

## Christian Coalition of Pinellas County [Newsletter](#)

Co-Chairman Vance Lackore, (727) 776-7194 [Vlackore@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Vlackore@tampabay.rr.com)

Co-Chairman Ron Scheffler, (727) 595-6971 [Rmscheffler@cfaith.com](mailto:Rmscheffler@cfaith.com)

Rick Klenk, Webber: [rek03@ccpcf.org](mailto:rek03@ccpcf.org)

This is your invitation to our Next meeting: Saturday, March 1, 2008 A.C., Panera Bread, Bardmoor Shopping Center, corner of Bryan Dairy and Starkey Road. (Keane Road to North County people, or Park Street in St Pete).

Meetings begin promptly at 10:00a.m., First Saturday of each month

**Directions from Ocala: Take I-75 to junction with I-275 Continue West through Tampa and across the Howard Franklin Bridge on I-275. In Pinellas county, take the third exit (they're close together) is for 118th Ave. North. Get off here and stay in the left lane immediate left turn at traffic light. 118th Ave. N. will wind around to go west. Continue west to Starkey Road and Bardmoor Shopping Center, the site of the meeting. On 118 Ave/Bryan Dairy Road you will cross Traffic Lights:**

1. 49th Street North (one mile)
2. US 19 North (3 miles )
3. Pass over 66th St. North (3 miles )
4. Belcher Road, 2 miles west, Bardmoor Shopping on left, location of Panera's
5. turn left into Bardmoor Shopping Center, 1 block before Starkey road Traffic light. Panera Bread is the second store on left. ([See map link on meetings-next.html page.](#))

**Cell Phones: Vance (727) 776-7194 or Ronnie (727)432-1993**

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**March Special Speaker is Dennis Baxley**, the new State Director of Christian Coalition of Florida. Director Baxley served 8 years in the Florida House of Representatives and active Ocala businessman. Rep. Baxley was **2007 Speaker Pro-Tem, the FL. House**, was born in Ocala, married to Micheline, and they have 5 children and 5 grandchildren. Former FL Rep Leslie said good things about Director Baxley and said that he will be good for Christian Coalition of Florida. He is a member and a Deacon at First Baptist Church of Belleview. COME, MEET, AND HEAR our new Executive director Baxley as he outlines his plans for the future of Christian Coalition of Florida, and it's activities in this very important election year, as well as show our support for the State Organization.

**February Special Speaker Mrs. Nancy Bostock**, is Chairperson of the Pinellas County School Board described changes in education 2007-8. She and the other Board members, as well as Superintendent Clayton Wilcox, do very well dealing with new, and ever changing, technical tools, as well as the challenges of previous generations. Thank you Nancy and School Board Members for your fine work in a challenging assignment.

Terry Kemple President and Founder of Community Issues Council spoke briefly at the Feb. meeting on work being done to have some 'Intelligent Design' alongside 'Evolution' for our origins taught in the government schools in FL.

Terry headed up the first annual, outstanding "Family Impact Summit" a few months back, with the leading Christian Leaders from around the country coming to Brandon. Some of us had the privilege of assisting, and many more attending. It was one of the best many of us ever attended.

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PATRICIA M. MACFARLANE a Candidate for the City Council of Pinellas Park Seat #4. Patricia is a 7th generation Floridian, and a graduate of St. Pete Junior College, who has attended many Pinellas Park City Council meetings. She and husband David have been married 34 years, have 3 adult children and own Majestic Oaks Equestrian center, an equestrian education center and boarding facility for horses. Trish says, "I believe in government of the people by the people. Working together with citizens of Pinellas Park we make it a better community."

Thinking Right  
March 2008

On February 19th, Cuban Dictator, Fidel Castro announced his decision not to: 'Aspire to or accept the post of President of the Council of State and Commander in Chief.' This announcement sent shock waves throughout the entire Caribbean area, Central and South America as well as the United States. After nearly fifty years of power, Castro is the longest lasting Head of Government, with the exception of some monarchies. Currently his designated successor is his younger brother, Raul, who is 76 years old, but who does not have the abilities of Fidel, 81, to maintain the strict control over the economy and social structures of the Communist State.

Throughout the Cayman Islands and other areas of the Caribbean, a growing economic freedom in Cuba would adversely affect the economies of the other ports and vacation destinations, since the money would be spent in Cuba instead.

Politically, other leftist leaders, such as Hugo Chavez of Venezuela are anxious to take Castro's position as the primary antagonist of the US, as Castro continued his vendetta of over fifty years, going back beyond the Bay of Pigs abortive attempt to topple him in 1961, and the eventual Russian stand down and removal of the Soviet missiles in the crisis of 1962. Castro's motto over the years has been, 'Socialism or death!' This is expected to continue under Raul at least until Fidel dies. President George Bush declared this to be an opportunity for the Cuban People to begin a transition toward a democratic form of government. With Raul Castro the most likely named successor to Fidel Castro, little change should be expected in Cuba or its relationship with the US. The United States, however, should begin to lay an organized plan to move quickly should the situation become more volatile. Venezuela, currently in the grip of its leftist President Chavez is already the most active trade partner with Cuba, and Chavez would dearly like to take over Cuba, either directly or as a subordinate state to Venezuela keeping it as a Communistic government and cooperate with the Chinese in developing their oil wells in the Gulf of Mexico, less than 100 miles from the United States.

When the votes are counted on Sunday, we need to be monitoring the situation closely in order to protect our interests so close to our borders. Don't expect big changes, but rather small indications of the outside forces working on the leadership that does not have the iron-glove control of Fidel Castro.

*I'm Vance, and I'm Thinking Right*

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President Ronald Reagan said, "No arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is so formable as the will and moral courage of free men and women."

Candidates for President 2008

Some of the issues of greatest importance to Christian/Voters don't seem to be featured in the 'debates', and among these are Federal Judges, and specifically US Supreme Court Judges.

During the first Clinton years they nominated Ruth Bader Ginsburg, lead attorney for ACLU (anti-Christian liberty union), and also a member of there Board of Directors, and we will call that the '**Ginsburg Court**'.

President George Bush (the younger) finally got 2 members approved, Justice Samuel Alito Jr. and Chief Justice John Roberts, and we call this the '**Roberts Court**'. They join Justice Clarence Thomas and Justice Anthony Scalia. These 4 are Justices that can be counted on to stand with the US Constitution and not create new law as their feelings lead.

**What kind of court will the election winner leave us? It will influence generations to come.**

"If we ever forget that we are one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under." Ronald Reagan

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**How to Keep Reagan Out of Office** by [Ann Coulter](#) Posted: 02/20/2008

Inasmuch as the current presidential election has come down to a choice among hemlock, self-immolation or the traditional gun in the mouth, now is the time for patriotic Americans to review what went wrong and to start planning for 2012. How did we end up with the mainstream media picking the Republican candidate for president? It isn't the early primaries, it isn't that we allow Democrats to vote in many of our primaries, and it isn't that the voters are stupid. All of that was true or partially true in 1980 -- and we still got Ronald Reagan.

We didn't get Ronald Reagan this year not just because there's never going to be another Reagan. We will never again get another Reagan because Reagan wouldn't run for office under the current campaign-finance regime.

Three months ago, I was sitting with a half-dozen smart, successful conservatives whose names you know, all griping about this year's cast of presidential candidates. I asked them, one by one: Why don't you run for office?

Of course, none of them would. They are happy, well-adjusted individuals.

Reagan, too, had a happy life and, having had no trouble getting girls in high school, had no burning desire for power. So when the great California businessman Holmes Tuttle and two other principled conservatives approached Reagan about running for office, Reagan said no.

But Tuttle kept after Reagan, asking him not to reject the idea out of hand. He formed "Friends of Reagan" to raise money in case Reagan changed his mind.

He asked Reagan to give his famous "Rendezvous With History" speech at a \$1,000-a-plate Republican fundraiser in Los Angeles and then bought airtime for the speech to be broadcast on TV days before the 1964 presidential election.

The epochal broadcast didn't change the election results, but it changed history. That single broadcast brought in nearly \$1 million to

the Republican Party -- not to mention millions of votes for Goldwater.

After the astonishing response to Reagan's speech and Tuttle's continued entreaties, Reagan finally relented and ran for governor. In 1966, with the help, financial and otherwise, of a handful of self-made conservative businessmen, Reagan walloped incumbent Edmund G. (Pat) Brown, winning 57 percent of the vote in a state with two Democrats for every Republican. The rest is history -- among the brightest spots in all of world history.

None of that could happen today. (The following analysis uses federal campaign-finance laws rather than California campaign-finance laws because the laws are basically the same, and I am not going to hire a campaign-finance lawyer in order to write this column.)

If Tuttle found Ronald Reagan today, he couldn't form "Friends of Reagan" to raise money for a possible run -- at least not without hiring a battery of campaign-finance lawyers and guaranteeing himself a lawsuit by government bureaucrats. He'd also have to abandon his friendship with Reagan to avoid the perception of "coordination." Tuttle couldn't hold a \$1,000-a-plate fundraiser for Reagan -- at least in today's dollars. That would be a \$6,496.94-a-plate dinner (using the consumer price index) or a \$19,883.51-a-plate dinner (using the relative share of GDP). The limit on individual contributions to a candidate is \$2,300.

Reagan's "Rendezvous With History" speech would never have been broadcast on TV -- unless Tuttle owned the TV station.

Independent groups are prohibited from broadcasting electioneering ads 60 days before an election. A handful of conservative businessmen would not be allowed to make large contributions to Reagan's campaign -- they would be restricted to donating only \$2,300 per person.

Under today's laws, Tuttle would have had to go to Reagan and say: "We would like you to run for governor. You are limited to raising money \$300 at a time (roughly the current limits in 1965 dollars), so you will have to do nothing but hold fundraisers every day of your life for the next five years in order to run in the 1970 gubernatorial election, since clearly there isn't enough time to raise money for the 1966 election."

Also, Tuttle would have to tell Reagan: "We are not allowed to coordinate with you, so you're on your own. But wait -- it gets worse! After five years of attending rubber chicken dinners every single day in order to raise money in tiny increments, you will probably lose the election anyway because campaign-finance laws make it virtually impossible to unseat an incumbent.

"Oh, and one more thing: Did you ever kiss a girl in high school? Not even once? If not, then this plan might appeal to you!"

Obviously, Reagan would have returned to his original answer: No thanks.

Reagan loved giving speeches and taking questions from voters. The one part of campaigning Reagan loathed was raising money.

Thanks to our campaign-finance laws, fundraising is the single most important job of a political candidate today.

This is why you will cast your eyes about the nation in vain for another Reagan sitting in any governor's mansion or U.S. Senate seat.

Pro-lifers like to ask, "How many Einsteins have we lost to abortion?" I ask: How many Reagans have we lost to campaign-finance reform?

The campaign-finance laws basically restrict choice political jobs, like senator and governor - and thus president -- to:

(1) Men who were fatties in high school and consequently are willing to submit to the hell of running for office to compensate for their unhappy adolescences -- like Bill Clinton, Rudy Giuliani, Mike Huckabee and Newt Gingrich. (Somewhere in this great land of ours, even as we speak, the next Bill Clinton is waddling back to the cafeteria service line asking for seconds.)

(2) Billionaires and near-billionaires -- like Jon Corzine, Steve Forbes, Michael Bloomberg and Mitt Romney -- who can fund their own campaigns (these aren't necessarily sociopaths, but it certainly limits the pool of candidates).

(3) Celebrities and name-brand candidates -- like Arnold Schwarzenegger, George Bush, Giuliani and Hillary Clinton (which explains the nation's apparent adoration for Bushes and Clintons -- they've got name recognition, a valuable commodity amidst totalitarian restrictions on free speech).

(4) Mainstream media-anointed candidates, like John McCain and B. Hussein Obama.

What a bizarre coincidence that a few years after the most draconian campaign-finance laws were imposed via McCain-Feingold, our two front-runners happen to be the media's picks! It's uncanny -- almost as if by design! (Can I stop now, or do you people get sarcasm?) By prohibiting speech by anyone else, the campaign-finance laws have vastly magnified the power of the media -- which, by the way, are wholly exempt from speech restrictions under campaign-finance laws. The New York Times doesn't have to buy ad time to promote a politician; it just has to call McCain a "maverick" 1 billion times a year.

It is because of campaign-finance laws like McCain-Feingold that big men don't run for office anymore. Little men do. And John McCain is the head homunculus.

You want Reagan back? Restore the right to free speech, and you will have created the conditions that allowed Reagan to run.

*[Ann Coulter](#) is Legal Affairs Correspondent for HUMAN EVENTS and author of "[High Crimes and Misdemeanors](#)," "[Slander](#)," "[How to Talk to a Liberal \(If You Must\)](#)," "[Godless](#)," and most recently, "[If Democrats Had Any Brains, They'd Be Republicans](#)."*

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Please remember in your prayers for healing. A.T. and Margie Herring (surgery) and Tom Speairs (surgery) West Point grad. Class of 1972,

I have wondered at times about what the ten commandments would have looked like if Moses had to run them through the U.S. Senate. Ronald Reagan