

Cass Co GOP Executive meeting 7-23-2024

Rose Kelsheimer called to order 7:00 PM, Dave St Clair led in prayer and Brian Woodberry the Pledge.

Roll Call: The following were present: Rick Behnke, Victor Fitz, James Lawrence, Mary Howie, Rosann Marchetti, RJ Lee, Wally Berndt, Dan Adams, Kim Adams, JD Glaser, Wendy Glaser, Rose Kelsheimer, Roger Boyer, Mike Grice, Brian Woodbury, Debbie Burke and Tom Langley.

Not present: Steve Carra, Brad Paquette, Johnathan Lindsey, Monica McMichael, Thomas Stephenson, Ryan Laylin, Joyce Sheteron-Locke, Jeremiah Jones, Samuel Barrera, Nate Wilder, and Kevin Kelsheimer.

Excused Absence: Hope Anderson, Jeff VanBelle, Jerry Duck, Mike Egan, Mark Howie, and Lynn Schantz.

Approval of the Agenda: Roger Boyer made a motion to approve the agenda seconded by Mary Howie. The motion carried.

Secretaries Report: Wally Berndt – Tom Langley motioned to approve seconded by Mary Howie. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Kim Adams – Copies are on the table in the back. In the campaign account the balance is \$24,648.78. The admin account balance is \$311.78.

Headquarters: Rose Kelsheimer – Our headquarters will be at the Sinclair Gass Station in Cassopolis. Our rent for September and October would be \$1,300.00. Roseann Marchetti made a motion to pay seconded by Dan Adams. The motion passed. We would also like to purchase Trump merchandise limited to \$1000. Dan Adams made a motion to approve \$1,500 to purchase Trump Merchandise seconded by RJ Lee. The motion passed.

Committee Updates:

Special Events: Lisa Smith for Mary Howie – We are having another on-line Auction. It started July 21st and runs through August 4th. We will be using the Give Butter Auction Platform. We have the QR code back at the table if you are not already set-up.

Mark your calendars for the Lincoln Day Dinner on May 19th 2025. It will be at Gable Hill. It is located on M-40 just south of Dutch Settlement Road. It's a good size venue, set-up nice for the speaking and meal and Bar with a beautiful outside area.

Issues Committee: Wally Berndt – We have several things in the works. There will be a Jan 6th Fact Card to hand out at the fair.

Membership and Recruiting: Kay Keenum – We will have a voter registration table set-up. I will man it as much as I can, but will be looking for volunteers as well. I will also have some membership forms.

County Committee: Roger Boyer – We had 2 meetings with new people coming each month. The next meeting will be here in two weeks on election day. Make sure you vote then come to the meeting. Last month we hosted the delegates forum with-in the Executive Board meeting. We had 18 candidates, 15 Commissioner candidates, county offices candidates plus 3 state house representatives' candidates.

We have been busy with the sign project, we got 6 signs, I made 5 frames and Dan Adams put one up in a frame that he had. We set-up a committee to make a welcome packet, and set-up some training for new and returning delegates. You can still register as a write in to be a delegate.

Sheriff: Rick Behnke - Undersheriff Roach is at a meeting right now with a lake association concerned about high water. He should be in a bit later. We had a training for victim advocates. They will help the sheriff's office in traumatic events to help the victims. The training was a 2-day event in Three Rivers put on by the Michigan's Sheriffs association.

On the ballot Aug 6th is the .47 Drug Millage renewal. I hope you can support that. We need to continue to have our drug team. Besides drugs they also take care of major crime.

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Prosecutor: Victor Fitz – I would like to emphasize how importance the drug team is. Today drugs are cartel driven and very violent. Most homicides are drug related and most have been solved by the drug team. This is critical for public safety.

Be a little cautious putting up signs. Tensions are high, and one elderly man was critically injured battling a young man as he was putting up signs on his property. The young man later committed suicide. If you have signs stolen from your property, I will prosecute that.

2nd District: James Lawrence – I want to try to make everybody understand where I stand regarding the ambulance service. There is a lot of stuff going on. There are complaints about taking too long, and funding issues. My stand is to look to the future. The county working with the townships would probably need a millage.

7th District: Roseann Marchetti – Thank all of you who filled out the Master Plan Project survey for the planning commission. There will be a meeting tomorrow, 6:00 PM July 24th at the Road Commission, also a meeting to talk about the Ambulance situation August 21st 6:00 PM at the Emergency Management building (911 Center).

8th District: RJ Lee – I went to the Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health and Human Services Board meeting. Their primary focus is, on the alcohol tax money to help with things like drug addiction, mental health, alcohol addiction, etc. Their budget is being cut this year from 9 million down to 6 million dollars. This supports eight counties in southwest Michigan. We may need to use opioid money to make up the difference. 1.2 million was planned to be cut because it was COVID money which would have been okay, but the additional 2 million the state said they are going to keep it.

We had the opioid committee meeting. We were looking for places to put out boxes of Narcan, so people can access if needed. Let us know if you have recommendation for that.

Congress: Lee Belding for Tim Walberg – Tomorrow is declared the “Day of Rage” as Netanyahu speaks before a joint session of congress to give an update on the war that Hamas provoked. The Capitol police is expecting about 20,000 protestors. We have been told to be careful in your district as well.

Donald Trump came to Grand Rapids for his first rally since the attempt on his life. The congressman did the opening prayer and had some good one on one time with him. We also met JD Vance who should be very helpful here in the mid-west.

5th Congressional District: JD Glaser – Keep in mind August 6th election is coming up and I encourage everyone here to set a goal to find 1 person to become a delegate. We need to participate.

Karen Tan: I went to the health authority meeting. The doctor was excited because they got a grant to promote vaccines and to market them. They were especially proud that they were going to market the Monkey Pox vaccine. I raise my hand and asked how many cases of Monkey Pox were in Cass and VanBuren county. There was none.

Final Comments: Rose Kelsheimer –

- The Cass County Fair is July 28th thru Aug 4th
- Primary election Aug 6th
- County Convention Aug 15th
- I need volunteers for the Credentials Committee.

Victor Fitz made a motion to adjourn seconded by Wendy Glaser.

The motion passed unanimously. The meeting is Adjourned

Respectfully submitted by Wally Berndt.