

Cass Co GOP Executive meeting 8-27-2024

Rose Kelsheimer called to order 7:00 PM, Steve Carra led in prayer and Larry Westgate the Pledge.

Roll Call: The following were present: Steve Carra, Brad Paquette, Johnathan Lindsey, Mary Howie, Rosann Marchetti, RJ Lee, Wally Berndt, Dan Adams, Kim Adams, Mike Egan, Mark Howie, Rose Kelsheimer, Roger Boyer, Mike Grice, Brian Woodbury, Debbie Burke and Tom Langley.

Not present: Hope Anderson, Rick Behnke, Thomas Stephenson, Ryan Laylin, James Lawrence, Joyce Sheteron-Locke, Jeremiah Jones, Nate Wilder, JD Glaser, Wendy Glaser, and Kevin Kelsheimer.

Excused Absence: Monica McMichael, Victor Fitz, Jeff VanBelle, Samuel Barrera, Jerry Duck, and Lynn Schantz.

Secretaries Report: Wally Berndt – Rosann Marchetti motioned to approve seconded by RJ Lee. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Kim Adams – Copies are on the table in the back. In the campaign account the balance is \$23,619.96. The admin account balance is \$633.50.

On-Line Auction: Dave St Clair for Lisa Smith – We had another on-line Auction through the Give Butter Platform. We were taking cash donations we also took merchandise in kind to auction off. It was advertised on the GOP website and had a plaque at the Cass County Fair. We raised a small amount of cash, and we had \$2,700 worth of merchandise. We had 5 people from the GOP that registered for the auction. We are going to put a few choice items on the website in our store. It was brought up that the fair may not have been a good venue for this type of thing. The Lincoln Day dinner traditionally had the silent auction and enthusiasm did not waver with the on-line feature added.

New Business: We need new headquarter chair Can I get a motion for \$187.20? Roger Boyer motioned to buy the new chairs for \$187.20 seconded by Dan Adams. The motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Special Events: The Republican headquarters will be at the Sinclair Gas Station on Broadway. The set-up will be Wednesday September 4th at 5:00 PM, if you want to help. The hours are 4 to 8 PM on Monday through Friday, 10 AM to 2 PM Saturday and closed on Sunday. Tare down will be on Friday November 8th at 5:00 PM. We will have literature and signs. We will be asking for a donation for Trump yard signs.

Youth Committee: RJ Lee says Riley Kass got engaged 2 weeks ago.

County Committee: Roger Boyer – For our next meeting we will have Sam Nelson here for “Trump Force 47” He will make a presentation looking for people to sign-up to become volunteers. This program is to encourage and get people to vote. Invite people to this meeting.

7th District: Roseann Marchetti – Wednesday September 25th from 3 to 6 PM at the Road Commission there will be Hazardous waste disposal including; hazardous waste, electronics, passenger car and truck tires.

September 21st Fall Festival in Edwardsburg from 9 AM to 4 PM. There will be 80 vendors 6 or 7 food trucks, a bounce house, along with a lot of organizations.

8th District: RJ Lee – The county put out a couple of NARCAN distribution boxes at our Woodlands facilities for people who overdose on OPIODS. Those will be available for free.

We had a county EMT meeting. Long story short, it was a total crap show. I don't see a way for us to have unified decision so it will fall on the townships.

5th District: Mary Howie – In a meeting at the C.O.A. there was a discussion on bringing some of the programs to Edwardsburg. They have wonderful programs with something going on all day long. They have wonderful lunches at a reasonable price.

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Senator Johnathan Lindsey: Regarding minimum wage laws, the courts stepped in and decided they would re-write both minimum wage and sick leave. They decided they would make some mandates for businesses on paid sick leave. This would be a one size fits all mandate giving small businesses a burden they could not meet. Republicans have put forth a legislative fix on the table and called on the Democrats to come together. The rewrite on the minimum wage has an impact on tip workers. You would see roughly a 50% increase in the mandated wages paid by the restaurant before tips. Across the board, restaurants say that would mean, game over.

Related to this, I have drafted on a state level a No Tax on Tips bill, as President Trumps proposal to eliminate income tax for tips on a federal level.

Representative: Brad Paquette – MAHA, Making America Healthy Again. I enjoyed watching Tucker and doctors talking about how we prepare our food and things like that. Having RFK Jr. being a part of the Trump campaign is significant to say the least. I cannot wait for us to take back the gavel.

I have been invited by the “Up Center” (an LBTQ^#*+ group) to one of their forums. I am going because these things need to be confronted directly with boldness. It will be September 12th in Benton Harbor.

On Abortion and so-called reproductive rights, I am very concerned. I do not want the Republican party to lose on the right to life initiative. Live Action is putting out images of these unborn. You need to see it to understand how barbaric it is.

Representative: Steve Carra – I wrote a book called “True Gretchen.” Here is a little back story so you know where that came from. In March Whitmer announced that she was writing “True Gretch.” She said it would be about how she responded to COVID19, the kidnapping plot, Donald Trump, reproductive health and forced Abortion. These are the main topics she wanted to write about. I thought to myself, I would like to write that book. A guy reached out, looking to be an unpaid intern in my office. He said he loves to write and he wanted to be in politics. A few weeks later I asked him if he would like to help me write a book about the governor? We went on a five-week journey and we finished this 150-page book. This exposes her for who she really is.

Congress: Lee Belding for Tim Walberg – I am officially a member of the Cass GOP. We are full steam ahead. Speaker Johnson says the Democrats are raising record amounts of money. We hired our campaign manager Casey Swinson. I will turn it over to Casey.

Casey Swinson: I do most of my work in Calhoun and Branch counties. We are working out of our Jackson office sharing a building with the Jackson County Right to Life organization. I encourage all to see a video from Mickael Knowls about a young lady on his show talking about the horror of the abortion that she had. She became addicted to drugs; she talked about what she went through.

This is a very crucial election. We need to get the number of voters up. We need to get the low propensity voters to the poles. In 2016 in Battle Creek there were 10,000 new voters turning the election to Trump. In 2020 those people did not show up. We need to keep these numbers up.

Congressman Walberg spoke with President Trump on voter integrity. “Protect The Vote” is a website we encourage you to go to. Get involved with pole watching and pole challenging.

The congressman supported the Save Act legislation.

State Committee: Mark Howie for JD Glaser – There was a meeting, if you want to call it that, after the state convention. The meeting was in a huddle with only half the members able to hear. It was determined to not certify the vote from the convention at that meeting due to the lack of people there. We were required to have a zoom meeting with-in 48 hours. That time has passed but we have not heard yet.

Roger Boyer made a motion to adjourn seconded by Karen Tan.

The motion passed unanimously. The meeting is Adjourned

Respectfully submitted by Wally Berndt.