

Augusta County Republican Committee Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2023

Common Ground

15 Angela Ct, Fishersville, VA 22939

Dave Bourne, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

INVOCATION: Dave Bourne opened the Committee meeting in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Daniel Carter.

REPUBLICAN CREED: Scott Cline read the Republican Creed.

PROXY AND QUORUM: A quorum was established. Andy Shifflett served as proxy for Vic Ludlum.

WELCOME/ACKNOWLEDGE ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CANDIDATES: Dave Bourne welcomed Mark Obenshain, Senator, 26th State Senatorial District; Chris Runion, Delegate, 25th District, VA House of Delegates; Chris Head, Delegate, 17th District, VA House of Delegates; Steve Landes, Augusta County Clerk of the Circuit Court; Jean Shrewsbury, Augusta County Commissioner of the Revenue; Butch Wells, BOS, Beverely Manor District; Gerald Garber, BOS, Middle River District; Jeff Slaven, BOS North River District; Mike Schull, BOS, Riverheads District;

At this point, Dave Bourne, Chairman, recused himself and turned the meeting over to Marshall Pattie, Vice Chair, for the remainder of the meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Motion made by Daniel Carter to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Scott Cline and carried.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Bill Shirley to approve the minutes from the January and February meetings. Seconded by Daniel Carter and carried.

APPROVAL OF NEW MEMBERS AND REINSTATEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP:

A motion to reinstate Craig Shrewsbury was made by Daniel Carter, seconded by Bill Shirley, and carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Marshall Pattie, Vice Chairman Programs

- a. Marshall noted that the Call Notification for the potential upcoming Canvass must have the dates changed to be compliant with the state plan. The Executive Committee, to be fair to all candidates, wanted the timelines between all activities to be the same as they were on the initial call approved by the Committee last month. Only the dates would change to ensure compliance as note above. The new dates are proposed as follows:
 - i. March 23, 2023 – post the Call Notification

- ii. April 7, 2023 – Pre-file forms and payment due
- iii. April 14, 2023 – Candidates announce by the Credentials Committee
- iv. April 14, 2023 – Cancellation notice posted as applicable
- v. May 20, 2023 – Party Canvass

In addition, since the dates have changed, the back-up location for the Canvass will also be changing because the initial location approved at last month's meeting is not available on the new date. The proposed new back-up location is Victory Worship Center, Staunton, VA. Everything else in last month's approved Call Notification for the Party Canvass would remain the same.

A motion to approve the changes to the dates in the Call Notification as noted above was made by Scott Cline. The motion was seconded by Daniel Carter and carried by Committee.

A motion to approve the new back-up location of the Party Canvass to Victory Worship Center was made by Daniel Carter. The motion was seconded by Wende Harris and carried by Committee.

A motion to re-approve the entire Call Notification for the Party Canvass was made by Ray Eppard. The motion was seconded by Daniel Carter and carried by Committee.

2. Ray Eppard, VC Precincts

- a. Ray noted the need for Poll Workers for upcoming elections and asked that people who may be interested please contact him to learn more about the need and sign up.
- b. Ray also noted he had sign-up sheets for those who would like to help with the May 20 Party Canvass.
- c. Ray also noted we have four districts that need replacement Magisterial Chairpersons. Those districts are Wayne, Pastures, Beverly Manor, and South River. He requested residents of those four districts to remain after the meeting to discuss finding replacements.
- d. Ray noted a desire to create an endorsement policy, and indicated this was discussed at a meeting last year but was put on hold due to other priorities. He discussed some possible language for an endorsement policy and asked for feedback. There were several comments and discussion from Committee members, and there will be more follow-up at next month's meeting.

3. Marshall Pattie, VC Programs

- a. Marshall noted the Executive Committee discussed whether there was a need for a Party Headquarters that would be open at least through the 2024 elections. He asked Committee members to be thinking about that because we plan to bring it up for more detailed discussion and possible vote in the near future.

4. Wende Harris, Treasurer

- a. Wendy reviewed the January and February Treasurer reports that were sent out to members with the Call Notice indicating we are doing well with finances and within our approved budget.

b. Wende also reminded all members that dues for the year are due no later than April 30 per the ACRC Bylaws.

5. Dave Grembi, Secretary

a. Dave noted he, Bill Shirley, and Vic Ludlum worked on the 2023 Election Integrity plan, which is basically an extension of last year's plan. Bill Shirley presented the proposed three tier plan that includes actions by our ACRC Committee, the 6th District Election Integrity Committee and the State RPV. There were some comments and brief discussions. The plan is attached to these minutes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Candidates

1. Mark Obenshain, Senator, 26th State Senatorial District, addressed the Committee on current events confronting our party, and thanked everybody for their ongoing support.
2. Chris Head, Delegate, 17th District, VA House of Delegates, spoke briefly about issues confronting our Commonwealth and the need for Republicans to take the House and Senate this year. He noted he is running for Senate District 3, which is a new district with an open seat, and would welcome the opportunity to serve our communities in this new district.
3. Chris Runion, Delegate, 25th District, VA House of Delegates, noted some of the bills he had been working on in the House, and the brick wall they hit in the Senate. He highlighted he is running for re-election and the need to get out the vote this fall and win at all levels of government from local to both the House and Senate.
4. Steve Landes, Clerk of the Circuit Court, announced internships for high school and college age individuals working in the Clerk's office, and asked if interested to call his office. He also noted that he is running for re-election and would appreciate the opportunity to continue working with residents of Augusta County.
5. Miles Bobbit is running for the Augusta County Treasurer position and spoke to the Committee about his background and priorities if elected. He asked the Committee for their support.
6. Dave Bourne is running for the Augusta County Treasurer position as well. He thanked the Committee for supporting him as Chairman of the ACRC for the past four years and asked for continued support as he runs for the Treasurer position. He briefly noted his background, leadership skills, and accomplishments and highlighted how those skills and experiences have prepared him to be the best candidate for this position.
7. Mike Schull, BOS, Riverheads District, spoke to the Committee about current issues and actions he is working on at the Board of Supervisors level. High priority right now is the budget, and he is working hard to ensure the taxpayers are respected throughout the process. He is running for re-election and welcomes the opportunity to continue serving the residents of Augusta County.

Republican Women of Greater Augusta: Mona Huffer noted the RWGA is active and welcomes anyone that is interested in joining.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION: Dave Grembi made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Daniel Carter and carried. Marshall Patti adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dave Grembi, Secretary