

**Minutes of the
ARCHULETA COUNTY REPUBLICAN
CENTRAL COMMITTEE MONTHLY MEETING
January 25, 2024 5:30 pm
Ross Aragon Community Center
451 Hot Springs Blvd, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147**

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rick Walker at 5:36 pm. Thirty seven people signed in, 43 were observed mid-meeting.

INVOCATION was given by Beverly Cuyler.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Rick Walker.

Roll Call: Executive Committee members Rick Walker, Dave Cuyler and Marybeth Snyder were present. Treasurer Melinda Ratliff was absent. PCP's Beverly Cuyler, Christa Carnley, Don Farr, Ed Williams, Jim Shepherdson, Dusty Mars, Joe King and Penny Webster were also present. There was a quorum.

Rick began by welcoming Elected Officials Commissioner Ronnie Maez, Treasurer Elsa White, Sheriff Mike Le Roux. Commissioner Veronica Medina arrived a bit later.

The veterans in attendance were honored.

Rick read the meeting ground rules.

Adopt the Agenda: *Ronnie Maez made a motion to adopt tonight's Agenda as presented. Ed Williams seconded the motion and the Agenda was adopted.*

Approve the Minutes from the November 16, 2023 regular monthly meeting. *A motion was made by Beverly Cuyler to approve the Minutes. Ed Williams seconded the motion and the Minutes from the 11/16/2023 meeting were approved.*

Rick Walker announced that Grace in Pagosa Church elders decided to no longer welcome political groups to meet there. The meetings will be held here at the community center where the cost is less and there is a monitor we can use. He pointed out that participation during an election year is of great importance.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dave Cuyler gave the report in Melinda's absence. He reported that the current bank balance is \$9,528 which includes the final payments for the Lincoln Day dinner, the March caucus venue and donations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Vacancy Committee has vacancies. Dave Cuyler reported that Precincts One and Two are completely vacant. Precincts Three, Five and Seven are short one PCP. Precincts Four, Six and Eight are filled. The vacant positions need to be filled as their role is key in the upcoming election season. Each Precinct needs two PCP's.

CHAIRMAN RICK WALKER's REMARKS: Rick mentioned that a new GOP Secretary is needed as Marybeth has resigned the position. Beverly Cuyler has volunteered to fill the role in the interim and has expressed interest in taking on the official role. The next meeting we will vote in Melinda Ratliff as Treasurer as she was appointed as interim and vote in a Secretary as well. He once again mentioned that more PCP's are needed during this election time with the Caucuses and Assemblies coming up. It was said that taking action at a local level is the best way to make changes. The PCP position is described as participating in the Caucuses during election years, encouraging voters to participate, act as a connection between the Party and the voters. There is support and direction for PCP's. A precinct map was handed out for folks to identify which precinct they're in. Rick spoke on the subject of the World Economic Forum (WEF) which is advocating one world government. A video was shown of a leader of the Heritage Foundation giving a speech in Davos, Switzerland criticizing the WEF, China and the WHO and their collective war on freedom. He encouraged our new Congress to lawfully reject these ideologies. Rick suggested folks watch the speech by the leader of Argentina speaking at Davos. Rick pointed out that Argentina was once the wealthiest nation in the world, now they are very poor and America does not want to go down that road.

VICE CHAIR DAVE CUYLER REMARKS: Dave reiterated the importance of the Precinct Committee Persons (PCP's) and the need for volunteers. PCP's lead the statutory Caucuses required of the GOP.

OLD BUSINESS

Dave Cuyler presented the purpose and process of the Caucuses using the monitor to display his handouts and a Power Point he'd created. The Archuleta County precinct Caucuses will take place at the CSU Extension Center and in Arboles on Saturday, March 9, 2024. The Pagosa Springs locations could change if individual PCP's find a more suitable venue for their precinct. The County Assembly will take place on March 16, 2024 also at the CSU Extension Center. The House District (HD) Assembly will take place on March 23, 2024 at the VFW in Durango. The Caucus will determine which presidential candidate will be on the primary ballot while the Assembly will place the candidate on the ballot. There are numerous people running for US House District 3 which will be vacated by Lauren Boebert. The Caucuses could be advertised using postcards to all Republicans but that method is cost prohibitive. Most likely posters around town, an ad in the SUN and word of mouth will be used. Folks were encouraged to use their Facebook accounts and the NextDoor app to share the information and the link to the GOP website. This GOP does not have a Facebook page. The Caucuses will take place simultaneously morning and afternoon at the Extension Building. February 15, 2024 is the deadline for voters to be registered as a Republican to participate in the Caucus. Candidates will have an opportunity to speak or send a letter to be presented by a proxy. More PCP training will be taking place soon. There is a chance to sign up to be an election judge at the Caucus. Let Rick know if you're interested ASAP. Suggested Resolutions can be presented at the Caucus for the local committee and the state committee. Help is needed with the check-in and credentialing of participants who will need an ID. Invocations and pledge of allegiance will take place, each precinct could use 3-5 PCP's and volunteers. The teller committee counts the votes. The election of PCP's, delegates and election judge appointments take place. The process is scripted and notebooks will be provided to work from. Every Republican in the county is welcome and encouraged to attend. This is where the election process starts in

Colorado. The Presidential Primary election takes place on March 5, 2024. We are encouraged to vote in person on election day.

The Election Integrity Committee Report: Marybeth reports that the Voter Advocacy Group: Marybeth reported that an election integrity group was formed. The group of 20 named itself the Voter Advocacy Group (VAG) and overwhelmingly decided to be a non-partisan group. The group is actively engaged in election integrity activities.

OPEN FORUM:

- Jody Brown spoke on behalf of Warren Brown who is in Denver representing his constituents. He is seeking re-election as Commissioner District 1.
- Zane Kraetsch announced his candidacy for Commissioner District 2 and said a few words about his reasons and how he can help the county.
- Marcos Rivas announced his candidacy for Commissioner District 1 and said a few words about his reasons and how he can help the county.
- John Ranson is also running for Commissioner District 2 and said a few words about his background as Commissioner back when the county had a negative fund balance and how his experience can help the county and the country.

Jim Shepherdson announced he's hosting a Patriot Academy Biblical Citizenship class at CenterPoint Church Sundays at 4:00 pm beginning this Sunday. See the ArchuletaRepublicans.org website for details. He also encouraged people to donate to the two Navy Seals who were killed off the coast of Somalia. He handed out info with details on how to donate.

Marybeth mentioned how great the Biblical Citizenship class is and recommended folks read Dan Schultz's book **How to Get Into the Real Ball Game of Politics Where You live to Help DJ Trump Make America Great Again** on the function and importance of PCP's . See the GOP website for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Caucus Day March 9, 2024
- County Assembly is March 16
- CO House District 59 – March 23, 2024, VFW, Durango
- CO Senate District 6 – April 5, 2024, Pueblo
- CO Judicial District 6 – [corrected: March 23, 2024, VFW, Durango]
- US Congressional District 3 – April 5, 2024, Pueblo
- CO State Republican Assembly/Convention – April 6, 2024, Pueblo

ADJOURNMENT: Rick Walker adjourned the meeting at 7:01 pm.

**The next regular monthly meeting will be February 22, 2024 5:30 pm
at Ross Aragon Community Center,
451 Hot Springs Blvd,
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