

Fayette County GA Republican Party
County Committee Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2023

The County Committee of the Fayette County Georgia Republican Party convened on September 12, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. The Invocation was given by Cathy Vaught and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dennis Odle.

Roll Call: Executive Board members present were: Chairman Elaine Kilgore, First Vice Chair Dr. William Yarde, Second Vice Chair Sherry Harris, Third Vice Chair Walt Hanley, Treasurer Pily Oddo, and Secretary Cathy Vaught. Immediate Past Chairman Randy Ognio was absent but sent a proxy. Also absent were Assistant Treasurer Rod Owen and Assistant Secretary Windy Blair.

Also present were Precinct Chairs Alberta Lucas, Denese Bohannon, Cathy Vaught, Carolyn Connor, Jessica Whelan, Nancy Nieves, Jane Trammell, Denise Ognio, Richard McKenney, Claudia Eisenburg, Cheryl Wahlin, Diane Barlow, Cindy Repine, Beth Dean, Elaine Kilgore, Anne Menaldo, Dennis Odle, Pat Earnest and Jane Owens, and Suzanne Miller-Nolte. Those absent were Sandy Brown, Nancy Vickers, James Porter, Geoffrey Cauble, Sam Patton, Allen Baldwin, who sent a proxy, Joseph Smith, Lynn Frow, Gail Guthrie, Wanda Hawkins, and Rosemary Tennant.

Acceptance of the agenda: Jessica Whelan **moved** to approve, and Carolyn Connor seconded. Motion carried.

Acceptance of the minutes: Since minutes from the August 8, 2023 Executive Board Meeting were presented instead of the minutes of the previous April 24, 2023 County Committee Meeting , a **motion** was made by Denise Ognio to table those minutes until the next County Committee Meeting. The motion was seconded by Jane Trammell. Motion carried.

Chairman's Comments: While addressing the Precinct Chairmen who were present, Chairman Elaine Kilgore reminded them that there were 36 precincts,

and that they represent them and are the “governing body”. Some people signed up for that role, not fully understanding what it entailed. But the Precinct Chairs are the ultimate decision makers. Elaine nominated Walt Hanley to call those precinct chairs who did not come to the meeting to ask them if they are interested in being part of the governing body. Elaine also expressed the need for greeters at the monthly meetings to welcome everyone as well as more photographers. Nancy Holland is doing a fabulous job with our Facebook page. Elaine also mentioned a newer municipal candidate, Laura Plauche Johnson, vetted by Claudia Eisenburg and Suzanne Brown. Elaine also asked all the precinct chairs to spread the word about the upcoming municipal elections. She also mentioned the upcoming precinct parties as well as the Women’s Club mounting a letter writing campaign to reach out to women with the goal of increasing membership, and awareness of the municipal candidates. A total of \$3200.00 in rentals was brought in during the month of August 2023. Elaine also stressed that we need a lot of money for the Event Center upkeep.

Treasurer’s Report: The Profit and Loss Report for August 2023 showed a total income of \$4,457.35 compared to \$1,466.00 for the month of August 2022. Total expenses for the month of August 2023 were \$4,078.69 as compared to \$3,453.12 in August 2022, largely due to cleaning, repair and building improvements. We still received a net income of \$378.66 compared to \$-1,987.12 in August 2022. The total in liabilities and equity came out to \$19,868.69 as compared to \$14,989.23 in August of 2022. The August 2023 increase in assets can be attributed to an all-cash increase. Pily also mentioned that our insurance policy needs to be renewed. In the amount of \$2,356.00. A **motion** was made by Anne Menaldo to approve the renewal in the amount of \$2,356.00. It was seconded by Sherry Harris. The motion passed unanimously. A **motion** was made by Anne Menaldo to approve the Treasurer’s Report, and was seconded by Denise Ognio. The motion was approved unanimously.

First Vice Chair Report: Dr. Yarde discussed the uptick in rentals and described them as “small, but positive”. We are also on the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce list of companies accepting volunteers. In June, we paid for three months of Chamber advertisements. Next payment of \$100.00 for three months is due September 20, 2023. Do we want to continue for another three months? They are in email format, and some people have mentioned seeing them. Dr. Yarde

wanted to also discuss a possible fundraising event with a theme of “An Evening with Friends.” This would be a dinner and dance event, with a live band. Dr. Yarde also recommended a way to go to where Gen Z lives to get more interested young people, and that is Tik Tok, Instagram, Facebook, or similar social media.

Cathy proposed a motion to approve another \$100.00 for the email blasts. After some discussion, Denise asked if we could alternate every three months, i.e., skip three months and come back for three months? After more discussion, a **motion** was made to approve another \$100.00 for another three months by Jane Trammell and was seconded by Anne Menaldo. The motion passed unanimously.

Second Vice Chair Report: Sherry Harris said that current membership is at 172. There is also a precinct number for every member. Precinct leaders should be receiving those lists. We are likely moving our memberships from Google to Anedot, which will take our members away from bookkeeping and allow them to focus on other things. This includes an automatic renewal. The Coweta County Chairman loves this system. There is a 5% charge up front, but the percentage could drop with an increase in membership. Denise talked about some people not being happy with automatic renewals, especially since they did not approve them. Sherry did not know if automatic renewal is an option, if you could agree to automatic or a reminder. Sherry was in the process of getting accepted into the Anedot system, and then exploring what the options were as far as membership renewal. Sherry suggested making a motion to move to Anedot after she has read up more on the system.

Sherry then moved to the new website additions. These include the candidates page. She suggested doing what we can to promote the website. She is trying to get connected to our Facebook page and Instagram. Elaine declared the website as “wonderful”. Sherry also mentioned the “Patriot Business Page”, where any dues paying member can list their business for free. American Legion posts can also advertise. Precinct leaders have a private page. Future plans include adding a calendar. The Event Center has its own website, completely separated from the Republican Party. Sherry also gave out the FCRP office schedule during the campaign and election season, with the need for volunteers to man the office.

Third Vice Chair Report: Walt Hanley offered updated precinct lists to those who do not have one. Discussed access to the GOP data center, which has now become available. We have been able to integrate that database with the voter rolls and National Change of Address lists. The even and odd street addresses have been added in ascending order, so that one can go to the very end of the street and work their way back to the lower numbers. This should give us the best intelligence available about the voters in our area. He handed out hard Republican voter lists.

Elaine took the opportunity to announce upcoming precinct parties. She offered to print out a sample form that precinct chairs could use to invite people. Party dates on October 19th and November 9th. This is part of the United Saves America movement to help build precincts.

Walt also announced upcoming events such as Orion Roy from Turning Point USA coming to speak at the Men's Club meeting on September 26 on the importance of precincts and their organization as well as ballot chasing to ensure that all Republican ballots are returned.

A special session with Denise Ognio, State Committee Representative, discussing the upcoming 2024 convention, was held. Our focus: Get out the vote! Get the precincts involved.

Old Business: Written on agenda. Not discussed.

New Business: Written on agenda. Not discussed.

A **motion** was made by Claudia Eisenburg to adjourn the meeting, and was seconded by Jessica Whelan.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m..