the festivities. Notable, was Barbara Patterson in her Vietnam era, First Lieut. uniform and Judy Stevens in her Vietnam red cross uniform. Also Lucky Howe the SATP's only World War II Marine veteran was present. Mr. Howe, who is recovering from surgery and is our oldest member, spent the major part of the day in 90° heat. Some people never stop serving their country. A special thanks to all who have served.





## Free Speech Issue

Two years ago today, the Saint Augustine Tea Party received a citation for appearing on Federal lands with flags and signs. At the time the SATP refused to recognize free speech zones on Federal lands. Largely because of this publication's attack on the concept of free speech zones, the policy has been changed. A special thanks to Gordy Wilson, Park Supervisor and his staff for their welcome and courteous behavior.

## St. Johns County's Violation of Free Speech Continues

Free speech zones continue to exist in St. Johns County Parks. It is the official policy of the St. Augustine Tea Party to refuse to comply with such unlawful and unconstitutional demands. Tens of thousands of people, pasted by the

Dartmouth this Fourth of July. It provided an opportunity to expand the awareness of this assault on Liberty. Many Americans are simply unaware of the concept of a "Free Speech Area".. They have never had an encounter with Park official or law enforcement over free speech. "When it is described to them, they are furious. Many eagerly signed a petition in protest. Those in government who would impose this tyranny would do well to take note," St. Augustine Tea Party Chairman Lance Thate explained. In a meeting, on July 2, 2015, between St. Johns County's Attorney, Patrick McCormack, and the SATP Chairman, the First Amendment was discussed. Mr. McCormack suggested that the language of the First Amendment applies only to the Congress of the United States. Congress, he said, shall make no law ... abridging the freedom speech or assembly among other things. However, Mr. McCormack asserted that State and local governments can place restrictions on free speech, under the concept of "time, place and manner" (TPM). The concept of TPM is based on case law. "Article III of the U.S. Constitution gives no lawful authority for the Supreme Court to rewrite the Constitution. If it did our liberties would be at the mercy of babbling lawyers. This TPM mantra by the local, state, and federal agents has been abused in the name of public safety, litter control, traffic control and event use managing. The supreme law of the land concerning speech is vested in the First Amendment. Any restriction on speech; particularly, political speech is unlawful. Political speech is not an event; it is an inalienable right," according to the Tea Party Chairman. "This infringing upon the First Amendment is a first step to curtail free speech. We see this at our university campuses across the country. Only those that agree with the Communists have free speech rights on campus. All other views are assigned to "Free Speech Zones. College students are more accepting of the concept of "Free Speech Zones" if they experience them in their parks at

grammar school age. We are in the final Marxist transformation of America. It is our duty as Americans to resist." This year, it was observed that many people have reached the conclusion that their rights are being eroded. They fear the future. "Many state that they will resist. Will You?" The Tea Party asks.

Happy Fourth of July!

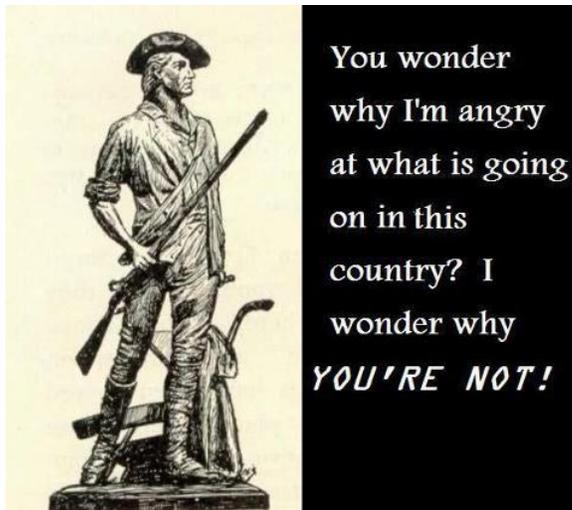
July 7, 2015

## SATP Business Meeting Features Raffle Drawing

The St. Augustine Tea Party (SATP) held its regularly scheduled business meeting at the Village Inn on July 7, 2015. On the agenda, was the drawing for the "Trurus Judge", a pistol that the Tea Party has raffled off to fund its activities. The winning ticket was drawn by, Yvonne Heikkinen, the SATP's Recording Secretary. The winning Staff number was 745. The owner of that ticket is Mr. Matthew Reiter from Hastings, Florida. Congratulations Mr. Reiter.



Photos by TCC



You wonder  
why I'm angry  
at what is going  
on in this  
country? I  
wonder why  
**YOU'RE NOT!**

July 14, 2015

# SATP Holds its Annual Meeting

The St. Augustine Tea Party held its fourth Annual Meeting at the Village Inn, St. Augustine, Florida, on July 14, 2015. According to the bylaws of the organization, this is the only meeting that is required throughout the year. However, the SATP is a very active grassroots organization. It meets three times a month on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM. The first Tuesday of the month is a closed business meeting. The second and fourth Tuesday of each month are speaker meetings, which are open to the public. The remaining Tuesdays of the month are attended by Tea Party committee members. The Village Inn management has played host to the Tea Party since August, 2010. Chairman, Lance Thate, on behalf of the SATP members expressed gratitude for the Village Inn's service to the Tea Party.

## Election of Officers

The main order of business was the election of officers for the coming year. The following officers were elected by a unanimous vote.

- Board member and Chairman, Lance Thate
- Board member and Treasurer, David Heimbold
- Board member and Secretary, Kelly Lorbeer

Yvonne Heikkinen served as SATP's Secretary for about 2 ½ years. Mrs. Heikkinen had announced prior to the meeting, that she would not be a candidate for the coming year. The former secretary nominated her own replacement, Kelly Lorbeer, who won with a unanimous vote. Members present expressed their gratitude for her service. Heikkinen is known for her detailed minutes and she served with distinction. Mrs. Heikkinen stated, "I'm not going anywhere and will be participating in the Tea Party's future activities". The SATP's bylaws only provide for one Secretary. Yvonne fulfilled the Recording Secretary's role. Helping her in the background was her friend, Joyce Ferrigno, who has evolved into an unelected Corresponding Secretary. Special recognition, by the Chairman, was given to Mrs. Ferrigno for her professional service to the Tea Party, acting as Corresponding Secretary and to Yvonne Heikkinen for her dedicated service as Recording Secretary.



Photos by TCC Staff

July 16, 2015

# Trump's Phenomenal Popularity is no Surprise to Warriors against "Political Correctness"



## Americans are Ready for the Truth

Trump's phenomenal popularity is no surprise to the members of the St. Augustine Tea Party (SATP). Over the past four years their Town Criers have been engaging the public in the historic district of St. Augustine, Florida. The Town Criers have observed a growing disconnect between the people and the established political parties. What the American people respond to is an abandonment of "Political Correctness". They are ready for the truth. Americans are sick to death of the Democrat's Marxism and Republican's pretending to be different.

The Tea Party's Town Crier Committee has been attacking "Political Correctness" (PC) with stunning success. Their signs and flags become beacons of truth over the surface of a troubled sea of PC. The Town Criers have been rejected by the local print media and have been ridiculed by members of both parties. They are often called the Village Idiots. [The Tea Party meets at the Village Inn Restaurant] However, each time the Criers appear on St. George Street, they are elevated to "King of the Road" by appreciative Americans.

## It Takes Courage to be an American

Today we have 20 presidential candidates vying for their party's nomination. Nineteen of them play the political correctness game in varying shades of black and gray. Only Trump, at least on the so-called illegal immigration issue, has abandoned PC. Trump has simply plugged into the dynamics of the Tea Party movement. The result is immediate success with the people and instant condemnation by his Party. The GOP leadership insists that Trump does not speak for the Party. On a local level, the Town Criers experience exactly the same thing from exactly the same kind of people. Trump has shown courage. He has exposed the insidious nature of PC. Illegal entry into a sovereign state is not immigration. It is an act of aggression, trespassing. The way you stop trespassing is to put up a fence. It is what the American people want. It is not what the Marxist Democrats and their Republican friends want. "Political Correctness" had its origin in the former Soviet Union. Deception is its goal.

## Trump Wins Hands Down.

Political discussions are routine after formal Tea Party meetings conclude. On July 14, 2015, a straw poll was conducted and Trump won hands down. Ted Cruz and Scott Walker, in separate polls, received about one third approval from those still in attendance. "It appears that the public is looking for authentic candidates who have the courage to speak their convictions. Career politicians playing the PC game, are not going to get the independent vote. It should be remembered that Independents now outnumber Republicans and Democrats combined," a Tea Party member said.

July 21, 2015.

# Intimidation Rules the Day



Photos by TCC Staff

## County Commissioners Ok School Board's Sales-tax Initiative 4 to 1

County Attorney, Patrick McCormack, answering loaded questions by Chairperson, Rachel Bennett, dominated the County's school sales-tax discussion on July 21, 2015. Bennett spent her time 'schooling' the other Commissioners via getting clarification from County Attorney over the word "shall, must and may". The attorney, himself, also said there were "consequences" if the Commissioners voted against the increase, but refused to clarify the "consequences" in public. It was hard to separate legal opinion and political opinion in McCormack's comments. One

has to wonder if a county employee can be objective in practicing the law when the Administrator and the Commissioners have an agenda. "Can a county employee really practice law considering the political ramifications?" some people in the audience questioned. Blatant intimidation was so obvious as to be embarrassing. In an interview with Commissioner McClure, on July 20, 2015, he said, "The County Attorney told me if I vote no I will be sued." When asked by whom, McClure continued, "The school board." It should be remembered that Mr. McClure opposed the sales tax consistently on every vote. The last time the special election issue was addressed the vote was 3 to 2 against an election on November 3, 2015. This special election will now cost the taxpayers of St. Johns County in excess of \$200,000 and there is a good likelihood that the vote will be skewed. The St. Augustine Tea Party was out in force today. They had members outside at

the entrance. Tea Party members also addressed the commissioners on at least nine occasions. However, speaking to commissioners in open meetings appears to have little impact. And today it was exceptionally true. Chairperson Rachael Bennett announced to the audience that public comments were not required because this agenda item was mainly administrative. But, because of the controversy, public comments would be entertained. This signaled that the “Fix was in” and that the dissenters could have their three minutes but it wouldn’t matter.

During a recess period, a woman approached Commissioner Smith, the lone no vote, and said, “ Thank you, Mr. Smith for being an honest man.” Jeb Smith ran for County Commissioner as a Republican, but sought no help from the GOP. Smith was a grassroots candidate who appealed to the public on his personal integrity and demeanor.

The Tea Party presence contrasted sharply with the largely government crowd. ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox news affiliated stations in Jacksonville, Florida eagerly sought interviews from Lance Thate SATP Chairman and David Heimbold, SATP Media Chairman. In addition, Mr. Thate was also interviewed by WOKV Jacksonville’s talk radio station.

<http://www.news4jax.com/news/sjc-votes-on-future-of-school-funding/34270166>

<http://staugustine.firstcoastnews.com/news/news/194511-half-cent-sales-tax-november-ballot-st-johns-county>

<http://www.actionnewsjax.com/news/news/local/st-johns-officials-vote-sales-tax-increase/nm38s/>

## **Tea Party Continued to challenge Free Speech Zones in County Parks**

In addition to speaking to the sales tax issue, Tea Party members were also contesting the “Designated Free-speech Areas” in County Parks. The SATP Chairman, addressing the Commissioners, stated: “According to Mr. McCormack, the First Amendment only applies to the Congress of the United States. State and local governments can place restrictions on free speech, under the concept of time, place and manner” (TPM). The concept of TPM is based on case law. Mr. Thate called for a prohibition of Free Speech Zones submitting a proposed addition to the Park ordinance 2005 – 114.

According to Mr. Heimbold, SATP Media Chairman, “Mr. McCormack sought out Mr. Thate, in the parking lot during the lunch recess, to assure him that he was still working on the First Amendment problem. McCormack also claimed that Thate had misquoted him when addressing the Commissioners.” According to Thate, he and Mr. McCormack had a meeting on July 2, 2015. At that meeting, the County Attorney, on several occasions, pointed out that the First Amendment applies only to Congress by stressing that Congress shall make ‘no law’ (re: the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment) and implying that local government could. It appears that this is an example of the confusion between political and legal opinion.

During the Commissioner’s comments at the end of the agenda, Commissioner Jeb Smith proposed that the County Attorney prepare a full accounting of the “Designated Free Speech Area” authorization and justification, and then present it to the Commissions for a public review. The motion carried 5-0 in favor. “It appears that those seeking redress on this First Amendment issue earlier in the day, will have a public hearing,” Chairman Thate said.

July 31, 2015

Guest Editorial

# Feelings.....Whoa, Whoa, Whoa ...Feelings....

By John Knapp



I'm sure you've heard the phrase, 'cognitive dissonance', which means holding mutually incompatible thoughts within the same mind? That's *the* telling symptom of a liberal mindset, otherwise known as *mental confusion*.

*The biggest part of understanding liberalthink is that it's not thinking at all, but feeling.*

Most Conservatives think their way through life, while lazy liberals try to feel their way, hence the standard joke about liberalthink.....'Don't confuse me with the facts, my mind's made up!' (Nope, that's just your feelings, dude....)

'Feeling' is much easier than 'thinking'. Feelings don't require intelligence, experience, logic, or common sense as a support system. Thinking is hard work....often difficult and exhausting. Feelings are easy, lazy....inherently gutless. Name one liberal political stance that's not based on feelings! Go ahead, I'll wait.

'Feelings' are akin to the ever-present liberal expectations of the 'free lunch'. 'Thinking' is going to the trouble to realize there can be no such thing.

Implementing one's feelings to solve problems is never as effective as using one's common sense to solve them. Feelings *always* get in the way of common sense. Feelings muddy the issues, and muddy their outcomes. That's a critical life lesson, evident and learn-able early on. But, it's the lesson liberals cannot - or will not - grasp.

Of course, there is this factor....that liberalism is truly a mental disorder. I firmly believe that fully 40% of the general public is now walking around with mental problems to some degree. To what else can the steady, purposeful disintegration of this great country be attributed? How else does His Disgracefulness, this 2-term Democrat/Marxist 'President', this Anti-American, revenge-filled, narcissistic, dangerous lunatic, get away with what he does? He's as utterly mad as those who voted for him. Twice.

All this Anti-American stupidity can be traced back to this liberal government's politically-correct 're-education' system, from Kindergarten through college. Used to be, it was said, 'If you're not liberal when you're 20, you don't have a heart.....but if you're still liberal at 40, you don't have a brain.' Apparently, this government's 're-education' policies have smothered too many brains - and the very DNA - that once made Americans, Americans.

The timeline goes thus: The American Age of Reason (1776-1965) gave way to the American Age of Information and Enlightenment (1965-1990), which has - quite ironically - ushered in our current Age of un-American Insanity, Stupidity, and Self-Destruction. We are hard on the Road to The American Nowhere. But, back to a glaring example of liberal cognitive dissonance. I can't begin to explain the mental confusion coursing through the minds of those who accept abortion, yet reject capital punishment.

Liberals are a licentious bunch, so much more so than conservatives could ever think to be. But, again, that's the nature of the liberal beast, going with his or her *feelings*....first, last, and always. If there is a war on women, it is a liberal one. Nevertheless, let's just leave the intentional termination of unintended and unwanted human procreation out of it, okay?

Liberals *need* abortion to be legal, so they can eat their sex-cake and still have it, too. If abortion was to be officially, belatedly discredited as the murder it truly is, then those women who've had the 50 million+ abortions over the last forty years.....well....we all know what that would finally make them at long last, after the 'deed' was done. Liberal women can't abide that! That would *really* upset their *feelings*!

So, how long can America, which now appears to be left up to the rest of us long-suffering non-liberals, abide this Liberalism, this Marxism, this Official Foolishness, this lawless government by fiat 'n' feelings, these intolerable assaults on our American Ideals, this abrogation of our American birthright?

Or....have we waited too long?



**WE LIVE IN THE LAND OF THE FREE, ONLY BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE**

**The Goal of  
Socialism is  
Communism**

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There is a Revolution going on. Come join the Counter Resistance. Stand up for individual Liberty.

Come join us! We are a small Committee with many tasks to do to preserve Liberty. We are blessed to see the awakening of America.

Lance L. Thate,

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