

Mason County Republican Executive Committee Meeting
January 12, 2023

The meeting was called to order 6:30pm.

Invocation – Verna Chavalia

Pledge – Lewis Squires

Roll Call – Tina Shirshun. Present: State Rep. Curt VanderWall, Prosecutor Lauren Kreinbrink, Jim Nordlund, Lewis Squires, Kirk Chavalia, Verna Chavalia, Sheila Genter, Margaret Greiner, Duane Hobart, Cynthia Johnson, Eric Juers, Cindy Muzzo, Ben Norton, Nicole Norton, Charles Robinson, Becky Robinson, Tina Shirshun.

Excused Absences: Bill Chye, Pastor Brian Ford.

Guests: Carol Broderick, Gerald Bleau, Karie Bleau, Frank DeLamarre, Carmen Stehouwer, Pete Stehouwer, Richard Boes, Aldon Maleckas, John Kreinbrink, Ed Schuitema, Daniel Jensen, Loretta Anderson, Lyla McClelland, Damon Jordan, Jim Bachelder, Thomas Johnson, Carolyn Cater, Cathy Ingraham, Tim Muldoon, Diane VanderWall, Connie Wade, Andy Sebolt.

Approval of December 8th Meeting Minutes –

***Motion** made by Verna Chavalia to approve the meeting minutes of December 8, 2022. Becky Robinson seconded. No Discussion. Motion carried.

Treasury Report – Sheila reported per Article IV, Section 5 of the by-laws, a financial audit was conducted on 1/7/2023 and certified by the audit committee of Paul McCrath, Margaret Greiner and Rebecca Robinson. The State Checking Account's balance with QB & the bank reconciliation as of 12/31/2022 is \$848.03. This can be used for anything and corporate contributions are not allowed. The Administrative Checking Account's balance as of 12/31/2022 is \$2,360.83 of which \$1,040 is line itemed for Lansing bus trip and \$1,320.83 is uncommitted which can be used for non-campaign items such as a donation to a food bank, added scholarship and corporate contributions are allowed.

***Motion** made by Cindy Muzzo to approve the Certified Report of all MCRC financial records FY 2021 & 2022 dated 1/7/2023 by the audit committee. Seconded by Nicole Norton. No Discussion. Motion carried.

Reports from State Elected Officials –

Curt VanderWall reported back to work on Tuesday in Lansing with Wednesday having the traditional swearing-in and electing of our new leadership. Now on to explain why we vote for leadership on the other side of the aisle. Basically, it's tradition to cognify the speaker that they have the majority and we've done that for years. There are eight people that voted to not go in favor of that which caused some angst on the opposite side of the aisle. The new speaker pulled all committee assignments and reassigned committees to those that voted NO. Most of them didn't get a committee at all so they are going to be there for 2 years with no committee, most likely never get a bill, never have an opportunity to get a bill passed because for principle purposes they chose to break tradition. Four bills have been dropped relating to tax relief, 2 on the Republican side and 2 on the Democrat side and so we are off to a rough start. We had leaks from our caucus on 2 occasions and discussions are supposed to stay there. Representative VanderWall was asked if reps are required to follow the House rules in which he

replied “suggested.” We have an opportunity to take back this chamber midway through this, 2 people on the Democratic side have announced they are going to run for Mayor so there will be 2 spots opening, but not easy ones.

Reports from County Elected Officials –

-Lauren Kreinbrink reported her office has been very busy, had some successful jury trials and some guilty verdicts and some solutions on cases. Another avenue being looked at more closely is mental health and the increasing rate of defendants that are coming into the system with mental health issues. Combining mental health issues with substances which does not create a good system, we are looking at a more collaborative approach to see how we can handle these defendants and balance public safety considerations.

-Lewis Squires reported on many issues with the senior centers and have a work session set for 1/24/2023 at 7pm at the airport which is open to the public. Also Broadband is a major issue and we trying to tackle which direction to go there. Other issues include working on getting a grant for \$1,000,000 for the Fairground expansion, also starting the process for a new County Administrator, and also working on school resource officer’s safety which is a big concern for the children. We have been asked to reach out and help on economic development and help fund some of that. We have incorporated the Courthouse security and staying in touch with the Public Safety Committee, and we also have a new road commissioner and have been notified our Emergency Manager will be leaving us so we will have to hire a person for that. Our budget for this year that we approved last year is about \$16,000,000 and we have a good team, good attendance, and good leadership on our board. Lastly, please contact us with any concerns so we can work on them.

Reports from Committee Members –

Unfinished Business:

a) Sheila reported a Headquarters oral report was presented to the Executive Committee at the November regular meeting and then read the overall written report of Headquarters 2022 which has already been provided to the secretary. Report attached.

b) Tina Shirshun reported on Christmas gathering that followed the Mason County Executive Committee Meeting on December 8, 2022. We had an attendance of approximately 35 people with an abundance of appetizers & desserts provided and great conversation among guests, supporting members, and executive committee members. No expenses were involved as food & beverage were donated by members. A big “thank you” to all who helped out and participated in any way for this event.

New Business:

a) Sheila reported the Democrat Majority Speaker of the House voted on in Lansing. 102 Aye and 8 Nay. 101st State Rep Joe Fox, voted NO. 102nd State Rep Curt VanderWall, voted YES. Why are our Representatives voting for Democrats? Curt VanderWall responded to this in his report above.

b) Sheila reported West Shore Bank has requested that a motion be made and carried to remove past officers from the MCRC bank accounts, John Beckett, past VC, Carolyn Cater, past Chair and John Kreinbrink, past Treasurer, effective immediately.

***Motion** made by Cindy Muzzo to remove past officers John Beckett (past VC), Carolyn Cater(past Chair), and John Kreinbrink (past Treasurer) from the MCRC bank accounts. Seconded by Verna Chavalía. No discussion. Motion carried.

c) Sheila reported West Shore Bank has requested that a motion be made and carried to add as authorized users: Margaret Greiner, Treasurer, Sheila Genter, Chair and Tina Shirshun, Secretary to the MCRC bank accounts, effective immediately.

***Motion** made by Cynthia Johnson to add authorized users, Margaret Greiner(Treasurer), Sheila Genter(Chair), and Tina Shirshun(Secretary) to the MCRC bank accounts. Duane Hobart seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

d) Sheila suggested canceling phone with Consumer Cellular. Screen on the phone is damaged and it is antiquated. She received 2 phone calls on it since the chair has had it and both were solicitors. All MIGOP, County Chairs, Elected officials, Reps & Senator contact numbers are on the Chair's cell which has unlimited minutes so there is no cost involved. Continuation of this phone is a waste of MCRC money. Annual savings of \$320.

***Motion** made by Tina Shirshun to cancel Consumer Cellular. Seconded by Cindy Muzzo. No discussion. Motion carried.

e) Sheila that in April, Quickbooks will disable any current desktop software as they will be requiring those who use Quickbooks to either purchase an "annual" subscription to Quickbooks Desktop which is \$800 or purchase Quickbooks Online which is \$30 per month, \$360 annually. Online has the same capabilities as the Desktop, it allows Treasurer to print off the same reports that we are used to seeing. Everything in our current QB desktop would be uploaded to the online version. Margaret, Treasurer may have additional info. It is recommended that we set up the Online Quickbooks now since we are starting the new year instead of having to switch 4 months down the road. Motion needed for MCRC to subscribe to Online Quickbooks for our official bookkeeping/financial record keeping. Discussion.

***Motion** requested to be tabled by Nicole Norton. Seconded by Eric Juers. Motion tabled.

f) Sheila discussed regular Meeting night options. Some members of the Executive Committee are unable to make our regularly scheduled meetings every month because they are alternating attending their township, church, or another meeting. At the request of these members, it was agreed that we would look into our options. Verna presented findings. Discussion.

***Motion** made by Eric Juers to change MC Executive Committee Meeting to 1st Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm Seconded by Duane Hobart. Following additional discussion, Chair called for a vote by raising of a hand. 9 voted yes for changing the date and 7 voted no. Motion carried.

g) Sheila presented a modification of the Membership form and Scholarship form.

***Motion** made by Cheryl Kelly to approve modified Membership Form. Seconded by Eric Juers. Discussion. Motion carried.

***Motion** made by Becky Robinson to approve the new scholarship form, add one more scholarship for this year, and to revisit this next year. Seconded by Nicole Norton. Discussion. Motion carried.

h) Sheila presented Budget 2023. Budget amounts for 2023 were determined based on numbers from 2021-2022 actual income and expense reports. See attached MCRC Budget 2023.

***Motion** made by Charlie Robinson to approve the budget. Seconded by Cheryl Kelly. Discussion to increase the scholarship expenditure and the postage expenditure. Motion was made to approve the budget with the additions noted by Charlie Robinson, seconded by Cheryl Kelly. Motion carried.

Announcements

Sheila reminded the County Convention is 1/26/2023, 7:00 pm, Lakeshore Resource Network Bldg. A couple of things regarding the State Convention to be held 2/17-18/2023 at the Lansing Center. At-large and Precinct Delegates who are elected as delegates or alternates for the State Convention are to be informed that your presence is needed to vote at the 2nd District Caucus on 2/17/2023 at 7:00 pm for Chair, VC, Treasurer, Secretary and 25 committee members that will make up the 2nd District Executive Committee as well as attending the State Convention on 2/18/2023 starting at 9:00 am for election of State Party Chair, Co-Chair, Administrative VC, Coalitions VC, Ethnic VC, Grassroots VC, Outreach VC and Youth VC. If you are not able to attend both, then our votes will not be heard. Check your schedules before the County Convention to make sure you can commit to both days before requesting to be on the ballot for voting on 9 delegates and 9 alternates. Secondly, the state committee is voting tonight on whether or not to charge delegates, alternates, and guests \$50 each for attending the convention. If the \$50 isn't paid by the online date, (week prior to state convention) you will be charged \$75. I will be notified tomorrow if this amendment to the rules has passed.

Sheila also reported the Supreme Court denied hearing the Brunson lawsuit.

Public Comments

Gerald Bleau introduced himself as supervisor in Pere Marquette Charter Twp and talked about 2 recall petitions from same individual and there is a clarity hearing on Jan 20th at 9am and asking for anybody's support; Karie Bleau introduced herself as Treasurer on Pere Marquette Charter twp also having 2 recalls and would appreciate anyone's support; Lyla McClelland spoke she appreciates new structure on membership form; John Kreinbrink commented on new structure also; Dick Boes commented on no senior discount; Aldon Maleckas introduced himself; Connie Wade commented on executive board and strong leaders; Jim Bachelder commented on discussion and voting; Tim Muldoon commented on economic development; Ed Schuitema commented on going to Lansing and see how it works; Cathy Ingraham shared concerns about Republican party and petition drives and is glad to see parking lot packed tonight!!!; Carolyn Cater shared question on Broadband with Lewis Squires; Damian Jordon introduced himself as new district representative for John Moolenaar; Andy Sebolt thanked everyone who came down to the candidate forum in Muskegon and he is running for 2nd District Chair; Daniel Jensen questioned if anyone else has concerns about our Governor going to the WEF meeting; Charlie Robinson thanked all guests for coming; Becky Robinson commented on running for 2nd District Executive Committee and will have information available for the 9 Delegates and 9 Alternates.

Adjournment

***Motion** made by Cynthia Johnson to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Nicole Norton. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Next meeting is February 7th, 6:30pm, Lakeshore Resource Network, 920 E. Tinkham Avenue, Ludington.