

PAULY'S PERSPECTIVE

A Message from Our President Deborah Pauly, J.D.



Confusion, Discord Present Opportunities for Those Outside the Fray

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy isn't even close to breaking any records...yet. In 1849, voting to select a Speaker of the House went 59 failed rounds. In 1856, voting went 133 failed rounds over two months. (Rep. Nathaniel Banks of Massachusetts finally won as Speaker of the 34th Congress over Rep. William Aiken of South Carolina 103 to 100 in the final vote.) At that time in our history, our nation was literally on the brink of a Civil War.



More recently, it's been nearly a century since it took multiple votes to elect a speaker. That was in December 1923 when voting went nine ballots over three days.

As I write this column, there have been 11 rounds of voting over a three-day period to select a Speaker of the House to formally convene legislative action by the 118th Congress.

"No persons having received a majority of the whole number of votes cast by surname, a speaker has not been elected," announced the Clerk of the Congress at 2:16 p.m., 4:01 p.m., and 5:25 p.m. on January 3; at 1:41 p.m., 3:15 p.m., and 4:32 p.m. on January 4; at 1:40 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 4:48 p.m., 6:14 p.m. and 7:49 p.m. on January 5.

(Oh, wait. A 12th failed round just came in over my news feed. I can't even write fast enough to keep up the McCarthy's failures to win the speakership.)

Everyone is pontificating on what it means and who is in the wrong. The best quote I've read was from Rod Thomas of *American Greatness*:

"...the endless drivel about a 'dysfunctional' House is nonsense. It was well-functioning Houses that put us under the thumb of powerful, untouchable, invisible federal authoritarians."

As many conservatives know, Thomas was referring to Congress ceding its discretion and authority to unelected bureaucrats.

But we must admit that there is a civil war raging within the Republican Party. This is something that CPOC has been discussing for more than one year.

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Same problems in Orange County

We've got the same problems in Orange County, where the Board of Supervisors rubber stamps whatever unelected bureaucrats put in front of them. CPOC and other patriot groups have been sending a wide range of citizens to address their grievances to the Supervisors on this process and the outcomes that have worked against our better interests. As more citizens come to understand what has been happening while they've been trying to live peaceful and productive lives, they are showing up at the Board of Supervisor meetings as well as their own city council meetings to talk to their elected representatives. At supervisor meetings, constituents are met with apathy, blatant annoyance and even threats of being arrested for understandably passionate words.

The people are frustrated!

That's why there is a civil war raging in the Republican Party. That war is between freedom caucus conservatives and the swamp, which we used to call the entrenched establishment. The swamp plays footsie under the table with Democrats, leading some to conclude that we are being governed by a "uni-party" and there is little difference between the two. Each side points to the other as the boogie man to fire up their base and give blame for society's ills, failing economy, rising prices, etc.

Do you need more evidence of this civil war? The California Federation of Republican Women appears to be imploding. See the article in this issue about what has been happening at that organization. CPOC was born out of the dissolution of the Orange Republican Women Federated. The women in leadership at that time took proactive steps to get out from under that centralized control before it fell in on itself. Centralized control is akin to communism. It does not work. By comparison, we can look to the Newport Harbor Republican Women. The leaders there never chartered as a part of the California Federation of Republican Women, instead choosing to remain autonomous and enjoy local control of their activities and funds. As a result, they continue to thrive. We can list other Federation clubs that went independent and are prospering.

CPOC is autonomous and we enjoy local control over our activities and funds.

CPOC has also taken action to support a change in leadership at the Republican National Committee. Our Board of Directors has unanimously voted to endorse and support Harmeet Dhillon in her bid to oust Ronna Romney McDaniel as chairwoman of the Republican National Committee. You can read more about that [here](#).

Interesting aside: It is our understanding that Kevin McCarthy has promised to support the current California Republican Party Chairwoman Jessica Patterson for RNC chairwoman in the next term. Jessica has a vested interest in voting to retain a weak and ineffectual chairwoman, which would **not** be Harmeet.

We need to shake things up!

CPOC's first three months of 2023 are planned. Join us the third Thursday of each month for dinner, fellowship and exchange of information and ideas for how we can move forward to be part of the solution.

Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you on January 19.

