



# Venango Patriot News

The official newsletter of the Venango County TEA Party Patriots  
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"If Congress can do whatever in their discretion can be done by money, and will promote the General Welfare, the Government is no longer a limited one, possessing enumerated powers, but an indefinite one, subject to particular exceptions." --James Madison, letter to Edmund Pendleton, 1792

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## Personal Freedom and Personal Responsibility

*Kent Cornmesser, President*

Many citizens are alarmed at how rapidly the political, social, and economic fabric of our state and our nation is changing; every day we hear another story of disregard for the Constitution, lascivious spending of tax dollars, and corrosion of personal freedoms.

Yet there is a dark side to our loud murmuring and complaining that is seldom addressed: personal freedom demands personal responsibility.

We cannot have it both ways. We either take responsibility for ourselves, our families, and our communities, or we cede that responsibility to our government. I cannot exercise responsibility where I do not have authority. Conversely, when I give up responsibility I am also giving up authority.

People say that they want the government to honor the Constitution and exercise fiscal restraint, but how badly do we want that? A close examination of the Constitution and the writings of the founding fathers will reveal some startling facts, and some uncomfortable truths. For instance, it is true that Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, property taxes, and income taxes are all unconstitutional (at least in their present

## For Your Reading Pleasure

*Tait Brady, Vice President*

In my previous newsletter article, I indicated that an action plan was necessary to begin to reclaim our great nation. Today's article will center on the educational aspect of that plan.

This article is intended to be a guide for those of you who have struggled to become educated on our nation's laws and founding. It will provide you with some basic resources to begin your journey of understanding. After reading this, if you have any particular favorites or suggestions that are not discussed, feel free to let us know and we will review the suggestions and pass them on in subsequent articles.

### The Basics

*The Five Thousand Year Leap* by Dr. W.

Cleon Skousen – Excellent starter book.

It provides a historical perspective on our founder's ideas and the forming of the nation. It serves as a good way to introduce the Constitution if you are unfamiliar.

*The United States Constitution* – This is our "rule book". Unfortunately, many are painfully unaware of its contents. If it is difficult to absorb, the following two resources may help:

(Reading pleasure)

***The Making of America: The Substance and Meaning of the Constitution*** by Dr. W. Cleon Skousen. This is very easy to follow and summarizes many ideas found in ***The Five Thousand Year Leap*** before delving into the Constitution. It then delivers a description of many portions of the Constitution and the framers' "logic" behind the formation of the Articles/Bill of Rights.

### **The Advanced**

***The Heritage Guide to the Constitution*** by Edwin Meese and Matthew Spalding. More advanced than the above mentioned book. Breaks down the Constitution line by line and also gives historical context in their meaning. For the most part, maintains a writing level that non-legal experts can follow.

***Common Sense*** by Thomas Paine. The "pamphlet" that sparked the American Revolution. This effectively communicates the moral reasoning behind the need for independence. Some "older" terminology but still understandable.

### **More Advanced**

***The Federalist Papers*** by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay. A series of 85 essays created to help explain the Constitution when contemplating ratification. These are a good resource; however, they can be very wordy and difficult to follow. The most "famous" essays are Federalist Paper #10 (which relates to 'factious spirits') and #47 (separation of powers).

***\*Anything written by our founders!\**** - Unfortunately we no longer "have the time" to explore the first hand writings of our founding fathers in attempt to understand their thoughts when forming our nation. As a result, we read others' interpretations. If we "go to the source" we can generate our own knowledge of their true intent.

(Responsibility)

forms). While this may seem like a "no brainer", the question is: Are you willing to give up these "benefits" for the good of the state or the nation?

I have often said that I was less appalled by the governmental robbery of the "cash for clunkers" program than I was by the fact that 700,000 unscrupulous Americans thought it was perfectly OK to take money from their neighbors and fellow citizens to buy a new car. If the people of America had thought about this for just one minute and said "No – this is immoral and I am not taking this money", the program would have been stillborn and Obama would have been on the losing side of the present political morass. Instead, the program was declared a "success" by its supporters and the American tax payer was left holding the bag – again.

We do have the power as individuals to curb our government, if we would exercise it. All we have to do is say "no" to the government trough – and begin to educate others to say "no", too.

### **Voter Registration Information**

**April 19 is the last day to register in order to vote in the May primaries.** Mail-in voter registration forms are available from Venango County TEA Party Patriots, the county courthouse, and many other venues. Please make sure you are registered to vote, and please make sure you are prepared to vote in both the primaries and the general election.

**May 18 is the primary election this year in Pennsylvania.** The primary election this year may be more important than the general election-if we don't get good candidates nominated in the primary, the general election won't matter much.

# Comments

We may have lost the battle, but we have not lost the war.

While Obamacare is the law of the land, at least for now, the process of getting there has been very educational. For one thing, it took this president an entire year to “get his way” with health care. For another thing he did not get everything he wanted. Those opposed to the government take over of health care in America were not entirely defeated.

Another interesting thing about the health care debacle is the measures that the president was willing to go to in order to pass this legislation. The president has made several things abundantly clear through his actions:

1. **The President has low regard for the rule of law.** He does not believe in or support the Constitution of the United States, contrary to the oath of office he took. The health care legislation contains a number of provisions that are clearly unconstitutional. It also nullifies many individual freedoms that the federal government does not have the right to intrude upon – all of which obviously means nothing to the President.
2. **The President does not believe in majority rule.** We have never in history had the ability we have now to determine the will of the American people. People from every walk of life tried desperately to get the President and Congress to hear our voices; we even expressed ourselves via the ballot

(remember Massachusetts?) – all to no avail. The President and Congress expressed an utter contempt for the will of the people of the United States.

3. **The President’s words can not be trusted.** During this whole process the president held backroom secret meetings, cut unethical political deals, and hid the process from the American people. He paid a fortune in taxpayer dollars to buy the votes he needed. So much for honesty and transparency, and so much for broadcasting the whole thing on C-Span!

It will be interesting to see whether this legislation passes constitutional muster in the courts. But it will be more interesting to see whether or not the American people will remember these events in May and November. If not, then I can only assume the American people have the government they want – and perhaps the government they deserve.

## Upcoming Events:

**April 15, 2010:** Tax Day TEA Party 6:30 p.m. Bandstand Park, Franklin.

**April 17, 2010:** 9:00 a.m. Venango County TEA Party Patriots meeting at the Fireside Restaurant, Seneca, PA.

**May 8, 2010:** Making of America Seminar Seneca Hills Bible Conference 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Co-sponsored with Lighthouse Ministries and American Family Association of Pennsylvania)

**May 18, 2010:** Primary Election

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