

Fayette County GA Republican Party

Executive Board Minutes

August 8, 2023

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. Present were Chairman Elaine Kilgore, 1st Vice Chair Dr. William Yarde, 2nd VC Sherry Harris, 3^d VC Walt Hanley, Treasurer Pily Oddo, Asst Treasurer Rod Owen, Secretary Cathy Vaught, and Immediate Past Chairman Randy Ognio. Asst Secretary Windy Blair was absent due to being on vacation.

Invocation: Rod Owen

Pledge of Allegiance: Randy Ognio

Acceptance of Agenda: The **motion** to accept the agenda was made by Randy Ognio and was seconded by Cathy Vaught. The motion passed.

Acceptance of the Minutes: A **motion** was made by Dr. Yarde to accept the minutes and was seconded by Walt. The motion passed.

Chairman's Comments: Elaine remarked that due to everyone's hard work, we were beginning to see "the fruits of our labor". There were seven to eight rentals for the month of July. Someone just paid \$650.00 for an August rental. We are doing well. We might go up on the rates Elaine then asked Cathy to announce her "good news." Cathy announced that she had filled out a "Declaration of Intent" to run for Fayetteville City Council Post 2, which means she will have to resign as Secretary. She had notified Windy, even though she was on vacation. Cathy also informed Windy that this resignation is "temporary", based on whether she wins the election. If she does not win, she can retain the position as Secretary. Cathy thanked everyone for their support and patience, especially at the beginning of her term. Elaine mentioned that since this is 2023, 2024 is coming up and "we must do things a little differently. We must give more, even though we're giving 110% of what we've got. We're going to have to dig in, figure out what you can do" She urged everyone to support Cathy's campaign as well as Suzanne Brown's and Jessica Whelan's. She said we may not be able to do a lot in Atlanta, but if you

don't like how things are, think about running yourself. Give a little more. If you don't have time, knock on some doors."

Treasurer's Report: Total income for July 2023 was \$2,666.34, an increase of \$1488.34 over July 2022. July expenses totaling \$3,858.36 exceeded the total income of \$2,666.34 by \$1,192.02 leaving us with a negative balance of - \$1, 192.02. Total assets (liabilities and equity) are at \$19, 490.03, up \$2,413.68 from the July 2022 total of \$17,076.35.

Elaine asked if we could use PayPal or Zelle or another form of payment, such as Square. Pily said she was working on that. The question came up about using ACH. Randy mentioned that it can be used directly by the customer, to include depositing and withdrawing, but there can be a liability if you use ACH to withdraw. We will look at using Pay Pal or Zelle.

A **motion** was made by Dr. Yarde to approve the Treasurer's Report and was seconded by Cathy Vaught. The motion carried.

First Vice Chair Report: Dr. Yarde said that due to the FCRP'S connection to the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce, we are going to be listed on all social media sites. We are now connected to similar businesses and interests. They are all on the Chamber's website, where we also have a link. Everything about us comes up on this link. People who showed interest in renting the Event Center are saying they saw about it on the Chamber website. We are also continuing our Chamber email blasts. We are now in our second month, and these email blasts come out once a week.

Facebook and Yelp also provide free advertising. A **motion** was made by Dr. Yarde to continue the Chamber email blasts for another two months at \$100.00 per month for a total of \$200.00. The motion was seconded by Sherry Harris. The motion carried.

Dr. Yarde also mentioned that the Chamber has a call for volunteers, with lists stating what types and function they accept.

Second Vice Chair Report: Sherry stated that the membership committee of Jane Gallo, Claudia Eisenburg and Diane St. Clair Dobler have been calling members to remind them of our monthly meetings. Sherry also recommended that we continue the present membership system as is until at least 2024, because it is

now accurate, up to date and working well, with no-cost control over cash flow, plus more money from those who join mid-year. Sherry has called for a monthly Fayette County voter list, to include newly registered voters, from Elections Director Brian Hill through an Open Records Request. This would enable us to identify new members by Precinct. There has been a lack of response from Brian Hill. Randy mentioned that if gathering a lot of information becomes time consuming, the Elections Office can charge for their services. Sherry said it wasn't about money, but the services they are supposed to provide. If we get a list of new voters, the membership team can call them and "welcome them to town." There are no real changes to the Event Center website. The site visitors went down significantly in July, but we got more rentals. Walt, Angela Bean and Sheryl Fody all pitched in on the FCRP website. There are some new pages being created, one of them is a calendar A "Patriot's Page" is also being created by Angela where conservative owned businesses can advertise with their business cards. There will be a private page for rules and a private page for precincts, plus an archive page, and Executive Board page with agendas, minutes, and other important documents, especially any needed by auditors. Pily wanted to know who is going to have access to our private information, such as the Treasurer's Report. This page is hidden in the background and can only be seen by a few people. It also requires a password. Only four people have the password currently: Sherry, Walt, Angela, and Sheryl Fody. The Chairman's Report at the monthly meeting appears to suffice in reporting all the activity, to include expenditures, and may be just as good as the Executive Board minutes. Sherry mentioned another change she was making. Anytime one makes a change on the website, it allows you to alert Facebook and Instagram, and we could probably do the same thing with the Event Center.

Cathy passed around a copy of an email from Mike Lindell to use as a fundraiser, where you can earn fifty cents for every live stream pre-registration by using a promo code on an email sent to Cause of America and Mike Lindell, promoting his livestream broadcast between Aug 16 -17th, when Mike will reveal his new secret to combat election fraud. Angela can help get the word out. There are already 1100 people on our email blasts with more names being added.

Cathy then made a **motion** that if Angela can work out the details, we can put this promotion out on an eblast. Dr. Yarde seconded it. The motion carried.

Third Vice Chair Report: Walt mentioned a new program being put out by the Georgia State GOP called the United Saves America, which is basically a drive to make a state-wide push to increase membership. They are opening the Republican Data Center voter rolls, like what we have been doing locally. We plan on rolling that out at the next Precinct Meeting. The goal is to reach hard-core Republicans and increase our membership, develop a staff to help turn out the vote in 2024, and to ramp up the precincts to empower us to victory in 2024. Walt plans to share a video on how Dekalb County accomplished this. Elaine said that our new smart lock system for the front door allows coded used by renters to disappear after a certain time, so Walt will know who has been in and out. The phone bill also comes separately. We should be getting auto payment on our new bill.

Past Chairman Report: Randy asked how we could put together a list of ideas to get more people to vote Republican. He has already made a list of things that can be added or subtracted. We could put out this type of information to try to get more engaged and come into the Republican Party. Sherry suggested that we put these issues on the website for 2024 all the time. Randy said anything we put out there needs to be backed up. We don't want to put out incorrect information. One or two of these points could be put up at the breakfast meeting and get people fired up for the election. Sherry also suggested a cartoon format for getting points across.

Old Business: Elaine said Jane Gallo would like to start new 2024 membership procedures in September. Sherry suggested by the last week in September, next year's membership dues will be paid in October. The 2023 list of people and their payments is accurate. Pily discussed the possibility of pro-rating memberships for people who join during different months of the year. The possibility of applying discounts was also discussed. The ideas clashed, and the discussion was tabled so that differences could be resolved.

Randy Ognio wanted to mention the annual District 8 Fish Fry in Perry on August 26. The State GOP Chairman will be there, plus people and many speakers from around the state. Denise Ognio said although this event coincides with our Precinct Training meeting, she, as a member of the State Committee, is required to be there. Denise said she would distribute the link to the event.

Elaine also discussed Angela Bean's ideas of a membership business page with \$10 breakfast for members, while non-members pay \$12, 20% off merchandise and rentals and 20% off on events. Because of the hour getting late, Elaine suggested that we table this until the next meeting.

New Business: Elaine would like to increase the rental rates because they are too cheap. She said we need to charge for tables and chairs. She has been renting for \$650.00 per day over the weekends. This includes tables and chairs. We have had additional expenses, such as having to add freon to the air conditioning. Elaine recommended going up \$50.00 for the five- hour rental and \$100.00 for the nine-to-ten-hour rental. It will provide a little extra money, since we are going to need to have it cleaned, and there is also wear and tear on our facilities. We have also had to make major improvements. We may need to add security cameras. Elaine wanted to see if the board would authorize a \$50.00 increase for five hours and a \$100.00 increase for up to ten hours. In other words, \$450.00 would increase to \$500 and \$650.00 would increase to \$750.00. This would only affect the weekend prices. There are not too many people during the week. Dr Yarde had a recommendation about adding an additional rate for the church that meets every Sunday, that will be holding a birthday party for three hours after the church service. He recommended a charge of \$250.00. There was no contract yet. Dr. Yarde made a **motion** to charge the church \$250.00 for three hours after church on September 17. It was seconded by Walt. The motion carried. Sherry made the **motion** to approve the \$50.00 increase for five hours from \$450.00 to \$500.00, and the ten-hour increase from \$650.00 to \$700.00. Dr. Yarde seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Elaine mentioned we have a County Committee Meeting on September 12 and a Precinct Training Meeting coming up on August 31. She also mentioned the County Committee meeting scheduled for November 14th. Cathy asked Elaine if we were going to have the audit report at one of those meetings, because we are required to do it. Elaine said we could have the audit report at the September meeting. Randy mentioned the two County Committee meetings and asked if we were trying to meet the requirement to hold two meetings. Elaine said we were trying to meet the requirements. Randy said that we already had one. Elaine said we were going to try to do them quarterly. Randy said that these were very close

together, especially with the November meeting so close to the holiday season. The scheduled November 14 meeting was crossed off the agenda.

Elaine also mentioned having to have our air conditioners serviced. One unit had a leak and the other had three to four pounds of freon put in. Now it is cooling better. The cost was \$300-400.00. Replacing the unit would cost \$3,000.00. We might want to change out our heater as well. Randy reminded the board that our rent is month to month, so even if we spent \$5,000.00 to replace the system, the landlord could kick us out in 30 days. Rod wanted to know what our responsibilities are. Randy said in the original lease, we were responsible for everything. Now with the 30-day lease, it does not state that we are responsible for anything. If it looks like we need to replace the units, then we would have to talk to the landlord.

Denise Ognio covered the Convention Cycle, which occurs almost every year. We are working toward the 2024 National Convention. She handed out a convention cycle packet. The 2024 convention is solely for the purpose of bringing in people who are workers, people who we truly want to represent us at the national level. It may or may not be a person out of Fayette County. District 3, which comprises 14 counties, only allows three people to attend. They try to elect three different counties. If Fayette County were lucky enough to be represented, there would be one person out of the county. The Precinct Caucus could have up to 300 people all converging wanting to choose their President-elect and they all want a piece of the pie. They recommend who goes to national. This gives you leeway to go to the County Convention, where delegates to the District and State conventions are considered to go to the National convention as a delegate or alternate. All conventions will involve a national presidential thought process. There will be no rules, regulation, etc. being discussed at the County Convention. The whole focus is on the National convention. All attendances and other paperwork will be filled out and reported to the district and state. None of the administrative requirements change. The only difference is what you want to have happen at the National level. Don't have just anyone attend that does not want to work and is not focused on Republican values. It has nothing to do with numbers, but strong, hard workers who know all the way to the State and National level what is going on. For the 2024 conventions, we will send our selections of presidential candidates to the National Nominating Committee. Precinct Caucus is February

24, but there is a small window of opportunity to change that date. County Convention is March 23, and again there is a small window of opportunity to change the date. It is possible to vote for rule changes at this convention. The District Convention and State Convention dates are not yet set in stone, even though dates are mentioned. Walt asked about the Primary. Randy said the delegate that goes to National is supposed to vote for the candidate that won the primary. National approves who the presidential candidate is.

As an Executive Board, our focus for 2024 should be about getting out the vote by having a plan of action. Outreach is key. Focus on other things besides Precinct meetings. Look at the Young Republicans and the Women's group getting involved. What are those we were involved with in 2023 doing? Are they doing what they promised? Are we holding their feet to the fire? We could be asking speakers to come to our 2024 County Convention. Now is when we grab them before we cannot get anyone. Start the plan of action now. Don't wait! Randy mentioned we should secure the location for the Precinct Caucus and County Convention early. If you can choose 10 people who you feel could hold their own, that would be good. There are a lot of hardworking people at the District level, so the competition will be tough. If you want it, you will have to fight for it. Being a delegate at National is mandatory. You have to be willing to spend the money.

A **motion** was made to adjourn the meeting by Elaine and seconded by Dr Yarde. The motion passed.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Cathy Vaught

FCRP Secretary

