

NORTH PORT AREA REPUBLICAN CLUB GENERAL MEETING April 22, 2024

Meeting Called to order at 6:01 pm by Mike Patricoski, Vice President

Invocation By: Barbara Vaughn

Pledge of Allegiance Led By: Sheriff Kurt Hoffman

Before the meeting began, all members signed the membership roster. All members in good standing received lanyards with name tags. Visitors signed the guest Log and wore name tags. No recording of the proceedings was announced.

It was announced that Mark Frandsen is recovering from Heart Surgery. Continued prayers were requested for Mark and Dawn.

Secretary and Treasurer Reports were available for review.

Officials and Candidates were introduced by Mike and all were welcomed.

Announcements:

The speakers were thanked for their commitment to our community. The NPARC Board was acknowledged for assisting with organizing this meeting in Mark's absence.

Request donations, if able, to help us offset costs for venue and food. Drinks to be purchased at the bar.

Next Meeting on May 20th will feature State's Attorney Ed Brodsky. The date will be the 3rd Monday due to Memorial Day and the meeting will be held here at the Hampton at 6pm. You will receive Emailed invites and agendas.

Please save the date for Saturday July 13th, 2024. This is our annual club Candidate Picnic at the Dallas White Park Scout House. The event will begin at 11:30am. Please bring a dish to pass. Fee of \$10 per adult. The club will provide burgers, hot dogs and refreshments.

Prior to the Speakers presentation, Mike read the Candidate/Incumbent Format agreed to by the speakers and NPARC. Since Mr. Jerry Manegold was unable to attend, Mike will conduct the speaker presentation. The Format listing is attached to these minutes. Per the Format, Ms. Pozzie was introduced.

She began her presentation by introducing herself and her family that were present. She noted she has been a North Port resident for 18-20 years. She would be the first North Port resident elected to serve in Tallahassee. She home schooled her children and worked nights. She has been a realtor. She has a Marketing degree and is now an executive producer for a news organization.

She has only recently become politically active. This was motivated by the many difficulties her family experienced with the illness and death of her father during the COVID pandemic. Their requests for care and treatment were not respected. She stated that we all need to step up to help our communities by becoming active in the school system, the hospital boards and other boards.

Recently, she has worked with the Florida Republican Assembly and the Florida Liberty Caucus to tighten election loopholes. Four pieces of election improvements that were suggested were not brought forward by her opponent, Mr. Buchanan. She has worked on successful anti-grooming legislation.

Ms. Pozzie reports that in her experience legislative assistance was not provided by Mr. Buchanan. Her concerns about his votes or lack of votes concerning 2023 election integrity, 2nd Amendment bills, and the men in women sports issues.

She is a proponent of Medical Freedom Legislation. Currently, Florida law protecting patient rights is no different than it was in 2021. This should be addressed. She agrees with Florida Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo that the mRNA COVID shots should be removed from the shelf. She has signed a pledge on this issue.

She commented on recent state gaming legislation in Florida. The bill noted that funds from gaming would go to protect waterways. However, gaming cannot expand off of tribal lands without citizen led initiatives. This will not work as the legislature intends.

She assisted in passing the Veterinary telehealth bill. Generally, senior leadership need to help move along more legislation. She has endorsed President Trump and ONLY President Trump. We need to fight evil.

The Following questions were posed by club members.

- Explain “grooming” legislation.
 - How will you work through Republican in house animosity?
 - Live local Act and changes in density bills.
 - How to keep Tallahassee from gaining more power over local issues.
 - Open Border and Immigration. She believes a special session should be called by republican leadership to address impacts on education, healthcare and community safety.
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Representative James Buchanan was then introduced and he began by recognizing his family and noting that he is honored to represent us in Tallahassee.

He noted that he heard many things about his record from the previous speaker that were incorrect. He reviewed his “track” record in office. Seven years ago he made 3 promises. He would bring one of his district offices to North Port. He would work to repeal existing medical certificates of need so that other hospitals could come to our area. That he would expedite River Road Expansion. All have been accomplished and we will next work on River Road extension to Englewood. He has worked to build coalitions to move legislation and progress on issues forward.

Some of the best legislative initiatives come from his constituents. About 3 to 4 years ago, concerns were raised about ESG investing. He took this information to draft a bill to address this in Florida.

He has been involved in historic appropriations to South Sarasota County for infrastructure and non-profit groups.

Working to reduce property taxes for seniors. On the November ballot is another homestead exemption initiative that will tie to inflation. As inflation increases, taxes will reduce. As inflation decreases, taxes will not increase. This will need to receive 60% voter approval.

Revenues from gaming will be used to protect natural resources as it does not matter where the gaming occurs. This covers online betting.

Kids and technology was also addressed. As a father of young children, this will get children 16 and under off addictive platforms. Children 14 to 16 may have access to the platform with parental permission. These sites can lead to increased depression and suicide in young girls.

Also sponsored and voted for the History of Communism Bill. This will make students aware of the atrocities of communism. This bill came from community suggestions rather than a lobbyist. The bill received bi-partisan support in the house and senate.

Another bill issue brought forth by constituents was the Blue Line Flag. Previously, HOAs selectively enforced the display of flags. This bill supports flag displays for US, Florida, Military and first responders.

Mr. Buchanan noted that all these bills and accomplishments came about because of his history of working with others and building coalitions.

The following questions were posed by club members.

- What will his senior status in Tallahassee mean? Committee assignments are not made until after the election. However, he hopes to focus on significant funding for this area for infrastructure related projects.
- A member commented that a veteran bill was immediately acted upon by Mr. Buchanan.
- Regarding the bill to expedite adoption of children by grandparents was another bill he worked on to respond to community needs and the legislation has passed.
- The Homestead exemption constitutional amendment will require 60% approval on the November ballot. He encouraged support for this.
- Several persons commented that they would like to see less governance by Tallahassee and more local governance. He agreed with this and noted that the best government comes from what is closest to the people. There are some issues though that need to be addressed by the state in order to protect some more blue areas from extreme ideas such as the elimination of gas stoves.
- Lastly, affordable and work force housing is an issue that is best addressed locally, but may need some input from the state.

The presentation concluded with a thank you and applause for the speakers. They were both asked to remain afterwards to answer the questions of other constituents.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian L. Patricoski, Secretary

