

Minutes of the Mason County Republicans Executive Committee meeting held on Wednesday June 8, 2011 at Luciano's Ristorante located at 103 W. Ludington Avenue, Ludington, MI. The meeting was called to order at 12:10 pm. The invocation was given by Pastor Brad Chandonnet followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Diane Stark, Beth McMaster, Joyce Wykretowicz, Hank Wykretowicz, Stan Bennette, Jim Riffle, Gene Jorissen, Charles Whiteside, Kris Struve, Linda Koch, Lyla McClelland, Jim Bachelder, John Kreinbrink, Paul McCrath, Thomas J. Gangler, Brad Chandonnet, Carl Parker, Susan Kasley Sniegowski and Rosemarie DeLoof.

Members Excused: Rodney D. Merrill

Others Present: Congressman Bill Huizenga, Greg VanWoerkom, Shane Reed, Lindsay McMaster, Todd McMaster, Zack McMaster, Sarah O'Connor, Jim McInnis, Carole Johnson, Fred Slimmen, Charles McDowell and Andy Sebolt.

Chairman Wykretowicz introduced Andy Sebolt who is the Secretary of the Oceana GOP and has recently been elected to the State Committee. Andy spoke briefly, reporting that he sits on the Grassroots committee on how to best select candidates for the 2012 primary. Feel free to contact Andy at 231-923-6881 if you have any comments or questions for him.

The minutes for May 11, 2011 were approved as written.

Treasurer Paul McCrath presented the Treasurer's report, as of June 6, 2011 we have a balance of \$8,656.87. This was approved as presented.

Sub-Committee Reports

A. Highway Clean Up-Joyce Wykretowicz reports the next dates for Highway Cleanup are July 9-17. Diane Stark made a motion for July 13 at 6:00 pm with a rain date of the next day July 14 at 6:00 pm seconded by Gene Jorissen. We will meet at the PM Township Hall.

B. Events Committee-Lyla has sent a sheet around for sign up for the fair from Tuesday July 26 thru Saturday July 30. The permit for the Fourth of July parade has been paid and Chairman Hank is asking for volunteers to march and help pass out candy. Joyce and Hank will purchase the candy from the Candy Store in Pentwater. Gene Jorissen will be driving his red convertible and the parade will start at 1pm on July 4, 2011.

SOS Ruth Report-Carole Johnson presented the June update from Ruth Johnson. A top priority for the Secretary of State is safe guarding the Absentee Voter Laws. The office shutdown that occurred during the week of May 16 was caused by a broken fiber link. Ruth and her staff waived late fees and extended office hours to help with catch up work. Ruth is working with the legislature to honor our military service members on our Michigan License Plates. Starting on Memorial Day 2011, military branches are now being recognized with full-color logo license plates.

Pastor Brad Chandonnet invited the committee to attend a Patriotic Sunday on Sunday July 3 at his church the Gospel Light Baptist Church located at 105 N. Dennis Rd. There will be a service at 10:30am followed by a picnic at noon. They are inviting elected representative to attend.

John Kreinbrink asked the County Clerk Jim Riffle what he has heard regarding re-districting after the 2010 census Jim reported that there are many plans but nothing definite.

Congressman Bill Huizenga was introduced by Hank Wykretowicz and his take on re-districting was that there is much speculation and some maps were leaked to the press early but he says a plan will be out sometime this summer. The biggest change has occurred in SW Michigan where the population dropped by 200,000 citizens. This loss will have a ripple effect on the rest of the State. The Congressman says he believes there are four divisions in the current House; 1. Geographical. 2. Political. 3. Philosophical. 4. Generational. One factor of the generational divide wants to make the tough choices now and do the right thing.

The Congressman answered some questions on debt ceiling, he believes that before he could vote to increase the debt ceiling he would have to see a change of pattern and behavior on debt. There are serious consequences if we do not pay our loans. He also took questions on foreign policy and on the neglect of previous legislatures on budget issues. He believes that there is strong support in Congress for the Ryan Budget Plan.

Lyla McClelland asks if we should purchase plastic bags with our logo for the Fair Booth. Linda Koch made a motion to spend up to \$200.00 on bags, seconded by Joyce and motion carried.

Hank announced that the Manistee Lincoln Day Dinner is June 8 at Manistee National Golf Course featuring Congressman Huizenga as keynote speaker.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55pm.

Rosemarie DeLoof
Secretary
Republican Executive Committee