

## **Augusta County Republican Committee Meeting Minutes**

August 20, 2024

Common Ground

15 Angela Ct, Fishersville, VA 22939

Ray Eppard, Chairman, called the Augusta County Republican Committee meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

**INVOCATION:** Kevin Harris opened the Committee meeting in prayer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dave Griffin.

**REPUBLICAN CREED:** Dr. John Wise read the Republican Creed.

**PROXY REPORTS:** Darlene Koblick for Ron Koblick, Dave Bourne for Susan Shirley.

**QUORUM:** A quorum was established.

**WELCOME/ACKNOWLEDGE ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CANDIDATES:** Ray Eppard, Chairman, welcomed **Steve Landes**, Augusta County Court Clerk; **Dave Bourne**, Augusta County Treasurer; **George Price**, Augusta County Commissioner of the Revenue; **Carolyn Bragg**, BOS, South River District; **Gerald Garber**, BOS, Middle River District; **Scott Seaton**, BOS, Wayne District, **Jeff Slaven, Chair**, BOS, North River District; **Sharon Griffin**, School Board Member, North River District; **Mike Lawson**, School Board Member, South River District.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:** Motion made by Daniel Carter to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Dave Griffin and carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES from the July 16, 2024 meeting:** Motion made to approve the minutes by Danny Link. Seconded by Jim Fleming and carried.

**APPROVAL OF NEW MEMBERS/REINSTATEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP:** No new members or reinstatement of membership.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **RAY EPPARD, CHAIRMAN**

- We had 4 booths at the Fair! Altogether 25 new registered voters. Gloria Stump signed 11 of those new ones, with many in the younger generation. Waynesboro and the City of Staunton helped out several nights too.
- Hoping to hold a Get Out the Vote Rally.
- The Game Plan for Augusta County is to establish a committee to get out the people who do not usually vote, targeting issues that are important to our area.

#### **MARSHALL PATTIE, VICE CHAIRMAN PROGRAMS**

- 100 RSVP's for the Republican Picnic last month, but more than 350 people came out. Two goals ACRC has is to be known as a labor force (assisting in getting out the vote, door knocking, phone banking, etc.) and the place to come for candidates, to the annual picnic and the Christmas Party.
- September 02, Governor Youngkin, Lt. Governor Sears, Hung Cao and Ben Cline are scheduled to be in the Labor Day Parade in Buena Vista.
- September 14, there will be a deployment to District 7 to assist candidate Derrick Anderson.
- December 14, the regional Christmas Party will be held. Gubernatorial candidates and Attorney General candidates have been invited.
- We are the number 2 locality in Virginia targeted by the TRUMP Campaign. Opportunity is available to assist the campaign and earn special recognition.

### **DANIEL CARTER, VICE CHAIRMAN PRECINCTS**

- Daniel asked each Magistrate to stand and requested help with signs, sample ballots and sign up to be poll watchers. We need people to be present all day.
- He noted that manning gun shops each Saturday has yielded new registered voters.

### **EMILY KAISER, VICE CHAIRMAN COMMUNICATIONS**

- There has been a lot of website and store activity.
- Carolyn Bragg has been helping her with social media and is a huge help.
- She is updating the website constantly and will try to send out weekly emails.
- Looking for 2-3 people to contact news media and radio stations for public service announcements, and early voting. Marshall Pattie, Dave Griffin and Justin Dimitt volunteered.
- Reported that we have 2200 FB followers now.

### **WENDE HARRIS, TREASURER**

- Treasurer Report—Wende presented the Treasurer report. There were no questions.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Ray reported that under Governor Youngkin, more than 200,000 names have been removed from the voter polls.
- Dave Grembi, Vic Ludlum and Bill Shirley were able to make a compelling presentation to the Virginia Commissioner on Election Integrity recently, which was well received. Significant that Gov. Youngkin signed Executive Order 35, using paper ballots in Virginia.

#### Elected Officials addressing membership

George Price—If anyone wants to appeal their assessment, it should be filed with the Board of Equalization by September 01, 2024.

#### RGWA Report

Mona Huffer—Thanked those who visited their Open House. Headquarters has been busy, is well-stocked, and has been profitable.

#### Board of Supervisors Report

Jeff Slaven, Chair, BOS—Progress is being made on the courthouse, on the animal shelter and progress being made on a strategic fire plan, trying to ensure fire houses are uniform with operations, etc. With rain, things are better, but we are still in a D2 drought situation. Had a conversation with our Governor and he is interested in what things will look like in the next 5-10 years for our agricultural economy. Three tragedies occurred in the last 10 days. Called for prayer for the families experiencing loss. Dave Bourne prayed for those families involved and our area.

Trump Force 47

Whitson Emory, Regional Director for Trump Force 47. Presented ways we can join Trump in making the election successful. Training is being held frequently in the area. More information is on the website, Trumpforce47.com.

On recommendation of the Executive Board, Mike Lawson made the motion to set a budget of \$5500 donation to the RPV for campaign materials. Motion was seconded by Scott Cline and carried.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE.**

Ray clarified the history of the proposed time limit voted on at the last meeting. He wanted to be transparent on his motives. It was NOT about limiting free speech. In the past, he was present where discussion was monopolized to chase off opponents. His intent was to prevent such an occurrence.

Gloria Stump is the longest standing member of the ACRC. She knows Trump personally and presented an autographed picture of President Trump to Ray.

**ADJOURNMENT**-Motion made by Jim Fleming to adjourn the meeting, with a second by Dave Grembi. Motion carried. Ray Eppard, Chairman, adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Darlene Koblick, Secretary.