

# Letters

## Remember When

Louise Andrus, Salisbury

Do you remember when Andover had a high school? I grew up in Wilmot. At the end of the 8th grade we had to go somewhere else for high school. When I graduated we had a huge class, 10 students. Some went to New London High School and the remainder of us usually attended the former Andover High School. My parents drove me back and forth from Wilmot to Andover every day for four years to go to school. There were no school buses from Wilmot to Andover. That was a commitment by my parents.

In the Andover High School there were 7th through 12th grades, with a total of 100 to 120 students more or less. Everyone looked after one another. We all knew each other. It was like one big family.

The now Andover Hub was the former Andover town hall, and that is where the school played basketball, held the mid winter carnival dance and the senior prom.

There were very few sports back then. Like there was girls and boys basketball, boys baseball, and cheerleading. I was a cheerleader and it was oh so much fun. Have a smile as I remember one of the cheers: Lean to the left, lean to the right, sit down, stand up and fight fight fight.

As for academics I remember Mrs. Childs who taught the science subjects, Mrs. Rayno who taught English, and Mrs. Lamothe who taught the Business subjects. Mrs. Lamothe was a very positive teacher who said, "I can't" was not in her vocabulary. To this day I have always carried that message with me.

Those were four great years of my life, and Andover should be proud of the high school that used to be. Andover citizens should also be proud of, and no matter what circumstances that might arise ever think of giving up, the independence to control their elementary school.

## Report from Concord, September 2019

Ken Wells

New Hampshire Representative

The Legislature has supposedly been on recess since June, but I have actually been extremely busy in Concord since then. Undoubtedly you will have read that during the recess, the Governor vetoed 55 bills that had passed with majorities in both the House and Senate, many of them with overwhelming bipartisan support. Depending on your ideology, you might think vetoes are great, or you might think they are undemocratic. In this article, I will explain some of the possible consequences and follow-up to the vetoes.

To understand how we got to the place we are today, a vital piece of information is that Democrats have been elected by the New Hampshire people to occupy 58% of the seats in both House and Senate, so they have been able to win the simple majority on bills passed during the regular session. However, to override a gubernatorial veto, a vote of two-thirds of those present is required, so Republicans need to also support the bills if an override is to be achieved. So far, enough House Republicans crossed over to override the Governor on only three issues, resulting in abolition of the death penalty in New Hampshire, an elimination of a three-month waiting period before a doctor can prescribe medical marijuana to a new qualified patient, and a law allowing qualified medical marijuana patients to grow their own plants. This last bill did not get sufficient Republican votes in the Senate however, and the Governor's veto of it was sustained. An additional 22 bills vetoes were sustained, so they are now dead. By the time you read this, another special House session will have decided the fate of the rest of the 55 vetoed bills.

In the past week, I have received dozens of requests from constituents, imploring me to vote to override one or another of the Governor's 55 vetoes. I still think of myself as a teacher and active community member more than as a politician, but I do believe this is what politics is about: listening to the voices of you, the people in our district, and presenting your case in Concord. I do not merely follow party lines, but I have tried to vote with the wishes expressed to me by people who have reached out to me in the Andover, Danbury & Salisbury district. As your Representatives, David Karrick and I have worked very hard toward supporting our schools, getting property tax relief and supporting biomass for renewable energy and local jobs. Unfortunately Governor Sununu used his veto and tough political tactics within his own party to derail

these efforts.

"Politician" has become a pejorative term for manipulative and devious people. Regrettably, I have encountered too many examples of that type of politician / lobbyist around the State House, but that's a story for another article.

I have heard directly from Representatives who are my friends on the other side of the aisle that the Governor called them personally and harangued them, not to vote for the best interests of their constituents, but to support him and his vetoes. They were told flat out that if they do not vote to sustain his vetoes, they could expect a primary re-election challenge from their own party in 2020. The Governor is an accomplished politician, and his undemocratic arm-twisting seemed to work. Good-sense bills that breezed through the House with fewer than 100 votes in opposition suddenly had more than 150 votes in opposition to a veto, and were quashed by veto. The biomass bill HB183 was one of these. As a result, all of the biomass generation plants will remain shut and timberland owners will probably shift from sustainable harvests, to "cashing out" and clearing land for house lots, or to a cessation of forestry activity until conditions are more favorable. These outcomes will not be good for the livelihoods of many of our families, friends and neighbors.

There was insufficient Republican support to override the Governor's vetoes of many other good bills, and they also fell short of the two-thirds majority to override the vetoes. Some important vetoes sustained include the entire state budget, a bill to establish an independent commission to address gerrymandering of voting districts, and a bill that would reopen the wood chip fired electric generation plants that underpin the forestry industry in our district. The vetoed budget would have ensured, among dozens of items, family medical leave insurance. The vetoed budget would have put the brakes on the Governor's scheme for year-after-year tax reductions for out-of-state corporations. Governor Sununu's veto means your property taxes will have to increase to pay for the lost revenue due to his corporate tax breaks. The vetoed budget had proposed a revenue-sharing program that would have added a total of \$318,000 of state money to the combined elementary and middle school budgets for the towns of Andover, Danbury and Salisbury. This was also vetoed. It appears the Governor has won, but also clear that we, the people of New Hampshire, have lost. One might ask, where is that money going to go instead? The answer

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## TOWN MATTERS!

The *Beacon* needs volunteers to help with reporting about town news and/or taking pictures around town.

The *Beacon* is not just *about* our community – it's *by* our community. Everyone works for the *Beacon*! Call Shelley at 735-6099

## EMT's Needed!

### Emergency Medical Responder Course

Beginning October 11 at New London Hospital

The *Emergency Medical Responder* (EMR) certification replaces the old *First Responder* certification. EMR is designed for firefighters or police officers to provide care to the sick or injured prior to EMS arrival, and as entry level for EMS providers who want to work at the scene and continue care during ambulance transport to a medical facility.

#### Students learn how to:

- safely approach the scene
- assess the patient
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- open airways
- Provide ventilation and
- administer oxygen
- stop bleeds
- stabilize fractures
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**Location:** New London Hospital, New London, NH

**Dates/Times:** October 11–13 & 18–20, Fridays 4–8 P.M., Sat/Sun 8 A.M.–6 P.M.

**Tuition:** ~~\$495.00~~, \$350. This special course is for Fire Fighters, Police, or those committed to license as EMS providers at a local service.

Students must have a current BLS CPR to finish, the opportunity for a new card will be available.

**Text:** AAOS Emergency Medical Responder, 6th Edition

**For more information or to register:** Contact Bill Kane, thekaneschools@gmail.com, or visit www.thekaneschools.com

**The Kane Schools, Wild & Rescue Medicine**

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