

## BOB MENGES – US CONSTITUTION SPEAKER

Bob Menges, a US Constitutional Law expert, provided an interesting and challenging presentation to the club at our meeting on May 7th. Thanks to Nancy Ball who brought Bob to the group, Bob gave us a primer on the constitution and just a glimpse of his course content on US Constitutional law for high school and church groups. Bob has advised many local political figures on the subject, including current Senator Tim Scott and political candidate Curtis Bostik. Bob emphasized the constitution as a rule of law and guide of limits of power of the 3 branches of federal government. Today he sees dysfunction in all 3 branches as they stray from the proscribed powers elucidated and enumerated in the constitution. The executive and judicial branches legislate via regulation and decrees from the bench respectively, while the legislature allows that to happen.



**Bob Menges shows the concern and commitment he has for the US Constitution**

The more that elected officials “feel” that they know better than the electorate, the more we will see of this trend of regulation and control, called the “Nanny State” by some. Bob believes that many students in the last 30 years have graduated without knowing the content, meaning, and power of the constitution. Thus they cannot be expected to be informed voters. His central quotation is on his business card and from George Nicholas [Richmond, Virginia, 1788]: “An enlightened people will never suffer what was established for their security to be perverted to an act of tyranny.” The key issue today as he sees it is the loss of an enlightened electorate and the rise of an uninformed populace. This deficit has, in his opinion, led us to the perversion of the political system that we face today. Whether through lack of knowledge or strategic intent, many politicians of the last century have been happy to see an uninformed electorate that can be more easily manipulated and influenced. Combine that with no term limits and the ability to allocate funds [free “stuff” & \$\$ for specific groups] and you have the loss of the best interests of the country as a whole and the explosion of individual greed & power. Encouraged by recent election of constitutionalists like Scott, Rubio, & Cruz, Bob is on the road to bring back that “enlightenment” and single handedly doing his best to re-educate us on the actual powers & meaning of the US Constitution!

Ironically we have seen this slide in the function of the political system over the last 200 years in the US. The original model for democracy in Greece lasted only ~200 years before falling apart & being overcome by the Macedonians. This all serves as a reminder that we better get our act together as a nation or face the same outcome. Thanks to Bob we held a good discussion of the topic and got a lot to think about- good & bad.

**As an editorial note, the IRS has recently been caught in a firestorm of controversy regarding the illegal bias against groups with conservative leanings but, according to the US Inspector General’s Report of investigation of the IRS, they also targeted those groups involved in education & promotion of the US Constitution & the Bill of Rights!! How ironic that the IRS turns against the basic documents that are the foundation of the United States!!!**