

**Mason County Republican Executive Committee Minutes**  
**September 8, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

**Invocation** – John Beckett

**Pledge** – Jim Bachelder

**Roll Call** – Tina Shirshun. Present: Sheriff Kim Cole, Susan Boes, Jim Bachelder, John Beckett, Dick Boes, Verna Chavalía, Sheila Genter, Cynthia Johnson, Lyla McClelland, Cindy Muzzo, Ed Bear Schuitema, Tina Shirshun, Margaret Greiner.

Excused Absences: Wayne Kelly, John Kreinbrink, Tim Muldoon, and Diane VanderWall.

Guests: Bill Chye, Loretta Anderson, Becky Robinson, Charlie Robinson, Kirk Chavalía, Roger Anderson, Connie Wade, Nicole Norton, Ben Norton, Eric Juers, Carole Johnson, Carolyn Cater.

**Approval of the August meeting minutes** –

**\*Motion** made by Verna Chavalía to approve meeting minutes from August 18, 2022.

Jim Bachelder seconded. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** – John Kreinbrink could not attend the meeting, and sent financials via email to Sheila to share. Sheila reported she compared the report to last month to see what changes happened. The only change was a Consumer Cellular bill was paid. The treasurer's report was also circulated to view. Any questions or discussion? No questions from committee members.

**\*Motion** made by Verna Chavalía to approve the Treasurer report given by Sheila Genter.

Jim Bachelder seconded. Motion carried.

**Report from State Elected Officials** –

Senator Curt VanderWall could not attend the meeting but provided Sheila with a report to read. Lansing has been quiet because of the election cycle. I continue to push bills to the governor such as the CON (Certificate of Need) Bill on psych beds & expanding mental health opportunities, a Bill she vetoed last year. Also working on getting the State involved with the production of insulin. Currently, the average cost on insulin is \$825 a month. The goal is to lower the cost to \$50. Also looks like there will be no or small movement on the supplemental this fall with approximately 7 billion sitting on the books. Abortion continues to be a huge issue. We need to be understanding, HOWEVER, we MUST let people know what is in the reproductive freedom ballot proposal. It allows any individual, no age requirement, to have an abortion and/or be prescribed gender changing hormones w/o parental consent or knowledge. Also, any health care professional can perform the abortion and is not held accountable should something go wrong with the procedure. We need to pray this isn't allowed on the ballot. And lastly, this election is going to be close. We need all hands on deck helping with all our candidates with door knocking, phone calls, etc., please try to lend a hand where and when you can. Thank you all. Let's fight hard on our way to a November victory.

**Report from County Elected Officials** –

-Cheryl Kelly reported 27.51% voter turnout in the primary. Cheryl wanted three people that signed up to be election inspectors, Sheila, Verna and Kirk Chavalía to share their experiences. Sheila worked 3<sup>rd</sup> precinct in Ludington and was able to work at every station, and was there through closing. There are a

lot of steps to follow in closing. Many checks and balances and levels of security. Voters were very polite and there was always a republican and a democrat at every station. Verna and Kirk did a partial shift and it took a while to get started. It was enjoyable, everyone was nice and professional. They didn't get to work all stations, but would definitely do it again and highly recommend it. Positive experience. Cheryl reported Mr. Juers came in and he spent 3 hours observing the public tabulator test. We are in dire need of election inspectors and you have to prepare to do that beforehand. I want to encourage everybody to get involved, that we have open seats on the ballots, school board seats in Mason Co Central and Mason Co Eastern and a full village of Free Soil with no clerk, no president, no treasurer, and not enough trustees. We need people to step up. Our office is getting many FOIA requests and they are pushing this on us in the time frame between an August election and November election. We are seeing the same requests circulating throughout all our clerks' offices in Michigan. Not only does it cost the taxpayers a lot of money, it stops production in our office, and it's requesting information on an election that's nearly 2 years old. Why wasn't it FOIA'd when it happened? I am down 2 employees right now and people don't want to apply for jobs. People need to step up and get involved and commit to the involvement, it's going to take time. We need to protect Mason County first. Also, proposal 22-1 would term limit our legislatures and has a lot of other information in it. My opinion is you don't know enough till you have been in office for a cycle, there is too much to learn and laws change. Proposal 22-2 is to amend the state constitution and add provisions regarding elections, some positives, and some negatives. Reviewed some parts relating to military ballots, voter ID, absentee ballots, and up to 9 days of voting in person. Also reported she did 40 training sessions throughout Mason County in June and July and even pulled an extra one for Mr. Juers. Also, in order to be a write-in candidate, you have to file a "declaration of affidavit" before October 28th, and to be an election inspector, you need to contact your local clerk.

-Kim Cole reported he will be flying to DC as part of a national fentanyl and border security conference that's for sheriffs. We are going to protest at the Capital and the White House to try to call attention to the fentanyl deaths in our country. Lastly, watch House Bill 4885, it passed the House. This Bill grants exclusive authority to the governor to remove any county elected officials based on an elector's affidavit complaining about an elected official. I don't think it is going to make its way through the Senate, but if it does, it would give the governor, the sole arbitrator, of removing county officials if they are deemed to be neglecting duty or malfeasance/misfeasance in office, but they don't define what those two things are.

## **Reports from Committee Members –**

### Unfinished Business:

-Lyla reported on Candidate Forum/Meet and Greet held July 28, 2022 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Ludington. We estimated over 100 in attendance, including candidates. Sheila Genter presented the welcome and Sheriff Kim Cole was the moderator. Candidates were: For Governor: Ryan Kelly, Tudor Dixon (by letter); US Congress John Moolenaar (by rep Gabe Butzke), Tom Norton (by rep Kathleen); State Senator Chuck Ritchard; House of Representatives, 101<sup>st</sup> District-Joseph Fox, Chad Pierce (by letter); House of Representatives 102nd District Ryan Roberts, Andrew Sebolt; Mason County Commissioners Gary Castonia, Dr. Michelle Custer, Jody Hartley, Dr. Lewis Squires, Ron Bacon. Additional program assistance included County Treasurer Andrew Kmetz (timer), Undersheriff Derrek Wilson (questions), Jim Bachelder, Wayne Gort and Verna Chavalia (hall set-up), Susan Boes (table décor), Verna Chavalia (food set-up), John Beckett and John Kreinbrink (audience help). Cookies, cupcakes, and water were provided. Expenses were \$51.82, Church rental \$50, ads for 2 weeks and 1 weekend \$64.50 totaling \$166.32.

-Lyla reported on the Annual West Michigan Fair held August 9-13, 2022. Our booth contained signs, literature, free pencils, printed bags, and buttons for a suggested \$2 donation each. John Beckett, Jim Bachelder, and Lyla McClelland got supplies to the fairgrounds on August 7th with Lyla completing booth set-up August 8th. Rain forced closure of the fair on Saturday 4pm. Volunteers who worked the booth and approximate time spent: Candidate Jon Bumstead (2hrs), Candidate Curt and Diane VanderWall (2hrs), Cathy Ingraham (3hrs), Carole Johnson (3hrs), Ed Schuitema (3hrs), John Kreinbrink (2hrs), Sheila

Genter (4hrs including teardown), Jim Bachelder (10hrs), and Lyla McClelland (16hrs including teardown). We took in \$59 in donations for buttons with the only expense being \$65 for booth fee.

Sheila added we have taken in so far \$250 in donations but John has not updated that yet. Lyla added that Sheila has had to take over the picnic due to illness in family.

-Sheila with update on the annual picnic, 15 invites were emailed out to Republican Candidates on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Senator VanderWall and Senator Bumstead are attending, unknown about Moolenaar attending and I have had contact with Tudor Dixon and Kristina Karamo aides. On Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> emails were sent out with electronic RSVPs to past and present members, so far 40 have confirmed not including candidates, leaving 77 that haven't responded yet. Cynthia Johnson has stepped up to contact caterers. Cynthia reported the 2019 food cost was \$636 and 35 people attended, so we are ahead on attendance. Three caterers were contacted Gloria Ann's, Cluck Bucket (did not return call), and Marsha Sadler (not available). Gloria Ann's provided quote based on 75 people at \$10 a plate, \$30 delivery fee, and \$45 tax, totaling \$825. Number of people attending can be increased or decreased the week before the event, so the quote is \$189 more than 2019, but it is based on 75 people. Menu includes Signature Sweet pulled pork with rolls, mini corn cob, 3 bean side dish with onion and bacon, and fresh veggie platter with ranch dip. GOP would provide ice, water, beverage, chips, and desserts and other donations are welcome. Sheila discussed having some volunteers to make sheet cakes, cookies, etc. and help with literature set-up and clean-up.

\***Motion** made by Jim Bachelder to accept the food contract submitted by Gloria Ann's in the amount of \$825 with the understanding the cost could go up or down with the final attending count. Susan Boes seconded. Motion carried.

-Sheila reminded on last month's discussion on having Community Resource Agency presentations and was planning to start that on October 13<sup>th</sup>, our next meeting. Looking at starting with O'Nealya Gronstal, Executive Director of the Lakeshore Food Club, or Liz Reimink, Emergency Management Coordinator. Dick Boes suggested the meeting on November 10th after the general election might be better due to the October meeting before the election might be filled with election discussion. Other committee members concurred so presentations at our meetings would start November 10th.

#### New Business:

-Sheila reported on memberships and encouraged people to join the Republican Party. Membership is only \$25. Suggested to committee members, if you can think of two people who are republicans that you can encourage to join, that \$25 dollars helps us in many ways and also makes our local party stronger. Dick Boes asked if there is a discount between the ages of 18-21. Advised yes, the membership is \$15.

-Sheila also encouraged people to get involved. She reported poll watchers can just go and observe on Election Day. There is a public area designated by the Chair in which you can observe and be out of the way. Poll watchers can't challenge anything, just observe.

-Sheila reported that we need the precinct delegates to get involved. The role of the precinct delegate is important, you are an elected representative from the local Republican Party from the area where you reside. One of the rules is to help people in your precinct register to vote, provide information on issues and candidates to the voters, and recruit others interested in your party. This is a heated election and we need everybody engaged. Discussion continued with information to be prepared with when talking with people. Information is available at Headquarters which you can pick up and leave with people you talk with.

## **Announcements**

-Adopt a Highway scheduled for September 26th, meet at PM Town Hall at 6:00pm. Rain day will be September 27th. Please watch short safety video at this Hyperlink <http://youtu.be/ZiNi5MCTI9g>  
-Annual Fall Picnic, sponsored by the Mason County Republican Executive Committee is scheduled for Sunday, September 18, 2022, at 1:00pm at Suttons Landing Park, 5610 W. Iris Rd, Ludington. Catered picnic food and beverage will be provided. Open to the public.

## **Public Comments**

Carole Johnson share concern for state and country. Nicole Norton also praying for our country. Ben Norton wants to do his part and make a good impact and educate people to make good decisions. Connie Wade is retired and trying to find her place and get boots on the ground do some work. She also serves as a treasurer for a nonprofit group in Mason County and shared some things they teach kids to do. Becky Robinson is a precinct delegate and announced her husband Charlie will be a write-in for a school board position at Mason Co Eastern. Charlie Robinson is a precinct delegate and shared concerns about legislators and Republican Party. Kirk Chavalia is a precinct delegate and shared experience at the state convention in Lansing. Roger Anderson shared he is precinct delegate. Loretta Anderson shared she is a precinct delegate and is bummed she missed out on the state convention due to vehicle issues. Carolyn Cater is a precinct delegate shared her appreciation of all the positive energy here and shared information on Proposal 3. Bill Chye is a precinct delegate and shared concerns on Bill-4885. Eric Juers shared he is a delegate and shared his experience working/training with Mason County Clerk Cheryl Kelly. He has concerns on elections and getting more people involved.

After all guests introduced themselves open discussion led to great conversation and sharing advice on multiple issues.

\***Motion** made by Jim Bachelder to adjourn meeting. Cindy Muzzo seconded. Motion carried.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2022, 6:30pm, at the Lakeshore Resource Network Building, 920 E. Tinkham Ave, Ludington.