



Organizational Executive Committee Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Zoom Videoconferencing*

Call to Order (using Roberts Rules of Order 12th Edition 3:15)

- a. Chair Tucker called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.
- b. Opening remarks from Chair Tucker thanking the Executive Committee team

Invocation Chair Tucker led the prayer

Pledge of Allegiance Led by Kerry King

Chair Tucker stated this organizational meeting of the Saginaw County Republican Executive Committee will come to order. For accuracy and transparency, this zoom meeting will be recorded.

Chair Tucker stated according to current bylaws, EC members may not miss more than three (3) meetings or be removed.

Roll call to determine Quorum (quorum of elected EC is 9)

Voice Roll Call Led by Secretary Korina

Committee Members Present:	Curt Tucker	Gary Ell	
Austin Smith			
	Korina Tucker	Eric Gladwish	
Martha Avina			
	Jim Flint	Jim Conger	Dane Couture
	Mike Curtiss	Debra Ell	Brian Forbes
	Suzanne Hall	Kerry King	Lynne Norman
	Colleen Ribble	Duane Riha	Kathy Riha
	Carol Storch	Kathleen Vasold	Warren Vasold
	Rick Riebschleger	Mark Piotrowski	Andrea Paschall

*All attendees participated via conference/video call

Committee Members Absent: None

- Chair Tucker asked if we have a Quorum.
- Debra Ell stated that we need only nine (9) according to our bylaws.
- Secretary Korina stated twenty-four (24) members present.
- Chair Tucker asked what a quorum is.
- Eighteen (18) or more members to host a legal meeting.
- The EC meetings require only nine (9) members.

Approval of Agenda

- a. Chair Tucker asked for approval of this agenda. Is there a motion to approve the proposed agenda?
- b. **Motion by Gary Ell to approve the agenda.** Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

- a. Chair Tucker stated the December 12, 2022 Special Officer Election meeting were amended and approved by email and sent to delegates.
- b. Debra Ell clarified that minutes were approved by email and have already been sent out to delegates.

Special Orders of Business

- a. **Treasurer's Report:** Eric Gladwish
 1. No final Annual Treasurer's Report from Janet Stoney.
 2. No attendance to the December 12, 2022 meeting and no report given.
 3. Some documents dropped off to Eric Gladwish.
 4. Documents were handwritten.
 5. The most important Annual Report starting 11/1/2022 to end of year, December 31, 2022 was missing.
 6. Eric stated there was a Treasurer's Report found showing approximately \$12,000 as of November 1, 2022. Split between two accounts (general expenses, election related expenses). No report showing where monies were spent.
 7. Among documents was a report showing bank accounts closed. A check written to new committee for \$280.
 8. Eric Gladwish is in need of Final Treasurer's Report and has written Janet Stoney's attorney. This is holding Gladwish up from updating Secretary of State as a Statement of Organization. Also, from Select Reporting Waivers for 2023. This waiver states that no transactions over \$1,000 for election related activities.
 9. Gladwish is not able to get an EIN number, update address information, or move forward on a bank account without Form 8822 with the IRS.
 - 10.No Bank Statements or access to this information.
 - 11.All current costs to allow new committee members to move forward has been fronted by delegates:
 - a. Debra Ell donated \$240 for fliers (January Convention).
 - b. Zoom account \$111.

- c. Postage for fliers (Convention) \$162.
 - d. Envelopes for fliers (Convention) \$56.
 - e. America First organization fronted the cost of Saginaw Field & Stream for January 2023 Call to Convention of \$250.
 - f. P.O. Box fee \$140 per year.
12. We are currently at a negative balance of -\$539.
13. Andrea Paschall presented questions regarding the Christmas Gala. The Gala was an event to unite each other at the end of Convention.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Motion by Jim Conger. Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Point of information presented by Andrea Paschall asking is this America First, Michigan First Corporate or is this 501c4 that did the event? Debra Ell stated it is the same and the new committee in charge will report to the IRS every year as required.

Motion to recommend Executive Committee approve the authorization of Eric Gladwish to open the required bank accounts at Frankenmuth Federal Credit Union.

- 1. Authorize Eric Gladwish to manage authorization to Officers to the account.
- 2. Chair Curt Tucker and Vice Chair Gary Ell signing privileges.
- 3. Provide debit cards to Officers authorized to the account.

Motion moved. Seconded by Gary Ell.

Motion Carried.

Eric Gladwish stated a second motion is needed for 2023 Membership Dues.

Motion to recommend all current 2023 membership dues and thereafter be designated for Administrative Expenses only.

Motion by Duane Riha. Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Membership (dues, meeting venue, office, donors/fundraising, committees/profiles)

- 1. Chair Tucker stated that we need to start generating dues.
- 2. We have a **temporarily venue** to meet at currently and need to look for a permanent office. Debra Ell asked of a better location and if anyone has access to a building for future venues?
- 3. Pastor Chet graciously offered the church space (Gideon Christ Community Church) to host the monthly meetings.
- 4. After much discussion, Chair Tucker and Debra Ell suggested a free will donation offering to cover the church venue expenses. **It is strictly on a free will donation basis and not a fundraiser.**
- 5. Chair Tucker stated we will collect donations each time the church facility is used until we find a permanent office to hold our meetings.

6. A discussion among all who were in attendance the subject of increasing the membership fee to \$35 per person per calendar year.
7. Vice Chair Gary Ell stated the current membership fee is \$25 and that it had not increased in twenty (20) years.
8. Jim Flint stated that you do not have to pay dues to attend meetings. Asked how many paid their membership dues in 2022? Use this as our gauge of how many people are going to pay dues for 2023.
9. Treasurer Eric Gladwish is looking into this matter and will advise us as to how many paid their membership dues in 2022.
10. Debra Ell talked to Janet Stoney a while ago and it was discussed to have a membership drive to raise funds.
11. Vice Chair Gary Ell stated that we have identified 9 or 10 committees that people are on that they pay dues or membership fees to be on the committees. This is so that they are not just guests taking part of committees.
12. Dane Couture suggests that asking current members to pay for previous administrations mishandling of money may look bad. We should keep accounting in the same ballpark. He agrees with Warren Vasold that we should not double the fee and that is not the answer.

Suzanne Hall recommends a move that we increase dues to \$35/per person per year.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Membership Committees

1. Debra Ell stated that Connie Well and Karen Potter will chair a committee.
2. Two (2) Chairs for each committee, one (1) EC and one (1) non EC Delegate.
3. Debra Ell stated that Karen Potter has set up a Facebook page/Twitter page and working on a Web Page.
4. Debra Ell suggests getting involved and choosing a Committee to be on.
5. Suzanne Hall stated that some committees seem similar. We should have a description or statement for each committee.
6. Chair Tucker stated these committees are very important for community engagement.
7. Vice Chair Gary Ell said Finance is to be led by Treasurer. This is the same as Audit Committee.
8. Debra Ell stated to contact her for interest in any of these committees.
9. Jim Conger stated he would like to be chair on the bylaws committee. He stated his experience of working with Delphi and working with their bylaws.
10. Debra Ell stated bylaws and finance is only Executive Committee members.
11. Suzanne Hall stated that there are delegates, non-delegates and EC delegates. Not everyone involved is a delegate.
12. Debra Ell stated we need to focus on completely filling each precinct with republican delegates.
13. Andrea Paschall would be glad to take communications.

Gary Ell stated that the current bylaws state that Chair Tucker has the ability to determine/appoint a chair for each committee. No motions are needed to put someone into leading committees.

Committees offered:

Office Building/Administrative (searching for new office NOW)
Prayer & Care
Events
Fundraising & Corporate Membership - Gary Ell
Finance
Social Media - Karen Potter
Delegate Recruitment & Support
Candidate Recruitment & Support
Legislative Reporting
Community Outreach - Connie Weil, Martha Avina
Youth - Tyler Wat

Bylaws Committee - (two (2) EC, two (2) Delegates)

1. Chair Tucker stated that he would like Jim Conger to be on this committee.
2. Jim Conger stated that he would like several others on it as well.

Replace Executive Committee Member Kathy Haney - (VC Gary Ell, Colleen Ribble, Suzanne Hall, EC Members)

1. VC Gary Ell stated that a request was sent out to EC to fill vacant position.
2. Ten (10) names of individuals collected.
3. Within one (1) phone call, five (5) people of the ten (10) were eliminated from the list, as they were not interested.
4. Spreadsheet sent out to EC members with the information of four (4) individuals who made top of list.
5. Curt Demming/David Sharrer would rather not be on EC, but willing to take part of legislative committee.
6. On Saturday, January 7, 2023 a Zoom meeting was hosted to get comments from each of the four (4) candidates.
7. Likeminded people on the EC and are America First Republicans.
8. Dr. Tony Debari would like to be, but needs to be elevated as a delegate.
9. There is an age bracket in the spreadsheet as we want to bring in more young people.

Connie Weil - has been active and has been on the prior EC. She was added in the last couple months. She has been Very helpful to Gary and Debra Ell. Connie and Geoff Weil have two (2) sons that live out of state. She has lots of time and her desire is to be chair of Outreach Committee.

Debra Ell spoke on behalf of Connie Weil. She does not know her super well. She has been reliable of information, as she was with the old guard for a while. She was shutout by previous administration when she started asking questions.

Eric Kowalewski - is a scientist and president of his company. Friend of Eric Gladwish. The company does high end filtration in oil and lubricants. He is a strong believer.

Cathy Riha spoke about Eric Kowalewski's personality. She has known him since he was a kid. As a kid he studied the Holy Bible passionately. Eric is intelligent and humble. Patriot Fluid Power is his company. He loves his country but God first.

George Paschall - is very active in his involvement in the party. He is younger in his 40's. His passions are to help in the social media and communications. He looks to be on the legislative committee.

Andrea Paschall stated that George is familiar with computer experience. He has lots of website development. Has had own business for twenty (20) years. He is a strong Christian. He is looking to bring on younger delegates as their kids turn eighteen (18). George is a J6er. George has been active politically for five (5) years. He has hosted his own rally at the Capital.

Dr. Tony Debari - is a strong Christian. He is retiring and looking for hobbies and looking to be involved.

Chair Tucker shared his knowledge of Dr. Tony Debari. He is a well-known surgeon for arms, legs and hips. He is active in Samaritans Purse. He is active in Iraq and Iran. He just returned from Ukraine for two (2) tours. He is very open on his faith. Tony is working toward his Divinity Degree.

VC Gary Ell asked Suzanne Hall and Colleen Ribble to speak, as they were on the Zoom meetings. Colleen Ribble said we are blessed to have such a good group to choose from. Suzanne Hall stated that we should vote.

VC Tucker started the vote and secretary, Korina Tucker did a roll call of all persons on Zoom to get their candidate vote.

13 votes - Eric Kowalewski

3 votes - George Paschall

1 vote - Tony Debari

Eric Kowalewski has been voted into Executive Committee for the 2023 - 2024 Two year term. Congratulations!

VC Gary Ell made the recommendation that the person that nominated Eric Kowalewski be the one to let him know he is now on the Executive Committee.

County Convention

1. Is on January 26, 2023 at Saginaw Field and Stream. Debra Ell (Credentials), Eric Gladwish (Tellers).
2. Vote for Chair Tucker-Temp/Perm Convention Chair.
3. Vote for Austin Smith/Korina Tucker - Perm Secretaries.
4. Jim Conger - Parliamentarian.
5. All elevated delegates must have completed Affidavit and ID before County Convention.

6. New State & County Part Convention Rules, page 6 "In no event shall a precinct delegate vacancy be filled until AFTER all voting for State Convention delegates or alternates is completely finished".
7. Austin Smith: update on Ballots (37 delegates, 37 credentials).
8. Debra Ell: update on credentials.
9. Eric Gladwish: update on videotaping, projector/laptop and tellers.

Debra Ell asked if there is any questions regarding County Convention?

1. Ballots are printed ahead of time.
2. Day of convention will be write- in's.
3. Credentials are being made and will be ready.
4. Colleen Ribble asked about the Call to Convention? This was clarified. A mailer was sent out and that was the notice.
5. Debra Ell stated that anyone on the EC that wants to be on the ballot. State Party is a mess. We need America First Republicans. Anyone that can make it and vote in America First.

State Convention

1. Is on February 17-18, 2023 in Lansing.
2. Debra Ell is running for - State Committeewoman, Saginaw County candidate.
3. Debra Ell stated if you get elected, State will send a packet with information.
4. Mike Curtiss is running for - State Committeeman, Saginaw County candidate.
5. Warren Vasold asked if EC members required attending the State Convention.
6. Debra Ell stated that you have to be elected in the January 26, 2023 convention to go to State convention.
7. Warren Vasold asked if you are required both nights. Debra Ell stated that voting is both nights.
8. Caucus is February 17, 2023 from 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. where we vote local (8th district).
9. Saturday, February 18, 2023 starts at 9:00 a.m.
10. Voting Friday night is to elect District Chair, District Vice-Chair, District Secretary, District Secretary, District Treasurer, 3 Committeemen, 3 Committeewomen, 15 running for Committee.
11. Debra Ell stated information is sent from the State once you are elected.
12. Kathy Riha asked if that means dues would be needed for convention.
13. Debra stated that is at the County level. The fee for State Convention is still unknown.
14. Gary Ell stated that Friday night is voting in a room for 8th District only. That is Saginaw, Bay City, part of Midland and Genesee.
15. Jim Flint asked about the 37 delegates and 37 alternates. If someone does not show then alternatives will be elevated.
16. Debra Ell stated that you can go as a guest also.

Unfinished Business

New Business

1. VC Gary Ell stated that he asked Brian Forbes to ask the other Sargent of Arms to be present setting up and escorting people to/from the parking lot for the Thursday night general meetings at the Gideon Christ Community Church.
2. Chair Tucker asked if there are any announcements/prayer needs.
3. Duane Riha let everyone know that on January 14, 2023 there is a debate at Bullock Creek High School from 1-5 p.m. A few more people are needed to usher.
4. Martha Avina announced the March for Life on January, 20, 2023 from 9 a.m. - 12 noon.
5. Chair Tucker shared Pastor Chet is going to be ordained as a Bishop.
6. Dues can be paid to Saginaw County Republican Committee.

Next Meeting

1. EC Zooms 1st Thursdays (Feb 2nd)
2. Membership meetings 2nd Thursdays (Feb 9th)
3. The start time is 6:30 p.m.
4. Gideon Christ Community Church, 915 Federal Ave, Saginaw
5. Beginning in February, Zoom meetings will be open to all delegates - (100 person limit). All EC must check in 15 minutes early.
6. Parking in rear.
7. The sound setup where help is needed will be at 5:30 p.m.

Motion made for Adjournment

Chair Tucker asked if there is no objection, this meeting will adjourn. Hearing none, this meeting is adjourned at 8:59 p.m. Meeting ended with prayer by Kerry King at 9:00 p.m.