

Governor McAuliffe! What Should Tea Party Conservatives Do?

Although America says it is Middle-to-Right it is increasing being trained to either depend on government or to want from government. 'Depend On' and 'Want From' are not the same. The former is based on fear and expectation of free handouts, a lack of self-reliance or capability. The latter is based on being self-centered and self-serving. Whichever, DO or WF, about half of us are comfortable with the present trend towards a bigger and more powerful government. That half includes elected officials, all Democrats and all to many Republicans, and citizens who drink the Kool Aid of those officials. The other half includes the Disengaged Conservatives, who are either busy trying to get ahead on their own merits or who are simply disengaged, and the Tea Party Conservatives. There is little difference between the DC and the TPC in their position on Big and Controlling Government.

Now here is the rub: A goodly portion of the TPC is hardly more active than the DC. A goodly portion of the TPC simply attends monthly Tea Party meetings and for the rest of the month goes about doing nothing. Out of 100 individuals who see themselves as being part of a Tea Party perhaps 5 are actively engaged. The rest are simply the Choir. They meet on "Sundays", they "sing", and then they go back to their homes to watch the afternoon football game. There is nothing unusual about this. This is true of about every organization, except for Democrats, Liberals, and Progressives.

So it is up to those "5 out of a hundred" to convince the DC that the TPC are the same as they are except more pro-active and to educate the DO that they are being taken for a ride. The first important aspect of this challenge is to not wait until 2015 to begin the convincing and educating. The second is to discover how to do that.

Communications is most important. The focus should be on what to say, how to say it, when to say it, and to whom to say it. Phrasing what is said needs to be based on the ears hearing it. More to the point: Liberals and Progressives get away with raising hell and being obnoxious in public because their audience is obnoxious. DC's are, by their very nature, not obnoxious and consequently do not relate well to those who are, even if they are equally conservative. Personally, I stopped standing on the sidewalk yelling and holding up a sign to protest or to convey a conservative message. That behavior may call attention to yourself, it may get a news reporter to write or broadcast a snickering coverage, it may get a politician to momentarily stand and watch. But it does not solve the situation. It does not convert anyone. It does not enlist more people into the ranks. So I suggest the following and ask that you think about how to best increase the numbers in the ranks of the TPC.

First, stop spending so much time talking to the Choir. The Choir is going to be at every monthly meeting. The choir will sing and then go home to watch the

football game until the next meeting. The challenge for the 5-out-of-a-hundred is to increase the size of the Congregation. To do that you will have to talk face-to-face with the DC. This means giving talks at Rotary, Ruritan, Garden Club, etc. meetings and having one-on-one rational discussions. It means going to high school games and casually talking to the parents. And keep in mind that you will need to be informed and organized in presenting your case in a fashion that almost seems as if you are not presenting a case.

Second, learn how to use Liberal/Progressive statements to undo their message. For example, on October 15 of this year Mary Ann Owens, a journalism professor at Virginia commonwealth University, claimed Ken Cuccinelli (R) thinks women are “simple sperm receptacles [sic] and birthing machines.”, click [HERE](#). The reply should have been: “Ken Cuccinelli simply believes a woman is responsible for what she choses. When a Liberal advocates abortion he or she is saying ‘you can be a sperm receptor without responsibility for your own actions.’ So if anyone is promoting a young woman to accept being a victim it is the Liberal who has just denigrated that young woman’s image of herself.

The message that should be conveyed is “Conservatives are not saying the young woman has sinned and therefore needs to be punished. They are saying Liberals have sinned by convincing the young woman she is not capable of having responsibility, much like a slave must depend on its master for all its needs.” Figure out how to say this to the young woman directly and without offense but rather with sympathy. Figure out how to do much the same with every appropriate subject and talk directly, one-on-one with those whom Rush Limbaugh designates as ‘Low Informed Voters’.

Third, learn how to talk calmly, rationally, and convincingly with elected officials. Learn how to use the savvy that comes from a well-organized and well-planned understanding of the subject. Learn how to convey the message face-to-face in such a tone and clarity that the elected official has no alternative but to listen and find themselves in agreement.

There is more to be said about all of what the TPC needs to learn and do. What said here is just a small portion. What is said here is simply that the paradigm for conveying the message needs to be changed.