

The Mature Viewpoint

Volume 1, Issue 2

November 2006

A Series of Firsts for Me

My discoveries during Election Day

By KarenJ

Tuesday, November 7th, marked a few firsts for me. First, one of my many I hope to do before I get to old to do it, came true. I was conducting exit polling for a reporter the Forum. Two, after almost 55 years, and even though I have been a volunteer on numerous campaigns, it was my first time to hold a campaign sign outside a polling station. The final first, will be discussed towards the end of this article.

Anyone who knows me well knows that I am a news junkie. I am always watching MSNBC, and for years I have watched ABC World News Tonight. The late Peter Jennings was and always will be the one person that I could look up to for reporting the news. Peter Jennings had a way about his reporting, that made people feel that he was talking to them, and not above them. Bringing news and note worthy articles to many, explaining the issues, not just talking about them. At the age of 15, Mr. Jennings opened my eyes up to the world of reporting, and to issues that the people of the 60's would start demanding answers for, from their parents and politicians. I remembered thinking, how I wished to be a reporter.

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About our Locale: Tampa, Florida

Where we live and why you should visit..

By Dee

Let me invite you to Tampa, Florida, and spend some time visiting this area. Tampa is located on the west coast of Central Florida. It's location on the Tampa Bay, connects, St. Pete, and Clearwater. Many beautiful beaches are found in St. Pete and Clearwater. The combined population of the three cities is 2.7 million people.

Tampa is a very old city founded around 1528, and has a rich history of Spanish Conquistadors. England acquired Florida in 1763 and named it Hillsborough after Lord Hillsborough.

Tampa is a very beautiful city. There are many beautiful big trees that are hundreds of years old in Tampa. And even though there are many new buildings, there are brick streets with wonderful, old houses that were built a hundred or more years ago on them.

Like many other big cities, Tampa has areas that are in a decaying state and need to be worked on to bring them up to par with the rest of the city.

Sports of every kind are located here in Tampa. One will find the Super Bowl Champions Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Stanley Cup Champions, the Tampa Bay Lightning. Even though Tampa is in a warm climate, the winter sports are big attractions here. The New York Yankees have their winter camp located here also.

Looking for things for the whole family to do, well, Bush Gardens is located in Tampa. And of course there are many malls to shop at, of course the downtown area has a large business community.

Finally, if you are looking for some great food, drinks

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Even though, I have written articles and have submitted articles from others, for the Forum, I would not consider myself a top-notch reporter. My daughter in law's brother is an editor for a major Massachusetts paper, which has won several Pulitzer prizes. I consider him being a reporter and a great writer. But on Tuesday, here I was in the parking lot of the Nottingham town offices, and I was asking people their thoughts after they had voted.

It was just before lunchtime, and although there was a steady stream of people in and out of the polls, I spoke to more men than women, about 20 people in all. But one thing came through; each had their own opinion about why they had voted the way they had. And even though they had different opinions, one thing came through, their opinions dealt with some form of change.

There were a few who spoke about the war in Iraq, either getting out now, or finding a way out soon, a few mentioned they wanted change in Washington, and by voting the way they did, was their way of getting the message sent to the politicians in Washington and here in New Hampshire. One man spoke about keeping his Amendment two rights in force, and yet some people were much more interested in the NH state races, then the US races. Those that were more interested in our state races were concerned about education, how to pay for it, making decisions of how to pay our children's education now instead of later, how to keep giving our children the best possible education in our state. There were also opinions on whether or not we should have an income or sales tax and of course the issue of property taxes. Many wondering how much higher their property taxes would go, knowing that most of our small towns have now grown larger, and will need larger police and fire fighting forces, and possibly some expansion of schools or even building new schools.

What occurred to me, was that these few people, a small cross section of voters in a non-scientific poll, had the same message, we all want change, but how do we do it, how do we support it, and what is the direction we are supposed to go in for this change. It was interesting to talk to these people, to get their opinions, to get a pulse on the feelings in Nottingham. As I viewed the returns last night and listened to the many commentaries and analyses, I realized that these 20 people in New Hampshire were very much like those in the rest of the country. It didn't matter if we were from a red or blue state, we were Americans, voting, expressing our concerns, and hoping that the politicians were hearing what we were saying.

When I woke up on Tuesday, I was thrilled it wasn't raining, snowing, or below zero. I had volunteered to hold a campaign sign, and while I had no problems with doing that, I did have problems with how the

weather would be. While we didn't have cold temperatures, there was very little sun, and the wind picked up in the afternoon, making it feel colder than it was. I shivered at the site of several men coming in to vote, in shorts, while I had gloves on my hands.

I didn't know what to expect standing in line with strangers, who were holding signs for the candidates they supported. Would they talk to a person of the opposite party? What would we talk about, and what would people say to us as they were walking into vote?

My concerns were soon eased, when all the people who were standing in line with their campaign signs welcomed me. The democrat supporters did outnumber the republicans, but that didn't matter. In no time at all, we were all talking about children, grandchildren, our candidates, town elections, and trips to Disney. Here was a group of strangers, which for several hours became friends, and enjoyed their time being together, regardless of who they supported. We went from federal and state election discussions, to discussions dealing with Nottingham issues. Yet all the time, we smiled, greeted the voters, took time to speak with friends and neighbors, and felt proud that we were representing our candidates.

I was surprised at the friendliness of the voters, who passed us. One young woman came out with a plate full of brownies and other snacks she had bought just for us. She wanted to thank us for standing outside. We had others say, we had lucked out in with the weather; others said hi, and others just smiled and continued their walk inside. One man came up to us and said, how long have you all been out here. Since 8, some of us said, others replied, we have been here only a few hours ago. He looked at all of us, and his expression turned serious. I want to thank each of you for standing here, taking your time and supporting each of your candidates. He continued with, you are doing a great job. As he exited the building, he again thanked us.

A few others stopped to thank us also. But this one man left me with a thought of long ago. A memory of when I would walk into the polls with my parents, and I would see people holding campaign signs and passing out campaign literature. I remember my parents telling me that these were important people that were standing there. They were important because they were doing a great task in volunteering, and showing their support for the people that they believed and trusted.

It was then; after all of these years I realized what it is truly like to live in a democracy. Here I was supporting a person I wanted, not someone that I HAD to support.

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An Exciting Vista Has Opened UP

A Look at Recent Events

By MaryAnn

Well, isn't this exciting? Our world now has more checks and balances and a hopeful new look on the horizon !!!

Life keeps us swaying back and forth, like a pendulum. One day up, one day down. One day in, one day out. We don't always know which way to go or whether to even move from the spot we are in. When suddenly POW something happens to jolt us out of our complacency and makes us deal again with our problems, with our lives, with ourselves.

Like the fresh breath of air that wafts in off the Gulf, or the first leaf falling off the beautiful tree wrapped in gold color in the fall, or the first snow of winter that tells us, "Time for change" and "Change is here".

Personally I struggle with change where others welcome it. I try so hard to jump in and put my loving arms around it, and yet at the same time, I take a step back and wonder at its awe, afraid it will cause me more harm than good. But how ever it turns out, I know the world is still revolving and I am still evolving, and nothing can really stop me from growing or learning or understanding. Nothing, that is, but my own self doubt.

Isn't life beautiful

Organizational Report

An Update on our organization

Harvey

This will be the first "State of the Organization" report to the membership. I expect to provide a series of interim reports on our organization including our financial status.

A bit of background:

After putting up with a lot of slurs, and banning of our

and entertainment, head over to Ebor City. There is so much fun and excitement there every night of the week. On Saturday nights, there is so much going on, you might even think you are at Mardi Gras in New Orleans, instead of Tampa.

This is my town, Tampa, come visit us and find out why so many of us love to live here.

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I was amazed at myself, and the feelings that I had at that moment. After all of these years voting, and writing letters to government officials, I had finally gotten it! It was a first for me unlike any other first. I was proud of myself, but also proud of everyone else, who had taken the time to volunteer, to support, to vote.

It seemed like a very short time, but after almost 5 hours, it was time for me to leave my little group of volunteers. I thanked them for making the time pass so quickly. We shared a few more laughs and wished each other good luck with the final total of ballots for our candidates. I know I will be seeing some of them again, since we are in the same political party.

As I walked slowly and painfully away, hoping that some feeling would return from my knees down to my feet, I felt a great deal of pride and accomplishment. I would feel that way later in the evening when my candidate would win.

But those few hours on Tuesday afternoon, will be something that will always be remembered as one of the most exciting, and educational days of my life.

Board Member Elections

We're Getting Organized

Harvey

Executive Director – SCC

As many of you know, we are finally getting an organization in place. We have nominations for an Executive Board to provide organization support and oversight. We will also be opening the nomination process for an Advisory Board immediately following the election of our Executive Board.

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friends, a group of AARP posters decided to create an oasis of friends, mature thought and a potentially new advocacy organization. The Advocacy aspect was a dream at the time, but it was there all the same. Initially, all we wanted to do was create a forum where we would be able to gather and share ideas without the slash and burn experiences from the other site.

We identified a forum software package and started the forum off on a member's family web site. After a few days of posting, it appeared that this software and our idea had merit and so I took the initiative to acquire and set up a web site facility and we were, as they say, off and running.

Once we had the web site, we established the Senior Citizen's Consortium as a Virginia Not For Profit corporation. We now have our official corporation charter, both state and local employer identification numbers and are basically recognized as an official corporate entity.

Other Site/Organization Services

Most people who use the forum, don't realize that we have other facilities. These include a blog software package, and a chat package. We also have opinion pages for the WEB SITE and accept input from members for White Papers, and detailed comprehensive opinion pages.

Financial Report

When we started this web site, there were approximately 8 people total in the initial group. Further, we had no capability for handling donations, or dues or any other financial revenue stream.

Once our corporation was established, an SCC checking account was opened. There was a requirement for cash to be deposited at the start so I deposited a basic sum of \$100.00. We also acquired a post office mail box for the organization. These two items were to primarily secure the ability for the organization to obtain sufficient cash flow to become a self sustaining entity.

Having invested a considerable sum in the ramp up activities, I was grateful to see you folks were also ready and willing to contribute to the organization. There were so many of you continuing to ask when you could start sending in contributions or payments. Finally we had everything in place and the contributions/dues have been coming in.

Current Status:

Contributors to date: 11 Members

Total Revenue to Date: \$490.00 dollars

Initial Expenditures for startup: \$464.94

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The election for the Executive Board Members is currently underway and will be ending on Monday, November 20th. We will hopefully have a list of the new Executive Board Members posted on the Web Site Forum on Tuesday Morning, the 21st.

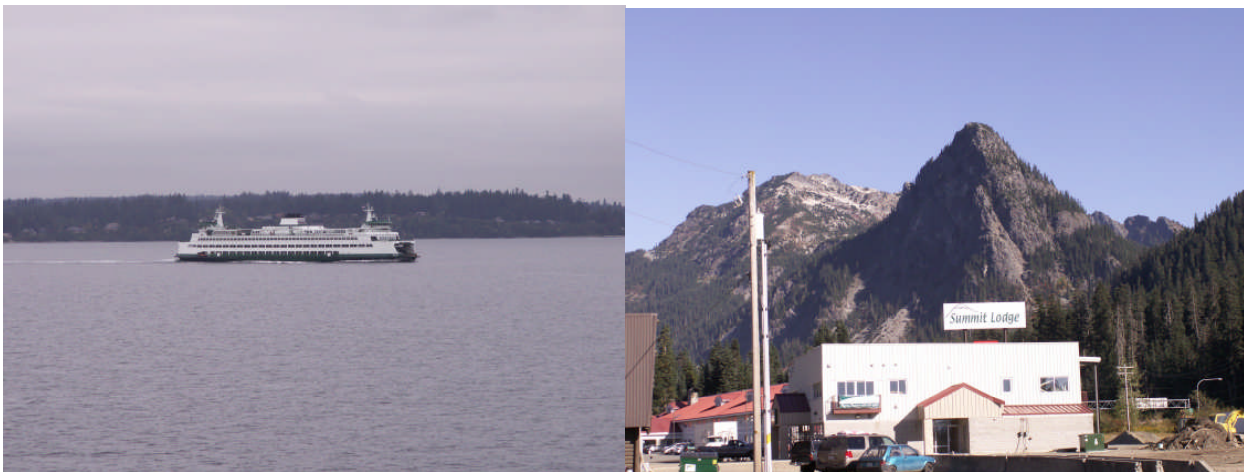
As soon as the Executive Board elections are completed, we will open nominations for the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board will be focused primarily on the operations of the Forum and other SCC Web Site facilities. It will adjudicate the removal of a member from the forum posting and determine whether the member should be fully banned, restored to full privileges or some determination in between.

Other duties and responsibilities will be determined by the Advisory Board Members as they develop their charter. The SCC Executive Director and the SCC Deputy Executive Director will be members of the board in an advisory capacity.

This page reserved for future articles and photographs.



Just a couple of Senior Pictures to give an example of what we can put into the newsletter.



Washington State, Ferry transiting Puget Sound and the Snoqualmie Pass Summit Lodge