

Fayette County Republican Party

Executive Board Minutes

May 14, 2024

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Invocation: The invocation was given by Cathy Vaught.

Pledge: The pledge was given by Randy Ognio.

Secretary's Report:

Roll Call: Chairman Elaine Kilgore, Second Vice Chair Sherry Harris, Third Vice Chair Walt Hanley, Secretary Cathy Vaught, Treasurer Pily Oddo, Assistant Treasurer Rod Owen, and Immediate Past Chairman Randy Ognio were present. The First Vice Chair remained vacant and Assistant Secretary Windy Blair was absent without a proxy.

Approval of the Agenda: Immediate Past Chairman Rany Ognio **moved** to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Third Vice Chair Walt Hanley. The **motion** was approved.

Approval of the Minutes: Secretary Cathy Vaught **moved** to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2024, meeting. It was seconded by Randy Ognio. The **motion** was approved.

Chairman's Commentary: Everyone has been moving at the speed of light and we have some important decisions. The elections are coming up, Walt has been very busy, everyone has been poll watching. Cathy has been poll watching and Walt has been getting the numbers. We are getting places.

Treasurer's Report: For the month of April, 2024, Ordinary Income and Expense consisted of \$225.00 for membership dues, \$196.35 for Donations, Event Center rentals totaled, \$1900.00, and Operations Income was \$415.00. There was a loss of \$375.47 from line dancing and Trump gear promotional items. Total Ordinary Income for April 2024 was \$2,360.88 as compared to April 2023's total of \$2,500.76. Total expenses for the month of April 2024, were \$4,799.13, which, when subtracted from the total net income of \$2,360.88, left a negative balance of \$2,438.25 compared to the negative balance of \$641.07 in April 2023. Total assets and liabilities for the month of April 2024 were \$38,726.33 as opposed to \$20,964.45 in April 2023. This showed an increase in the amount of \$17,761.88, with all increases being cash increases.

A **motion** was made by Cathy Vaught to approve the Treasurer's Report and was seconded by Walt Hanley. The motion was approved.

Walt asked if it was worth putting some of our cash into CD's. He said he would bring some figures next time. The feasibility of putting cash into 30-, 60-, and 90-day Treasury Bills (T-Bills) was also discussed.

Second Vice Chair Report: Second Vice Chair Sherry Harris. 2024 membership as of May was 177. We are fully in Anedot. Trying to load Voter ID's into membership leads to a one-time listing. You must do it again the next time you try to pull up the membership listing. She is working on fixing the problem. Website doing well. Number of visitors went up in May. Sherry asked if there has always been a charge for merchandise, since people were coming in looking for free items. Cathy told her there had always been a charge. Elaine said perhaps there could be some giveaways at the end of election season. Sherry reemphasized the need for a budget. We need to think about who will take over the Executive Board positions post-election. We need to study the revised by-laws. She also put her job description on the back of her report.

Randy Ognio suggested that Sherry tell all of the people coming in looking for free merchandise that it is free, and that they are giving a "donation" for it!

Third Vice Chair Report: Third Vice Chair Walt Hanley: 4000 votes had been cast in early voting up until May 14, with 177 ballots outstanding for the Republican ballots, and about 60 outstanding for the Democrats. He projected another 2,000 votes by Friday, May 17, and a projected total of 8,000 early votes. He didn't know if there were holdouts, trying to make up their mind, but he saw the number of Democrat and Republican ballots as "neck and neck."

Breanna Garrett is the new Fayette County Elections Director.

Walt will be holding Precinct Workshops twice monthly, and more poll watch training. The Elections Office is beginning to take notice about violations such as the early tape run that took place during March 2024 early voting, and not following the two-person rule of taking the ballots to the Elections Office, due to poll watcher reports. He said these types of incidents need to be phased into poll watcher training, but maybe bit by bit as opposed to all at once. The next "big thing" is checking the tags on the boxes. Walt knows a number of Republicans who have asked to be poll workers, and it appears they are being ignored. We do have a right as a party to submit names and the elections office is supposed to take that into consideration. He would rather have Republicans as poll workers than watchers.

Secretary's Commentary: None.

Immediate Past Chairman Commentary: Since we have more money this year than in the past, he would like to know if we can expand our July 4 parade float to include signs with the name of every Republican that is running for office in November. This will include the

Third District candidates as well as the County Commissioners, etc, on both sides of the trailer. He was urged to talk with Rosemary, who oversees the FCRP parade participation. The Exec Board needs to put in the request. May 20 is the first day to register for the parade.

Elaine mentioned that the County Committee approved up to \$400.00 for the expenditure of candy to give to children. We will have some young people in the parade.

Old Business: Elaine asked about scheduling a time for her and Rod to meet with Pily and go see about accessing the bank account to view activity. Special emails, if possible, showing account activity would also be helpful to save Elaine having to go to the bank to check activity each time. The address would be treasurer@myfayettegop.org. It goes to each of the designated names that have access.

New Business: Pily had the gas cut off for the season. We may check out new gas companies for better rates.

The carpet was cleaned the previous week for \$270.00, the church rate.

We got Air Alliance in place of Ashley, after they cancelled two Thursdays in a row. They thought the air conditioning was broken. The air conditioners are year 96, 97, and 98 models. Three pounds of freon were put in last year. Freon is \$300.00 per pound. What is the point of replacing them if we eventually must leave? Sherry said the cost was \$3,000.00 for each air conditioner. Randy said all freon has gone down at this time. Can we do partial repairs, like new compressors? New units have propane based freon, which is not good quality. The decision was not to aggravate the landlord, who would only raise the rent and not pay the costs. We will deal with the air conditioners as needed.

Elaine talked about the new business and rack cards from Vista Print. Elaine is waiting for a 40% percent sale on rack cards. Many people are giving out rack cards in the door hanging bags. We should include a note on future cards saying, "Check website for updates.", especially as far as breakfast meetings are concerned. Elaine would like to order 10,000 cards for \$400, \$500 or \$600 (sale price). Also include message with asterisk "Check website for changes." The board also agreed to Elaine ordering more business cards, such as 2,500 for \$158.00. They would be printed on both sides. QR codes can also be placed on them as well.

Elaine requested an approval of up to \$1,000.00 to order new business and rack cards. Sherry made the **motion** to approve, and this was seconded by Cathy. The motion passed.

Elaine also requested that we investigate acquiring new carpet, specifically carpet tiles, that would hide the dirt as well as stains. We could budget for twice a year cleaning instead

of three to four times with the current carpet. We do have extra carpet squares that we can replace the stained ones with.

Facebook page boosting was discussed next at \$100.00 a month. We could start in late August or early September. Cathy talked about some personal experience with boosting, and that is the danger of someone hacking into your account and charging you for it. The Democrats are doing Facebook boosting. It was decided to wait until late summer before doing this. The discussion was tabled.

Motion to Adjourn: The motion to adjourn was made by Cathy and seconded by Sherry. The motion was approved.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

CATHY VAUGHT

SECRETARY

FCRP