

MINUTES FOR CARROLL COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY MEETING — JUNE 25, 2024

The Carroll County Republican Party (CCRP) meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairperson Cyril Ostiguy. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and a prayer was given by Colonel Jim Harding.

Vice Chair LaRenda Scarbrough read the Preamble of the Republican Party to remind us of our purpose. The Treasurer's report was given by Jan Ostiguy. This month there was a total deposits for \$100. A check of \$350 was written for Mayor Butler's trip to the National Convention. The ending balance is \$3684.22. The Treasurer's report was approved as presented.

Secretary Sharon Reiter read the minutes from the May 28 CCRP meeting. They were corrected to read that \$250 would be sent to the 917 Society for the U.S. Constitutions that they distribute to 8th graders IN OUR COUNTY.

Chairman Ostiguy recognized the following guests: Senator John Stevens; Judge Brent Bradberry; Grant Gammon, Representative David Kustoff's Campaign Mgr.; and Nina Smothers, Mayor of Huntingdon.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS:

A temporary place to rent during this election cycle to use for promoting our Republican signs and merchandise could not be found. So Jan and Cyril used their ever-amazing ingenuity and created a platform on wheels decked out with candidate signs! They have received permission from Tractor Supply in Huntingdon and the Hollow Rock fire station on Highway 70 to set up in their parking lots. People can sign up to help on Mondays or Fridays from 3 to 6 p.m. They will do this until July 12 when early voting begins; they will resume afterwards for a couple weeks up to the August 4 vote. Jan has created a personal inventory of hats, coins, bumper stickers, magnets, and shirts-made-to-order—ALL promoting our Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. The funds she raises will be donated to the CCRP.

Jan Ostiguy shared the House Joint Resolution 803. During the month of July Tennesseans are being asked to pray and fast for Tennessee and for our country. The website www.pray4tn.us has a beautiful explanation of HJR 803.

PROGRAM: Chairman Ostiguy then introduced our first speaker.

SENATOR JOHN STEVENS presented a long list of Tennessee positives . Among them are a record budget surplus, lowest tax burden per person of any state, highest bond rating possible. We are leading the nation in protecting children; we have no elective abortions in the State; girls are protected from competing against

boys. And we are expecting to win a Supreme Court case banning harmful treatments to change a child's sex.

However, Senator Stevens also shared massive challenges that our state has, and these are some of the issues he will pursue if he is re-elected. He wants to work toward reducing government red tape that is involved with new building construction. He sees this as a way to reduce costs for building a new home or a commercial building. He sees our overreaching government regulations as artificially increasing health care costs for our citizens; he wants to rectify that. Tennessee's water and sewer infrastructure is aging throughout the State, and local governments need the tools to improve these services but without increasing taxes. After his formal presentation, the Senator answered questions from the floor.

JUDGE BRENT BRADBERRY followed Senator Stevens, telling us about a program called Recovery Court or Drug Court. Our 24th judicial district consists of Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin and Henry Counties. Up until 18 months ago, we were the only district without this program.

Right now there are around 20 participants in the program. They are drug addicts with a long history of being in and out of the criminal justice system, in and out of rehabs, having lost all ties to family and all support from their community. To be considered, they must have the blessing first of all from law enforcement. Law enforcement is key; when law enforcement is involved in a recovery program, the success rate increases 30 to 35 %. The District Attorney gives the second blessing, and then a team which includes the director of the program, probation officer, and the judge give the final okay. No drug dealers are allowed.

The participants have pled guilty to a felony. They are given 60 to 90 days of incarceration; then are put into an intensive 90-day in-patient program, and then nine months of a residential living situation. They are heavily monitored by their probation officer, the director of the program, and Judge Bradberry. That is the real difference between this program and a typical rehab.

The program lasts 18 to 24 months. Participants are drug tested multiple times each week. They are required to have jobs if able to do so; required to pay off court costs and fines; required to make child-support obligations if they have them.

Funding comes from State grants; the Dept of Health and Human Services plus each county has given a percentage of their opioid abatement funds. It is

not costing tax payers additional money. After this, Judge Bradberry then took questions.

Finally, Chairman Ostiguy introduced GRANT GAMMON, a representative for Congressman David Kustoff. Mr. Gammon told us that it is important we support Congressman Kustoff and get him re-elected to the U.S. Congress. We now have only a two-seat majority in the House, a very slim margin, making it difficult to get things done in Congress. In Tennessee we elect good Republican conservatives but that is not the case across the Republican spectrum in the country. Congressman Kustoff goes across his district and does a great job of listening to his constituents. His field reps do a great job of representing him here and transferring communication, but he also does a great job of getting out into the district. Congressman Kustoff sees to it that the smaller counties are not lost. There is a Democrat and an Independent running against him so we need to make sure we get out the vote. He is a true Republican conservative. On July 21st, Congressman Kustoff will have his annual BBQ cookout; it's completely free — you just need to RSVP for the meal count. Mr. Gammon handed out Kustoff signs.

WORDS FROM THE CHAIRMAN: Chairman Ostiguy recommended the book Madman in the White House by Patrick Weil. It is a psycho-biography of Woodrow Wilson. The Chairman encouraged everyone to watch the upcoming Presidential debate on Thursday June 27. He challenged everyone to write down anything they consider important. He would like to have a discussion about it next month with input from everyone. He also reminded everyone that early voting begins July 12.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Reiter, Secretary of CCRP