



**Saginaw County Republican Party
General Membership Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2023**

Call to Order

- a. Vice Chair, Gary Ell called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
- b. Gary Ell, Vice Chair presented the welcome introduction for SCRCP meeting.
- c. Vice Chair, Gary Ell will be running tonight's meeting instead of the Chairman, Curt Tucker only for tonight.
- d. Vice Chair, Gary Ell stated that the speaker scheduled for tonight, Senator Daley, had something come up and canceled late last night.
- e. The speaker for tonight's meeting is Darrin Urbytes. We had scheduled Senator Kevin Daley, but we heard from his office, and he had to cancel for unknown reasons. We hope to reschedule him here again at a later date.

Pledge of Allegiance

Kerry King led the pledge.

Invocation

Duane Riha led the prayer.

Treasurer Report

- a. Vice Chair, Gary Ell stated that the treasurers report was given to Executive Committee prior to meeting.
- b. If anyone has a question on the report, you may contact Eric Gladwish.

Bylaws

- a. Vice Chair, Gary Ell stated that Jim Conger would normally be giving the bylaws update but he and his wife are with his daughter who is seriously sick.
- b. We are still modifying the bylaws.

- c. This is not an amendment it is a complete revision.
- d. Robert's Rules of Order has distinction between amendments and revisions.
- e. Due to Jim Conger having family matters, the bylaws are taking an extended amount of time for the final version.

Prayer and Care Committee

- a. Duane Riha shared that the prayer committee is open to all members and non-members.
- b. There were 17 prayer warriors attending the second meeting.
- c. Duane Riha and Kathy Riha are leading the committee.
- d. Duane Riha introduced the present prayer committee members.
 - 1. Warren Vasold
 - 2. Austin Smith
 - 3. Pamela Nadzan
 - 4. Eric Kowalewski
 - 5. Vicki Kowalewski
- e. We are trying to branch out and do satellites for prayer meetings.
- f. Austin Smith will lead a satellite meeting for St. Charles/Chesaning area.
- g. We need more prayer warriors.
- h. More prayers are needed in or current state of the country and for our State Governor.

Communications

- a. Debra Ell stated that Karen Potter is on the communications committee and was not present to give the status report.
- b. Karen Potter and Debra Ell manage the Facebook page.
- c. Karen Potter does the flyers for us.
- d. Debra Ell gave mention to our Web Page designer/writer/host, which is Eric and Vicki Kowalewski.
- e. The site is www.saginawgop.com.
- f. If there is anything on the site that you would like to see, please contact them.
- g. Debra Ell is working on a newsletter.
- h. If you are not getting emails, check spam, or let Debra Ell know so she can make sure your email is correct.

Events

- a. Debra Ell is on this events committee.
- b. Every 2nd Thursday is the membership meetings.
- c. The membership meetings are planning to have event/speakers for delegates.
- d. We had Senator Daley for tonight, but something came up.
- e. Duane Riha discussed the upcoming event at the Walleye Festival.
 - 1. We will be in the Freeland parade.
 - 2. Lining up for the parade will be at 4:30 – 5:00 p.m. on April 28th.

3. There will be a wagon from Leaman's Apple Barn for those who can't walk.
 4. We need people to hold flags and handout pins.
 5. Also be doing some fundraising.
 6. Anyone can come wearing red.
 7. That is April 28th at 5:00 p.m. at the Elementary School in Freeland.
 8. On April 27th through April 29th there will be a yard sale for fundraising during the Walleye Festival at Eric Kowalewski's house.
 9. Contact Eric Kowalewski for donations drop off.
 10. The Trump Unity Bridge will be next to the Marathon Gas Station in Freeland.
 11. We will be giving away prizes every 2 hours at the Trump Unity Bridge at our table there.
- f. On May 18th and May 19th is the Frankenmuth City Wide Garage Sales.
 1. There will be a garage sale at Gary and Debra Ell's house in Frankenmuth.
 2. Please save items that you can contribute.
 - g. Veteran's Day Parade in Saginaw is Monday, May 29th.
 1. We are waiting to hear back from Jim Conger's wife for information to see if we can participate in the parade.
 - h. At the Membership meeting on June 8th, we will have Molly Macik speaking from the Mackinaw Center about the state of the education systems in Michigan.
 - i. Flag Day in June and Trumps birthday is the same day. Plans are to do something fun for Flag Day.
 - j. There is a CPL class offered for ladies for first new CPL holders.
 1. DJ Oswald-DeBottis will be teaching the class in small groups.
 2. There are some dates open to the SCRP.
 3. If interested, you will need to contact Debra Ell.
 - k. There are plans for a Picnic in July.
 - l. Gary Ell, Vice Chair is working with his team setting up a Golf Scramble for fundraising.
 1. The location and date TBD.
 - m. We plan to be at the Saginaw County Fair on August 1-5.
 - n. In September we will have some CPL classes along with Leadership classes.
 - o. We will also have a Chili Cook Off in October.
 - p. There are plans to do a Christmas Gala again on Friday, December 15, 2023.
 1. The theme will be Sinatra Swing.
 2. There will be a Sinatra impersonator style singer.
 3. A dinner and a silent auction as well.
 4. It is an Eisenhower Era Theme, 50's and 60's.
 - q. These will be in the Newsletter and on the Facebook page.

Fundraising and Corporate Membership

- a. Gary Ell, Vice Chair discussed having 8 members right now including our Treasurer, Eric Gladwish.

- b. His committee has a goal to raise \$100,000.00 in 18 months. In 2023 the plans are for fundraising to go to administrative costs only and in 2024 it will go to candidates running for elections in 2024.
- c. There are 2 distinct groups in the committee.
 - 1. Fundraising Committee – That calls delegates to contribute including their friends and family.
 - 2. Corporate Membership – It is modeled from Kristina Karamo's.
 - 3. The committee really needs additional help.

Candidate Support and Recruitment

- a. In Jim Conger's absence, Patrick Winter discussed this topic.
- b. Patrick Winter gave a little description of his background.
- c. He is looking for people to run as Saginaw County Commissioners
- d. Would like to develop strategies.
- e. There is currently a bond in Saginaw Township.
- f. The proposal for the schools is a 250 million proposal.
- g. On the list is an Astro Turf on the high school football field.
- h. We want to focus on what we support.
- i. There are 11 Commissioner seats.
- j. Currently we have 5 Republican Commissioners.

Legislative Reporting

- a. Suzanne Hall stated this committee is here to keep you informed on current and difficult issues.
- b. The most pressing topic is Gotion.
- c. Kathleen Vasold will share information on Gotion.
 - 1. Gotion is a 2.4-billion-dollar battery factory in Michigan.
 - 2. Its s a subsidiary of Gotion Hight Tech Company.
 - 3. They have purchased 500 acres of land in Mecosta County by Big Rapids.
 - 4. This is gaining concern.
 - 5. The plant is owned by Chinese Communist Party.
 - 6. Workers who are employed must swear allegiance to the communist party.
 - 7. Michigan taxpayers will be paying for this plant.
 - 8. Michigan house appropriations committee has approved 585 million dollars to expand the battery plants in Michigan.
 - 9. They will get 50 million dollars for infrastructure.
 - 10. They will also get 636 million in Tax Abatements for 30 years.
 - 11. From Michigan taxpayers 800 million dollars will go to this plant.
 - 12. We are nearing war with this country.
 - 13. There are secret Chinese police stations spying on us throughout the country and other countries.
 - 14. China gave us Covid.
 - 15. Batteries are made with Lithium and Cobalt.

16. These minerals are mined, and our government shut down the mining in our country.
17. They will be imported, and this is a dangerous choice.

Duane Riha had asked if any Republican Legislators voted for it. Kathleen Vasold stated that this was approved 2 weeks ago. She was going to find out if our Republican Legislators voted on this.

Suzanne Hall stated Ryan McReynolds wanted to share his opinion on the Gotion plant. Ryan stated that the plant proposal is meant to bring jobs to Mecosta County. The company is based in the people's Republic of China which is ruled by the Chinese communist society. They are working on getting the young to be influenced by communist theologies to grow into a one-party communist society.

Community Outreach

- a. Martha Avina is with the community outreach.
 1. She needs a co-chair for the outreach committee.
 2. There is a list of organizations to help.
 3. Each month the committee will be helping a different organization.
 4. We need to be visible and help with our talents.
 5. Our next outreach is helping the East Side Soup Kitchen on April 29th.
 6. There are already 4 volunteers, but we could use a few more people to help serve breakfast.
 7. The month of May, we will be focusing on Old Town Christian Outreach Center.
 8. We will be passing out food on Saturday, May 20th.
 9. Information will be in the newsletter.

Delegate/Member Recruitment & Support

- a. Eric Kowalewski is with this committee.
 1. Talked briefly on the committee organization.
 2. We need more recruitment people.
 3. We build relations with people, and love people.
 4. Eric Kowalewski is convinced that with God in control, everything will be ok.
 5. Vicki Kowalewski stated that the next steps would be to door knock throughout the communities.
 6. We have a goal to fill every delegate position in Saginaw.
 7. Eric Kowalewski shared that the number one reason people do not go to church, is because they did not get invited.
 8. He stated that each one of us need to invite people to our meetings.

Gary Ell stated that Pam Nadzan was just nominated for Youth Chair. Pam was interviewed by the nomination committee.

Before Pam Nadzan was voted in, Gary Ell read Pam's employment background. With her helping younger kids and teenagers she stated her interest in wanting to become more involved in our SCRP where she could support and educate young people.

The Executive Committee elected Pam Nadzan in the EC meeting by all those members present by a vote of 17-yes and 1-no. She is now the Youth Chair officer.

Pam Nadzan talked that during our meetings, we were asking people to sign up for committees. Pam's career focus is counseling the youth and is a therapist. Pam stated she felt motivated this year with the increase in abuse and gender dysphoria. Her career aligned well with this role, so she signed up.

A question was raised on what her plans are for the Youth Chair.

She stated that she will need a lot of help and is not sure yet. She just started brainstorming. She stated that there needs to be activities for the kids.

Eric Kowalewski stated that the kids need community service for graduation, and they will be reaching out to schools to align with this committee to fill this requirement.

Suzanne Hall introduced our guest speaker. Her nephew, Darrin Urbytes. He agreed to speak as Kevin Daley canceled last minute.

Darrin Urbytes is an Executive for UPS. He currently works for UPS Business Consulting practice and is part of management. He likes to study Church and State relations. He chairs a group in his church that focuses on public policy at an ethics and moral perspective. They also look at policy from a religious liberty side.

He then moved onto some perspectives on the Elliot Larson Civil Rights Act.

1. This act gives standing to sexual preference.
2. The act will impede religious protections and does not give religious exemptions.
3. Michigan would be the first with zero religious' exemption.
4. Republicans Kevin Daley and Matt Bierlein both voted yes on this.
5. It was in writing that they would not vote for this bill but ended up supporting it.
6. When asked why it was bad answers in response.
7. He stated that by doing this, it would normalize acts against Christian values and morals.
8. We have politicians that want to look nice but do not act as they should be.
9. Most legislators are only looking for re-election.
10. We need to educate, personalize, and tell people about how the LGBTQ agenda has trampled on people.

11. The dangerous part is that the Elliot Larson act does not have limitations on who can be included.
12. He made a case that the GOP does not back up its people that are holding good values.
13. Democrats have a well-oiled machine that backs each other up and the Republicans do not.
14. Education of people on policies should be a top priority.
15. When you break things down so people can understand, you make a big impact.
16. Rush Limbaugh was good at relating to people.

Next Meeting

- a. The next meeting is Thursday, May 11, 2023, at Gideons Church.
- b. The times are 6:00 p.m. for Executive Committee and 7:00 p.m. for the General Membership meeting.
- c. There will be a special speaker from Save our States.
- d. The guest speaker will speak on how Democrats are trying to eliminate the Electoral College.
- e. He comes from Virginia and travels to speak for their group.
- f. He will be speaking at the May 11th meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

- a. The Chairman, Curt Tucker shared about relationship building and closed the meeting at 8:41 p.m.