

MEETING MINUTES

BRANCH COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY (BCRP)

Thursday, 9 January 2025, 6-8PM, at the Kirkpatrick's home

IN ATTENDANCE: Karen Kirkpatrick (Chair), Nicole Bohacz, Cheryl Stechschulte, David Mansfield (Secretary), Eryika Tucker, Mary Jo Evans, John Lindsey, Chance Murdock, Jessican Green, Mark Forrester (Vice-Chair), Darius Barringer.

ABSENT: Randy Hollister, Susan DeLong (Treasurer), and David Lewis.

SUMMARY AGENDA: First EC meeting of 2025. Welcome EC members 2025/2026! This agenda was proposed by the Chair, but was then open for modification by other EC members prior to and during the meeting. Details for this summary agenda items are below:

- ✚ Determine purpose and schedule of EC meetings
- ✚ Determine transparency settings for EC meetings
- ✚ Determine short-term goals of EC
- ✚ Determine long-term goals of EC
- ✚ Determine purpose of BCRP monthly meetings
- ✚ Determine objectives of proposed Communications Chair and committee
- ✚ Elect Communications Chair
- ✚ Discuss objectives of proposed Ethnic Outreach Chair and committee
- ✚ Discuss objectives of proposed Precinct Delegate Chair
- ✚ Determine sponsorship needs for BCRP monthly meetings and delegate responsibility

Determine purpose and schedule of EC meetings:

Mary Jo proposed a new meeting schedule with the EC Meeting early (approximately 545pm), then dinner/social time (approximately 630-7pm), this a monthly BCRP Meeting to follow (approximately 7-830pm). This was Seconded by Nicole, and then passed by unanimous vote.

Discussion: Proposed separate EC meeting from monthly member meeting. After our election of the new EC and Board at our November meeting, acting Chair, Jennifer Wortz called for a 10-minute break prior to our EC meeting. I found it so strange that nearly all attendees were leaving. Some may say it was because we put away a lot of the tables and chairs; however, I went to the door and started asking people why they were leaving. They

unanimously stated that they weren't EC wouldn't be staying. I mentioned that ALL of our monthly meetings are called "EC meetings" and that we would be conducting normal business. How could it be that no-one recognized an EC meeting as a regular course of business for the BCRP? What would it look like if we either: had an EC meeting from 5-5:45 on our monthly meeting nights (prior to dinner) OR had an off-site (preferable EC member homes) EC meeting 2 weeks prior to our monthly BCRP meetings? All Precinct Delegates (PD) would be reminded to submit any concerns or discussion items to the EC prior to these meetings. These meetings would be either "open" (if 5-5:45) or "recorded" (if 2-weeks prior) so that the EC is still accountable for complete transparency to our PDs. Recommending the general public not be included in this transparency, but have all agendas and meeting meetings posted to the BCRP website. Our EC meetings are filled with disruption by non-EC and with less relevant topics, such as Chairs who either have nothing to report, or report on nothing so we have something to report on. What is the purpose of our EC meetings? What if we conducted business in this new way? If a Chair had a non-complex, valuable (to members-at-large) update, we could put a simple statement in the agenda OR if it was a complex update, they could be recognized to state the update. Nothing would be hidden from our membership, only provided in a more efficient manner.

Determine transparency settings for EC meetings:

Mark proposed a motion for BCRP meetings to be "recorded," for later reference/publication. This motion was Seconded by Mary Jo, which then passed by unanimous vote.

Discussion: Who should be attending EC meetings? PDs, Public or both? How should they attend? In person or via recording? What should be posted on our website for transparency and historical purposes? What constitutes a closed-door session for either EC or the Board?

Determine short and long-term goals of EC:

What does the 2025/2026 EC want to accomplish? Comments and suggestions focused on strengthening the impact and relevance of the BCRP.

Determine purpose of BCRP monthly meetings?

Examples of future educational/training topics include: PD training, Robert's Rules training, Constitutional training, candidate debates, legislative updates from our now 2

state legislative representatives (Wortz and Lindsey), local elected official updates and Q/A, community forums, community involvement (such as Veterans) and so much more.

16 Jan 2025 - Senator Lindsey and Rachel Bosscher-Atwood (State Rep. Matt Maddock's Legislative Aide) have been invited to provide details on what happened during the lame-duck session, the filibuster, what passed/what didn't, what damage can be undone, who shined and who didn't and what we need to do to ensure 2026 success. Mark Forrester has been asked to research the candidates for MIGOP Chair and bring those facts to the meeting. We are expected to vote for the February convention candidates at our County Convention on January 30th. How do nominees know what they are going to convention for? If we wait until our February 20th meeting, that gives our convention delegate exactly 1 day to research candidates and rule changes prior to going to convention. Not only is that unfair, but a poor way to prepare our delegates. Other speakers may be asked to cover the other positions and business being voted on and conducted at state convention.

Feb 2025 – PD Training.

Mar 2025 – Constitutional Review by John Janathan.

Apr 2025 – 2nd Amendment Review by Nicole.

May 2025 – Veteran Recognition and Support by Darius.

Discussion: If we are to meet the goals that the EC sets (both short and long-term) AND succeed in the 2026 mid-term and local election goals, we can't accomplish this by just conducting EC business every month. We need to educate, inform and organize. We need to be intentional in our outreach and communications strategy. With that said, we can be very intentional at each of our monthly meetings.

Review objectives of Finance Committee?

Mary Jo made a motion to name Chance Murdock as Vice-Treasurer (Chance accepted), Seconded by Mark, which then passed by unanimous vote.

Determine objectives of proposed Communications Chair and committee:

Nicole made a motion to create and support a Communications Committee, this was Seconded by Jessica, and passed by unanimous vote. Mary Jo made a motion that Eriyka Tucker be named as Chair of this new Communications Committee (Eriyka accepted), this motion was Seconded by Mark, and then passed by unanimous vote.

Discussion: We need to be more intentional/streamlined/uniform about our communication to PDs and the public. What does this look like? How do we use our website, social media, text, email, radio events or even podcasts? What have you liked from other organizations and can we incorporate the same methods? Who is best prepared to take on this role?

Discuss objective of proposed Events Committee?

Darius made a motion for the creation of an Events Committee to oversee the scheduling/planning/execution of any/all major BCRP activities. This motion was Seconded by Nicole, and passed by unanimous vote.

Jessica made a motion to name Nicole Bohacz as the Administrative Chair of the Events Committee (Nicole accepted), Seconded by Darius, then passed by unanimous vote.

Discussion: To include organization/identification/support of specific lead organizers for events such as Lincoln Dinner, Reagan Dinner, Applefest, Branch County Fair, Strawberry Festival, Cultural Jubilee, and local parades, etc..

Discuss objectives of proposed Ethnic Outreach Chair and committee?

To be included by and within new events Events Committee activities.

Discussion: MIGOP has a chair for this and other chapters do a great job reaching these underserved constituents. We didn't realize how powerful these populations were and how aligned we were with them until the election. The Latino and Arabic populations of Branch County have been neglected by us. How can we organize better and give them a voice?

Discuss objectives of proposed Precinct Delegate Chair?

Nicole proposed creation of a Precinct Delegate Coordination Committee with a Chair and Vice-Chair, Seconded by Mary Jo, and Passed by unanimous vote.

Discussion: It has been discussed and now we need to execute. Each Precinct will have a lead PD. The lead PDs will report to the PD Chair. Lead PDs will document all officials and meetings for their Precinct. The Lead PD will organize PDs to so that we have representation (at least 1) at all Precinct business meetings. The PD Chair will report at BCRP monthly meetings. Great attention should be given to any Precinct initiative that requires action or volunteerism from the group-at-large (such as green energy initiatives, elected officials under scrutiny, sanctuary city discussions, etc.).

District 5 BCRP Representation?

John Lindsey indicated that he and Randy Hollister were interested in continuing their involvement. Dave Mansfield volunteered to be considered as an alternate.

Determine sponsorship needs for BCRP monthly meetings:

This item was not discussed during this meeting due to time limitations.

Discussion: We need a PD lead who will secure sponsorship of our \$150 monthly rental fee for 2025?

Adjourned at 805pm. As your new Chair, I am very excited for this new session and even more so for who I get to work with. Thank you for being willing to work hard and for being open to new ideas from each other. Karen

Respectfully submitted 15 Jan 2025,

David Mansfield

BCRP Secretary

269-209-8109