

Home Grown Politics Across NH Farmland to Concord and Washington

Well, the elections are over and New Hampshire is returning to normal for at least a little while. No more mail boxes stuffed with candidate literature, no more attack ads in the mail box or on TV, no more phone calls or, worse. Robo calls. The top of ticket races were certainly negative. I wish we could be positive and run on our records and qualifications without trying to destroy our opponents. I did not make a single call, let alone a robo call. I mailed nothing and of course no TV or radio ads. I just ran on my record and my qualifications

The results of the election were interesting. Nationally the Republicans made big gains, all across the country, while here in New Hampshire we had a mixed bag. Governor, Senator and one of our two congressional districts went Democrat, while the same folks voted to give NH a Republican Majority in both houses and the Governor's Council. I only draw two conclusions. We are a purple state and "All politics are local." I guess name recognition and the candidates also matter.

This year the Legislative and Agriculture Department has given three awards at the state level. The Legislator of the Year was presented at the annual awards banquet to retiring State Representative David Campbell (d) of Nashua. Dave sponsored the gas tax increase that finally passed after his trying for years. Rep. Campbell was persistent and finally passed a bill that raised the so called road toll by 4 cents. I was one of only 17 Republicans to vote for it, but feel no guilt at all. It has been more than 20 years since the last increase. Asphalt costs have increased hundreds of percent and automobile gas mileage has increased significantly as well, leaving fewer and fewer highway dollars to fix our roads. I personally want to see the I-93 widening completed. That will be good for tourism and commerce and my commute.

Hillsborough County Pomona will be the host for the awarding of this year's Century Farm award, going to Brookdale Fruit Farm of Hollis. The farm has been in the same family and on the same land since 1847 and is the second largest fruit and vegetable grower in the state. They were the recipient of a "Farm of Distinction" award a couple of years ago. Dr. Christina Murdock, DVM is the winner of our "Friend of NH Agriculture" award given at Hudson Grange. Dr. Murdock is a graduate of Alvirne High School and their Vet Tech Program, and the FFA. She has a degree in Veterinary Medicine from Colorado State and is a large animal Vet. She is one of the few large and small animal Vets that is strictly a mobile Vet. She makes house calls for not only Elsie the Cow, but for Fido and the cat. Christina has also received an award from the NH Farm Bureau this year as one of the Young Farmers.

Your new Legislative and Agriculture team of Jim Tetreault and Tara Sad along with me look forward to the next two years under State Master Chris Heath.

Our next meeting will be at Deputy School. One of the things we are looking at is to hold the National Grange Legislative Fly-In next year in NH timed for the Presidential Primary. This is a chance for State Grange Legislative Directors to fly in from all over to witness the NH First in the Nation Primary. Some other things we look forward to are: Hosting Northeast Leaders Conference in NH, Grange Day at the State House and of course Grange Day at the Big E.