

Fayette County GA Republican Party

Executive Board Minutes

October 10, 2023

The Executive Board of the Fayette County Georgia Republican Party convened on October 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. The Invocation was given by Secretary Cathy Vaught and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Immediate Past Chairman Randy Ognio.

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

Approval of the Agenda: Cathy **moved** to approve the meeting agenda. It was seconded by Dr. William Yarde. The motion carried.

Acceptance of the Minutes: Cathy **moved** to approve the minutes from the August 8, 2023, meeting which were not approved during the September 12, 2023 County Committee meeting. Dr. Yarde seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Chairman's Comments: Elaine commented on Executive Board members working well together, i.e., D. Yarde's work with the Event Center rentals, Sherry's work on the website and outreach to new members as well as working with Pily on implementing Zelle and cleaning the office, Walt's poll watcher class, Cathy's hard campaign work, Pily's good work with finances, and the excellent monthly meeting on the previous Saturday.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was given by Assistant Treasurer Rod Owen. The Profit and Loss report was as follows: Total income for September 2023 was \$4,061.00 as compared to \$3,356.16 in September 2022. September 2023 expenses exceeded the total income of \$4,061.00 by \$1,197.77, giving us a negative balance of \$ -1, 197.77 as compared to the September 2022 negative balance of \$ -1, 683.78. Total assets, liabilities and equity for September 2023

came out to \$18,360.92 as compared to \$13,305.45 in September 2022. Despite the many expenditures during this month, the total assets were still up from the same period the previous year by \$5,055.47. There was a question about the rise in the insurance rate. Rod could not explain the rate increase but said he would ask Pily. A **motion** was made by Cathy to accept the Treasurer's report. It was seconded by Elaine.

First Vice Chair Report: Dr. Yarde commented on the uptick in rentals. He wanted to know if the holiday rate is the same as the weekend rate, since there was a potential rental for the entire day on Thanksgiving. Cathy made a **motion** to make the holiday rate the same as the weekend rate. The motion was seconded by Sherry. The motion passed unanimously. The weekly Chamber of Commerce ad was renewed but was due to expire on November 4th. Dr. Yarde was planning to contact the Eleventh Hour Church about hosting the Precinct Caucus and County Convention. We may not need to move as many tables this year, since we are not electing officers but only delegates to go to State and National. Dr. Yarde also mentioned that he would provide a User ID and password to anyone wishing to attend Chamber functions.

A **motion** was made by Elaine for Denise Ognio to help Walt as Convention Coordinator and was seconded by Cathy. The motion was passed unanimously.

Second Vice Chair Report: Sherry said we are now fully using Anedot. A couple of people had recently joined. Everyone else is technically a member until December 31st. We will get more money for memberships as we get closer to the end of the year. Anedot will eliminate all of the laborious bookkeeping that was previously done. There were some people that chose to be donors rather than members. They left no contact information, making it impossible to get in touch with them. You cannot be enrolled on Anedot, unless you put your name, email, and phone number. Sherry also described the frustration contacting and getting a list newly registered voters each month. Randy offered to make some phone calls. Walt said has this information. Sherry has also updated the FCRP as well as the Event Center websites and enumerated all the changes. Upcoming changes to the Event Center website include a contract page and a Zelle pay button. Since it was not clear exactly how Zelle would work on this page, it was proposed that a QR code for payment be used instead. Sherry said she would see what works well with

GoDaddy, before doing anything further. The question about using Square was asked, because Sherry thought that it was supposed to be used for Event Center payments. There was a problem with getting access to the previous square account after Pily lost her password when her phone died. Sherry was sure we could use Pay Pal. Sherry also mentioned what she had accomplished in cleaning up the office, to include a list of items we must keep, and what we do not need to keep, to include digitizing and storing all important information and documents required by auditors.

Third Vice Chair Report: Walt discussed Turning Point's Orion Roy's visit to the Men's Club and his ideas on precincts and ballot chasing. He said we could probably have these initiatives ready for the upcoming election. Walt said that we partnered with a 5013c organization that advocated election integrity. Our concern is that 5013c organizations are required to be non-partisan. They offered an app pertaining to anyone's state, with a website offering information about vote counts, poll watchers' handwritten notes. It will print out forms for poll watchers to use. The website tells you where to look on the BMD'S and scanners to gather the information you need. Elaine had provided a revised written form of this. It was recommended that the QR code be used. It will work for all 159 counties. It will allow you to save your work, so you can get back to where you left off. They call themselves The Elections Process Education Corporation. There is a place on their website to donate to them. Walt also discussed the Rumble channel he has created with past speaker videos that can now be accessed.

Walt also mentioned the list of inactive precinct chairs and their status, whether they resigned or just have not responded. Elaine mentioned that she had replaced Geoffrey Cauble with Joyce Vandiver. Walt said anyone new will have to be voted in. Randy mentioned when you have a vacancy in a precinct, the Chairman can appoint someone to be precinct chair of a precinct who is not in that precinct. You do not have to vote for them in this case. You do it on a temporary basis just to get someone in there. Anyone who wants to be a precinct chair can be brought up before the County Committee and voted in. We do have some vacancies now. We need to get these nominations done at the next County Committee meeting. One problem with precinct chairs is them signing up at the caucuses and thinking it is just for the day. The forms could be modified to

indicate if anyone just signs up for the day. Walt also reminded everyone about the upcoming precinct parties.

Secretary's Report: Cathy discussed City Council campaign experiences and upcoming Meet and Greet.

Immediate Past Chairman Comments: Randy mentioned coffee mugs that Denise offered to sell at the FCRP and bring in some extra money. Randy also stressed the need to get everyone out to the polls for the 2024 elections. What people don't understand is the more people vote for a Republican presidential candidate nominee, the more delegates we will have at the district and state conventions. It increases our voting strength for voting for the next President. It's also important that people vote for our representatives.

Randy also mentioned that some votes for expenditures, like postage stamps, can be done via email. There just must be a record for audit purposes. If we cannot meet our liabilities, we could be held liable.

Old Business: None discussed.

New Business: The walls are becoming dented. That is why chair rails have been installed.

The precinct parties are an attempt to build our membership. She has printed out letters and addressed them.

Elaine proposed spending \$431.29 for additional chair rail material. We used membership labor to repair a lot of broken chairs. The TV also died. Elaine discussed how she got a good price for a new one with free installation.

Elaine also mentioned that we need "push cards", which would be two-sided and in color to promote the FCRP, which can also be used in door knocking. We can get 1500 of these cards for \$250.00.

Elaine would also like to move the FCRP Christmas party to December 5th. Sherry made a **motion** to move the Christmas party to December 5th. Cathy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

A **motion** was also made by Dr. Yarde to approve \$431.29 to buy chair rail material. Cathy seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

A **motion** was made by Cathy to approve spending \$ 881. 32 for stamps to mail precinct party letters. Walt seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Sherry made a **motion** that we spend \$534.99 for the new TV. Dr Yarde seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

A **motion** was made by Walt to approve spending \$161.86 toward incidental for the Event Center, breakfast meeting needs and snacks, to include incidentals. It was seconded by Sherry. The motion passed unanimously.

A **motion** was made to spend \$250.00 for 1500 FCRP push cards by Dr. Yarde and was seconded by Cathy. The motion carried.

A **motion** was made by Elaine to reimburse Denise and Randy \$65.00 for the coffee mugs. Walt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Randy discussed the need to make the Event Center its own organization. Should we do it for tax purposes? We require payment to rent it. We were previously accepting money for the center as donations, but this is now an actual business transaction. If it gets audited, we could get in trouble. We will get taxed if we separate. We would also have to have our own books as a separate company and donate part of that money to the Republican Party, but there is no tax write off with donations. It was suggested that the board consult with Paul and Chuck Oddo at the next meeting.

Cathy made a **motion** to adjourn. Elaine seconded it. The motion was approved.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Addendum: An email vote requested by Chairman Elaine Kilgore was conducted between October 22-23 2023 to budget up to \$500.00 to clean the Event Center Carpet. The following votes were recorded:

Cathy Vaught Yes

Dr. William Yarde Yes

Sherry Harris Yes, with reservations.

Pily Oddo Yes

Walt Hanley Yes

Windy Blair Yes

The motion overwhelmingly carried. Andrew Barlow, who cleaned the carpet, did not demand any payment.