

# BARROW REPUBLICAN NEWS

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 8      AUGUST 2020  
BARROW COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY  
P.O. BOX 1054      WINDER, GA 30680-1054

**MEETINGS**

**Our Next Regular Meeting – Mon., Aug 17      7:30 PM**  
**@ Winder Woman’s Club (behind Winder Fire Dept.)**  
 Bethlehem City Council Meeting – Mon., Aug 3      7:00 PM  
 Barrow School Board Meeting – Tue., Aug 4      6:00 PM  
 Winder City Council Meeting – Tue., Aug 4      6:00 PM  
 Auburn City Council Meeting – Thur., Aug 6      6:00 PM  
 County Commission Meeting – Tue., Aug 11      7:00 PM  
 Statham City Council Meeting – Tue., Aug 18      7:00 PM  
 Auburn City Council Meeting – Thur., Aug 20      6:00 PM  
 Carl Town Council Meeting – Thur., Aug 20      7:00 PM  
 County Commission Meeting – Tue., Aug 25      7:00 PM

**VOTING MEMBERS – COUNTY COMMITTEE** (26)

Debbie Reid – Chrm.	Kathy Hopkins	David Gunter
Ken Young – 1 <sup>st</sup> VC	Terry Raber	Terry England
Leonard Koonce – 2 <sup>nd</sup> VC	Richard Pepper	Clay Kelley
Dianne Craig – Sec..	June Miller	Beverly Kelley
Teeny Allison – Asst. Sec.	Tim Walker	Pat Graham
Bob Lanham – Tr.	Randy Reid	Jaret Sweatt
Mike Pentecost – Asst. Tr.	John Reavis	Linda Reavis
John Stevens	Lynn Stevens	Power Evans
Gary Taylor	Janice Jones	

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chairman	Debbie Reid	706-684-0065
	email: <a href="mailto:debbier72956@comcast.net">debbier72956@comcast.net</a>	
First Vice-Chair	Ken Young	770-827-2887
	email: <a href="mailto:kenyoung276@hotmail.com">kenyoung276@hotmail.com</a>	
Second Vice-Chair	Leonard Koonce	706-351-7441
	email: <a href="mailto:lkoonce1967@gmail.com">lkoonce1967@gmail.com</a>	
Secretary	Dianne Craig	678-367-9593
	email: <a href="mailto:dcbooklover332@gmail.com">dcbooklover332@gmail.com</a>	
Asst. Secretary	Teeny Allison	770-231-7097
	email: <a href="mailto:teenyallison@gmail.com">teenyallison@gmail.com</a>	
Treasurer	Bob Lanham	770-867-5459
	email: <a href="mailto:lanhamrj@hotmail.com">lanhamrj@hotmail.com</a>	
Asst. Treasurer	Mike Pentecost	770-868-6046
	email: <a href="mailto:MCPWinder@aol.com">MCPWinder@aol.com</a>	
C.C. Dist. 1 Rep.	Richard Pepper	770-725-2777
C.C. Dist. 2 Rep.	Gary Taylor	678-449-5775
C.C. Dist. 3 Rep.	Open	
C.C. Dist. 4 Rep.	Clay Kelley	770-560-4523
C.C. Dist. 5 Rep.	Tim Walker	770-231-2652
C.C. Dist. 6 Rep.	June Miller	770-867-5932

**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 #####

##### August 17, 2020 #####

**GUEST SPEAKER(S)  
TO BE ANNOUNCED**

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**MEMBERSHIP COMPARISON** (as of 7/31/2020)

Membership	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20
Regular	<b>63</b>	39	36	26	30	26	26	26	21
Advanced	71	59	41	55	55	48	48	45	46
Barrow 100	13	8	13	7	9	7	6	6	10
Barrow 360	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Students	<b>4</b>	3	2	2	1	2	2	3	3
Total	<b>152</b>	110	92	91	96	84	83	81	81
Renewals	101	95	82	85	77	77	74	68	67
New	<b>51</b>	15	10	6	19	7	9	13	14

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[www.barrowgop.org](http://www.barrowgop.org)

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**IT’S TIME TO RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP FOR 2020 !!!**

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**NEXT MONTHLY MEETING  
AUGUST 17, 2020**

**MASKS OPTIONAL**

**WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT  
OUR 2020 ANNUAL BBQ  
HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

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

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

<b>Aug 17</b> (Mon)	Monthly Meeting
<b>Sept 21</b> (Mon)	Monthly Meeting
<b>Oct 19</b> (Mon)	Monthly Meeting
<b>Nov 3</b> (Tue)	<b>GENERAL ELECTION</b>
<b>Nov 16</b> (Mon)	Monthly Meeting
<b>Dec 7</b> (Mon)	<b>Annual Holiday Dinner</b>
<b>Jan 18</b> (Mon)	Monthly Meeting

**LOOKING AHEAD**

- Air Force Day – August 1 (Saturday)
- Coast Guard Day – August 4 (Tuesday)
- Herbert Hoover Birthday – August 10 (Monday)
- Benjamin Harrison Birthday – August 20 (Thursday)
- Patriot Day – September 11 (Friday)
- William Taft Birthday – September 15 (Tuesday)
- Constitution Day – September 17 (Thursday)
- POW/MIA Recognition Day – September 18 (Friday)

**2020 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Ronnie Morrow

**WELCOME - NEW MEMBERS**



**2017 – 2019 BARROW PRECINCT CHAIRPERSONS**  
**NEW COMBINED PRECINCTS FOR 2020**

<b>Bethlehem Community Center</b>	
<b>Bethlehem Church @ GA 211</b>	Bronti Rudloff
with most of County Line Elementary	June Miller
<b>Hmong Alliance Church</b>	John Stevens
Bramlett Elementary & Midway UMC	Dianne Craig
<b>Covenant Life Sanctuary Church</b>	David Gunter
Westside Middle & Cedar Creek Baptist	
<b>Statham Fire Dept.</b>	Richard Pepper
with Statham Elementary	
<b>Winder First Baptist Church</b>	John Reavis
with Winder Lions Club	
<b>Winder Community Center</b>	Power Evans
with WBHS, Rec. Dept.,	Bob Lanham
& small part of County Line Elementary	
<b>The Church At Winder</b>	Kathy Hopkins
with AHS	

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**NEXT POLITICAL BREAKFAST**

**CANCELLED UNTIL**

**FURTHER NOTICE**

**WINDER GOLDEN CORRAL**

**RESTAURANT**

**IS STILL CLOSED**

**FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

I was so hopeful just a few weeks ago that our world was getting back to some semblance of normal – now, I’m pessimistic that it will happen anytime soon.

There is still the debate about opening schools. Even though every study shows that, especially, the youngest children are not in danger of contracting the virus and almost certainly don’t pass it, the school openings in Europe have gone off with no spike in cases and multiple doctors are pleading with systems to open, there is a resistance to starting school as usual. The experts are clear – school should open. The danger of schools remaining shut down are myriad – the loss of learning being the greatest for most, but physical and mental harm being a real threat to others. Not all children have access to the computers necessary for “in-home” instruction – what is happening to them? In some cases, these students are the most at-risk for losing any gains made by regular school attendance. There are reports of the physical, mental and sexual abuse of children rising as they are forced to stay home – with the attendant unavailability of adults to report such abuse to. Talk about the dangers of the virus.

Then there is the new requirement of mask wearing in most businesses. As many “experts” who claim that mask-wearing is vital to stopping the virus, there are others who claim there is little to no evidence to support the claim. They also warn of the dangers to the individual wearing a mask such as keeping bacteria in the mask to inhale repeatedly. Especially ironic is the fact that the virus is not known to survive in warm, humid air, therefore masks are useless in an outdoor setting. Add to the fact that for four months these same businesses did not require masks, with no spikes caused by going to the grocery store, a discount department store or big-box store. Why do they now require the face coverings?

More and more studies of real numbers and shutdown vs. no shutdown applications in countries around the world are showing what the Israeli epidemiologist, Isaac Ben-Israel, said back in April – the virus runs an identical course whether the country shuts down or not. Why the continuation of a shutdown then?

Again, the best way to defeat this virus is to protect the vulnerable and achieve herd immunity. A vaccine will be welcomed, but the world cannot shut down until that becomes reality. I have yet to hear one medical expert explain how this virus is different from the annual flu types.

The reason for all the above is the monetization and politicization of this particular “pandemic.” The sooner people realize this the better, but depending on where you get your news, some will never hear the truth. If you know the story of Dr. Fauci throwing out the first ball at the Nationals/Yankees game, you are, as ever, aware of the hypocrisy.

The best way to fight this is to re-elect President Trump. I’m betting this whole issue goes away when this happens – the next “catastrophe” will follow in short course.

Debbie Reid

**FROM THE EDITOR**

**WE ARE ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERSHIPS AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2020.** If you want to renew, please bring yours to our **August 17** meeting, mail it to our P.O. Box 1054, Winder, GA, 30680-1054, or go on-line to our web site for a credit/debit purchase. Please be encouraged to upgrade your membership to a higher level, if possible. We appreciate your support!

Our next regular monthly meeting will be Monday, **August 17, 2020** at 7:30 PM in the Winder Woman’s Club. Tables will not be set up; chairs will be spread out across the hall for distancing. Hand sanitizer will be available as you come in either door. There will be no refreshments. We are complying with Woman’s Club requests and the Governor’s proclamations related to COVID-19. Speaker(s) to be announced. We will also consider a campaign spending resolution which starts September 1, 2020 and covers through April 30, 2021.

**Trump/Pence yard signs and bumper stickers will be available. We are accepting donations. (Paid 2020 members will get the first one of each for free.)** Make plans to attend! Bring a friend. Be early for a good seat! It will be worth your time.

Ken Young

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**ADDITIONAL LINK**

“Watch Iran Closely” – *AMAC Advantage* – Robert B, Charles – April 2020 – <https://digitaledition.qwinc.com/publication/?m=40499&i=654275&p=52>

“Jack Duffy Leads Youth Efforts as National High School Chairman of Young Americans for Freedom” – *Libertas* – Spring 2020 – [https://issuu.com/young.americas.foundation/docs/spring\\_2020\\_hires](https://issuu.com/young.americas.foundation/docs/spring_2020_hires)

“States Try Blocking Trump’s Pro-Gun Reform, Showing Need for Good Judges” – *America’s First Freedom* – Jason Ouimet - May 2020 – <https://americas1stfreedom.org/articles/2020/4/21/states-try-blocking-trump-s-pro-gun-reform-showing-need-for-good-judges/>

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**NEED AMERICA BE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?**

Victor Davis Hanson, *National Review* excerpts

Today, America’s two chief strategic worries remain far away from Baghdad, Cairo, and Tehran: a hostile China, with a population of 1.4 billion, that seeks world commercial and eventually military hegemony, and a sclerotic Russia that nevertheless pos-

esses about 7,000 nuclear weapons and in reductionist fashion is against anything we are for.

Of course, in terms of a Middle East presence, Putin’s Russia is no Soviet Union. Currently, it is hard to calibrate in a cost-to-benefit analysis how Moscow is profiting from its messy presence in Syria, where it props up the shaky Assad dynasty, or from adjudicating conflicting territorial claims among Syrians, Iranians, Turks, and Kurds. Russia does not need the oil, and in 2020 denying an energy-independent United States access to the Strait of Hormuz seems not to be a good gambit.

Do we remember the 50-year litany of why, how, and when we got bogged down in the Middle East? After the 1967 Six-Day War, America increasingly began to arm a militarily ascendant Israel and de facto guaranteed its survival amid of host of enemies, most dramatically during the Yom Kippur War. In turn, Israel did the world a great favor in taking out Saddam Hussein’s nuclear reactor in 1981 and performing a similarly successful operation against a Syrian nuclear facility in 2007.

Since the 1970s and the age of Palestinian global terrorists, such as those affiliated with the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Black September Organization, and especially in the era of radical Islamic terrorists of al-Qaeda and ISIS of the last 40 years, the United States has sought to deny sanctuaries and training enclaves to terrorist cliques plotting against the American homeland, U.S. bases, and our European and other allies. Ronald Reagan intervened unsuccessfully to keep the peace in Lebanon in 1983, but he had better results in the 1986 bombing of Libya in retaliation for Moammar Qaddafi’s sponsorship of anti-American terrorists.

Less concretely, the U.S. military guaranteed the world economy free access to the oil-rich Persian Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz, the Suez Canal, and the eastern Mediterranean. In 1980 the so-called Carter Doctrine supposedly forbade any outside power (i.e., the Soviet Union) to recalibrate the Middle East in its interests and endanger American assets and allies – and, of course, access to oil. On rare occasions, the U.S. intervened to prevent starvation, genocide, or general chaos, as supposedly in Somalia in 1993 and less believably in Libya in 2011.

Two Gulf Wars, 1991 and 2003, and a decade of no-fly zones over Iraq were intended to curb the imperial plans of Saddam Hussein by preventing him from annexing the neighborhood or using petrodollars to subsidize terrorism or eventually become a regional nuclear power. Both wars were tactically successful, the first in ridding Kuwait of Saddam and the second in deposing him in Iraq. But neither victory led to Middle East peace or a secure and stable Iraq or necessarily long-term advantage for the United States.

None of these decades-old rationales for Middle East intervention remains relevant today. The Cold War is over. China is using cash, not arms, to seduce Middle East regimes to lease out ports and facilities for its Belt and Road Initiative, an extravagant neo-imperial global project that grows ever more dubious in a strictly cost-to-benefit analysis, especially as China bogs down in a trade war with the United States and seems to be offering round-one concessions to try to end it. With a million Muslims in Chinese reeducation camps, and its clumsy diplomacy abroad, Beijing may eventually become as unpopular in Arab capitals as Moscow was during the Cold War.

America is the world’s largest oil and natural gas producer and for now does not really need imported Middle East oil. Its chief ally in the region, Israel, has likewise become self-sufficient in fossil fuels because of the discovery of natural gas in its waters

in the eastern Mediterranean. So American need for petroleum is no longer a concrete reason to put a sizable military presence in the Middle East. All that can be said is that the United States has some interest in keeping the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf open, for the viability of the world economy and safe oil exportation to Europe. China is the largest importer of Middle East oil, which accounts for 60 percent of the nation's daily consumption. Europe is the world's largest importer of all oil. Yet China, to repeat, is currently in a trade war with the United States. Europe seems unwilling to employ fracking or horizontal drilling to tap its huge domestic deposits of shale gas, and it also has no interest in building a blue-water navy apart from NATO's reliance on the U.S. fleet. Accordingly, it is becoming a difficult sell for the American people to guarantee China and the European Union free and safe commerce to and from the Gulf.

In sum, all that seems left of the last 70 years of bipartisan foreign policy in the Middle East are three remnant interests that prompt us to paraphrase Trotsky – we may not be interested in the Middle East, but it is interested in us.

One, the United States does not want radical Islamists to carve out sanctuaries, such as ISIS's recent caliphate in Iraq and Syria, by appropriating oil and using the money gained from its sale to stage terrorist operations against the West. It is not clear how many U.S. troops are needed to prevent the recurrence of al-Qaeda and ISIS or the growth of Hezbollah's expeditionary terrorism, but such policing is largely done by U.S. air power, missiles, and drones. Sending American soldiers into the narrow streets of Beirut, Baghdad, Basra, or Benghazi to distinguish civilian from soldier, ordinary teenager from suicide bomber, and dead dog from hidden IED does not seem a wise use of formidable U.S. firepower and military discipline and training. Even stupider would be to do so while JAG officers adjudicate in real time the rules of engagement and CNN, the BBC, and Al Jazeera hype the ensuing "neocolonialism" and "imperialism" on global TV in an endless search for another Abu Ghraib.

A second vestigial interest is to deny a local hegemon the ability to absorb his neighbors, aggregate petroleum revenues, and become a nuclear power that threatens the West. Currently, Iran seems the most likely imitator of Saddam Hussein's failed efforts of the 1980s and 1990s to become a transnational nuclear power. Yet, so far, beefed-up sanctions and retaliatory but disproportionate air strikes have stymied Tehran. In the post-Iraq War era, no one advocates sending nation-building ground troops into Iran or even overtly destabilizing the theocracy to seed democracy in its place, however much the West would like to see the end of that murderous regime. Iran is to be contained like North Korea, and cyber assets will carry out the task while beefed-up sanctions continually erode the economy. No one knows at what red line Israel will preemptively take out Iranian nuclear facilities, in the manner of its past neutralization of Iraqi and Syrian reactors.

Finally, the United States wants the Suez Canal accessible and the Strait of Hormuz open to ensure global prosperity and, by extension, American economic growth – though, again, it is difficult to assess how much that stability would or should cost America. Given the end of the Cold War, and gargantuan U.S. oil production, it is hard to imagine a replay of the 1956 Western intervention to keep the Suez Canal open or the 1987-88 tanker wars to ensure free transit in the Persian Gulf.

Keeping a small, low-profile U.S. presence at air bases in the Gulf states or Turkey' seems wiser for now – and cheaper in the

long run – than complete withdrawal. The Middle East, like Central America and North Africa, is inherently an unstable place whose residents can swarm European borders by the millions. Thus it seems wise to invest some time, money, and manpower to preempt mass flotillas and caravans heading westward.

But then again, it is hard to justify protecting Europe's territorial integrity by keeping the calm in the Middle East when the American Southwest lacks a secure border with Mexico and an estimated 20 million illegal aliens are residing in the United States – at least if such costly investments are seen in either/or fashion.

Given that oil and Soviet Communism no longer drive American strategic thinking in the Middle East, and that the unfettered use of air power can largely deter nuclear proliferation and decapitate another ascendant ISIS caliphate, it is likely that the region's status has changed. The anachronistic term "Middle East" is itself emblematic of an ossified status. In the 19<sup>th</sup>-century nomenclature of the British Empire, entire regions were named for their distance from the imperial brain in London: The Middle East lay between the Near East (the eastern Mediterranean and Asia Minor) and the Far East (China, Japan, and on occasion India). But in 2020, despite its being the nexus of three continents and three great religions and home to over 400 million people, the Middle East hardly seems to be in the middle of anything important – certainly not according to the popular American mind.

For nearly 70 years Americans have watched nightly on their televisions as Arabs and Iranians scream and damn America. They have understandably grown tired of the region and its proverbially volatile Islamic street, where mobs equate any U.S. presence on the ground with imperialism, colonialism, and other catchwords spoon-fed to them by Western leftists. Americans increasingly see the Middle East as a sinkhole of precious blood and treasure wasted in behalf of those who are, to be frank, not deemed worth the effort. Most recently, the bier of Qasem Soleimani was driven through Baghdad on an imported Chevy pickup among trained Iraqi security forces – a metaphor, along with the fact that more Iranians died at Soleimani's perfervid funeral in Tehran than were killed in the American drone attack on his caravan, for the contemporary confused status of West-meets-East.

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One refrain of Trump's support among the deplorables and irredeemables was a desire to end "endless wars" abroad. The well-recognized subtext of that desire was no more Middle East interventions. After 9/11, Americans were in a punitive mood as regarded the home of the 19 hijackers and murderers. But the desire to pay back Islamic terrorists has aged into something akin to an out-of-sight, out-of-mind weariness with the entire region.

We might end with another paraphrase, of the famous saying attributed to Otto von Bismarck: To the American street, the entire Middle East is no longer worth the healthy bones of a single U.S. Marine.

## VOTE REPUBLICAN

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**NOVEMBER 3, 2020**