

Mason County Republican Executive Meeting February 21, 2017

Opening: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

John Beckett did the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance: John Beckett, Lyla McClelland, Carole Johnson, Kris Struve, Diane VanderWall, Tim Muldoon, Heather Vandervest, Hank and Joyce Wykretowicz, Rod Merrill, Wayne and Cheryl Kelly, John Kreinbrink, Jim Bachelder, Carolyn Cater

Excused: Cathy Ingraham and Rebecca Robinson

Approval of Minutes:

Rod was left off the audit committee on last month's minutes, needs correction

No other amendments... Jim Bachelder motioned to accept minutes as amended, Wayne Kelly 2nd

Treasurer's Report:

JFK went over Treasurer's report: Rod had a question about equipment that we are paying storage on
Rod motioned to accept and Jim B. 2nd

Introduction of guests:

Henry Rasmussen

Low Squires

Katie Miller (speaker)

Old Business:

Carolyn updated us on the State Convention, passed around list of elected officials; Rod talked about his take from the 1st district; Need to bring up when there is a run off that people who are renting buses should be more flexible about times.

Committee Report:

Rod talked about Facebook page and our website, let Rod know if anything has to be changed; Facebook page is up and running; Rod and Carolyn will be administrators; Should be in by-laws who has access to update and maintain website and Facebook. Discussion on who should be allowed to be administrators, Chairman, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Talked about closed or open to public, good way to advertise our events too.

Carolyn read a letter from Rose DeLoof about asking for the Superintendent to attend our meeting to talk about Common Core. Discussed possibility of having all three Superintendents of Mason County as Speakers for the April meeting.

New Business:

Lincoln Day Dinner: Lyla gave update, talked about guest speaker and trying to get a date that will work with Lincoln Hills and Bill Huizenga. April 13th or May 18th are the dates that Bill Huizenga could speak. \$60 membership includes a \$40 ticket to the Dinner. Decided on May 18th...

Dave Agema was going to be the speaker but there were questions about attendance because of his controversial comments. Lyla suggested having him speak at a meeting.

Carolyn saw on a website that we were not posted on a site that advertises GOP meetings throughout the state, Chamber of Commerce has a online calendar of events that we should be a part of.

Other events:

Table 14 is having a business after hours at 5-7pm put on by Carlos Alvarado Law, Starving Artist Brewery,

and Table 14.

Bill Huizenga is having a town hall Saturday at noon in Baldwin at the high School.

Tim talked about ideas for Friday Night Live events: monetary donations for police dog one night, other dates could benefit other charities.

Western Michigan Fair Dates: August 8-12

Friday Night Live Dates: July 14, 21, 28, and August 4

Rod talked about putting more things on Facebook and our website, Heather talked about how good it would be for our group to use more social media and how she uses it for school

Brainstorming (or did you mean the Steering Committee?) meeting went really good according to Lyla.

Wayne made motion to adjourn and Jim 2nd so speaker can begin

Featured Speaker:

Katie Miller, MPH, CHES, Health Educator
District Health Department #10 and Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
Works in substance abuse prevention
Katie Miller
(231)316-8567
kmiller@dhd10.org

2 topics: Marijuana and Heroin

- MI is a legal medical marijuana state
- Opiates teeter-totter effect

- Synthetic drugs are issues also, bath salts, fake weed etc
- E-cigs for vaporized products they've figured out how to use marijuana with them
- Hash oil products are a problem too as they've found ways to get the THC out of it
- Products like "Nugtella" are products with marijuana in them and can sell in legal states

- Showed chart that has Mason county as the marijuana trends are going up. #1 reason for people to get a marijuana card is for pain

- Average age is 13.2 first time user in mason county, 45% of students say it's easy to get, 27% of students say they've tried it.

- Current drug trends are Opiates and Rx Drugs, they'll share Rx drugs with friends
- Rx Opiates prescribed for pain, 249,000,000 written in US 2013 alone
- Addiction 1 in 4 long time users get addicted
- Daily 44 people will die as a result of painkiller OD
- Heroin 100% increase of women in the last 15 years
- Nationally it has quadrupled in death rates
- Gave stats on Stimulants, Painkillers, heroin and Naloxone
- Talked about trends with Alcohol, marijuana, binge drinking and synthetic drugs
- Talked about challenges and signs for promise

Then she talked about everyone working together by getting the word out and educating the communities by speaking at different groups and how we can get involved.

Took questions