



### **Executive Board**

Carolyn Garris, Chair  
 Paul Varcoe, Vice Chair  
 Patricia Garrison, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
 Anne Maatman, Treasurer  
 Donna Henderson, Secretary

Linda Taylor, Chaplain

## **MINUTES**

### **Executive Committee Meeting**

**6:30 pm, Tuesday, June 14, 2022**

**Republican Headquarters, 844 Washington Plaza, Washington, NC**

A quorum was had with 25 committee members in attendance. 16 guests were also present.

<b><i>Members</i></b>	<b><i>In Attendance</i></b>	<b><i>Excused Absence</i></b>	<b><i>Visitors</i></b>
Diane Ahearn	Yes		Sean Chilson
Michael Bishop	To Be Removed		Ray Leary
Nancy Brickhouse	Yes		
Ruth Cauvin		Yes	April Holloway
Buzz Cayton	Yes		Elaine Briley
Nanci Colleary	Yes		Hood Richardson
William (Bill) Cook		No	Marilyn D Woolard
Joyce A Coward	Yes		
Stan Deatherage	Yes		Adam O'Neal
Kelly Justin Cox	Yes		
Tandy Dunn		Yes	Steve Carson???
Joanne Forrest	Yes		Gary Carlton
David French	Yes		Joan & Bryan Buck
Carolyn Garris	Yes		Scott Hammonds
Patricia Myers Garrison	Yes		Paige Peed
Jason Hall		Yes	Sheri Elks
Donna Henderson	Yes		Dallas Dawson
Charles Hickman	Yes		
Joseph S Knox		Yes	
Anne Maatman	Yes		
Delores Morgan		Yes	
Steven Rader	Yes		
John Rebholz	Yes		
Shirley Richardson	Yes		
Bobby Roberson	Yes		
Daniel F Roe	To Be Removed		
Charlie Rose	Yes		
Wyatt Keith Shackleford	Yes		
Fred Slann	Yes		
Scarlett Stokes	Yes		
Linda Taylor		Yes	

Jeffrey M Trueblood	To Be Removed		
Jean Trueblood	To Be Removed		
Phillip Trueblood	To Be Removed		
Paul Varcoe	Yes		
Frank Waters	Yes		
Kathy Waters	Yes		
Jimmie Whichard	To Be Removed	No	
Donna Wortman	Yes		

Chairman Garris asked committee members to sit up front for recording purposes.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. Cut cell phones off - \$5 penalty if it rings.

Chairman Garris wanted to say a few things first- call to action – a group went to Raleigh, and we met the group in the parking lot. Met with Freedom Caucus committee; Craven, Dare, and Hyde counties. Attacked the General Assembly (not literally!). She thanked Paul Varcoe for driving and Jackie Essendelf for attending also. Chairman Garris thanked those who served as poll observers and greeters.

Invocation given by Donna Wortman and Pledge of Allegiance led by Hood Richardson.

Jody stated quorum has been established with 24 members present. Thanked everyone for being here.

The first item of business is to confirm new ExComm members, Fred Slann, Donna Henderson, and Scarlett Stokes. Did not have a quorum to vote on them last month. Frankie Waters presented a motion to approve new members; seconded by Bobby Roberson.

Steve Rader asked that these new members each say a little about each other.

Donna Henderson – moved to Washington in June 2020. The first thing she did was to go to the 2<sup>nd</sup> St HQ and volunteer as she was a big Trump supporter and Republican, a member of the fundraising committee, and volunteer coordinator

Fred Slann has lived here for 6 years and before that was a Democrat. Two years ago he decided to join the Republican party. We have some work to do.

Charlotte – lives in Chocowinity, Republican since Nixon. Great volunteer per Chairman Garris.

Steve – if no one disagrees, consider them elected by acclamation. So moved.

Anne Maatman shared information on excused and unexcused absences. Some members have resigned. Also, want to pay tribute to Dot Moate and put her picture on the wall. A wonderful member and volunteer. Want to give a contribution in her honor: asked Elaine Briley, her niece what Dot's wishes were. In place of flowers, Washington Sailing School, plant a tree or Ruth's House. Steve Rader wanted to know if we have a fund for donations when someone passes away and what is the limit. No, we do not. Steve recommends we have one and makes a motion to give the chair authority to do that and makes a motion to provide flowers, etc. up to \$100 for prominent Republicans who pass away. Jody stated she would like us to plant a tree in Dot's honor. Anne said we do not currently have a fund for that. Elaine Briley, Dot's niece, stated Dot would want a donation to one of the organizations already mentioned.

If no further discussion, the amendment is to provide up to \$100 for flowers or donations. Seconded by Nanci. Motion passed unanimously.

Unexcused Absences: Anne Maatman now has the floor. Started the election cycle with 45 members, 6 have resigned for various reasons, and one death. In August of 2021, we removed 10 members for 3 or more unexcused absences but next month added them back because of Covid and many changes in meeting dates. April of this year, have had 3 new members join. As of today, we have 41 members and need 21 for a

quorum. As of today, the following members on this list have 3 or more unexcused absences. Anne requested those on the list to please review for any corrections. Nancy Brickhouse has some absences needing to be changed, so she is off the list. Kelly Cox also may have some reason for not being able to attend.

Jody made an amendment that Kelly should be removed from the list since his work with the sheriff's office kept him from attending. Kelly spoke for himself and said he would make more effort to attend and no hard feelings if he is removed. Steve mentioned he was confident in leaving Kelly on the committee but if in the future if he has a conflict with work to email Chairman Garris.

All in favor of keeping Kelly Cox and the motion passed.

Amended list of proposed removals: Michael Bishop, John Proctor Kidwell, Daniel Roe, Jean Trueblood, Philip Trueblood, Mike (Jeffrey) Trueblood, Jimmie Whichard, Victor Williams, Wesley Williams

Nanci Colleary made a motion that we remove those still on the list. Seconded by Donna Wortman. All in favor, the motion passed.

Approval of April 12<sup>th</sup> minutes – notes from our gathering in May. Entertain a motion to approve. Anne mentioned the question on invocation. Donna Wortman did per Chairman Garris.

Frankie made a motion to approve, and Jody seconded. Motion passed.

Chairman Garris is thankful to Dawn Slann for going through the minutes online to get things straight. There have been many changes with secretaries but now we are on the right track.

The floor was given to Anne for discussion for links online. Go to our website and click on ExComm you will see all of the minutes and any problems with links have been corrected. Any errors, report to Carolyn, Anne, or Donna who is the temporary secretary. We will need a permanent secretary but need to be able to serve until March. Please don't step up, unless you can make sure it is a commitment through March. Does not have to be a committee member. Need someone we can count on so the minutes will be correct.

Finance report – Anne Maatman.

Beaufort County Republican Party March 6, 2021 – June 07, 2022		
Account		Total
<b>Receipts</b>		
Beginning Balance Party	\$ 1,816.73	
Beginning Balance Building Fund	\$ 3,616.66	
Party Donations	\$ 6,516.40	
Building Fund Receipts	\$ 11,974.95	
Collected at County Convention	\$ 345.00	
Fund Raising Receipts	\$ 40,628.46	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		\$ 64,898.20
Fund Raising Expense	\$(22,876.45)	
Party Exoenses	\$ (2,541.18)	
Headquarters Expense	\$ (9,673.43)	
<b>Total Expnses</b>		\$(35,091.06)
<b>Total in Both Accounts</b>		\$ 29,807.14
Party Account	\$ 17,462.67	
Building Fund Account	\$ 12,344.47	

Patricia made a motion to accept and John Rebholz seconded. Motion passed.

Allocation of funds to donate to statewide candidates. A lot of talk about local candidates. Tonight, we are talking about state-wide candidates. Anne to put up on the screen for review. Proposed to donate to statewide races.

Before we start, we know the local races are very important but historically we have not given to them. Garris suggests that we put together an action plan to raise money for them, including Meet and Greet, etc.

\$1400 each to all 6 of the judicial candidates: Donna Stroud, John Marsh Tyson, Julee Flood, Michael Stading, Richard Dietz, Trey Allen.

Keith Kidwell and Jim Perry running unopposed so suggested no donations for them.

\$2300 each for Ted Bud and Greg Murphy.

Total \$13,000 from Party Account, leaving \$4,462 and room to operate.

Patricia moved to amend. Suggested decreasing each allocation by \$100 as we need money to support local candidates. Board of Education in particular. Steve wanted to make an alternative motion to bring this back to the committee to vote on it. Patricia restated her motion to take a total of \$800 for local candidates. Steve made a motion that this goes back to the committee to vote on this.

Amendment on the floor to do this. Joyce Coward seconded the motion to accept.

Paul Varcoe – We may have missed the point here. We have separated the donations between statewide and local and we are discussing statewide donations tonight. As a former teacher, he understands the issues with the school board and how important that is. We have money in the budget for local candidates and will be working on other ways to donate to them. Need to get money out to the statewide candidates now. We are 2 senators away, 1 judge, and 3 representatives away from having a majority.

Amendment still stands for reducing donations to allow donating \$800 to local candidates. All in favor stand. 14 standing. Those against, please stand. 6 standing. Amendment passes.

Amendment to table this discussion and set up a committee to discuss further and make recommendations next month.

Chairman Garris – repeat motion. Table motion and refer it to a committee made up of those with prior experience and then come back and report to the ExComm members. Seconded by Stan Deatherage and carried.

Motion to develop an action plan for donations. All voted yes except Paul Varcoe and Nancy Brickhouse voted no.

Fundraising Committee Report by John Rebholz. John reported there are not enough volunteers to serve on this committee. The first thing we need to do is get others to help as current members are tapped out. Reagan day dinner is the primary event coming up on October 4<sup>th</sup>. He also reports the Golf outing will be delayed until the spring. Ann – there's the scoop people. Tuesday night, October 4<sup>th</sup> at Southern Acres in Bath. Greg Murphy's keynote speaker, Clarence Henderson of the Frederick Douglass Foundation, and Addul Ali will also be speakers. Of course, all of our candidates will be asked to participate.

The next thing is July 4<sup>th</sup> parade – we will have a float and a trailer. Will also have a tent and will throw out candy to parade participants. Paul Varcoe will drive and pull the trailer. Patricia reported Diane Ahearn found us a trailer with benches and sides. Baker Building will donate 14 bales of hay to put signs in. David Cox has a nice shelter we can use on his farm and can store our float there until the parade. Anyone who would like to be on the float or family/friends, let us know. Anyone to serve on the float committee or help with the Faith, Family, Freedom theme. All judicial candidates will be notified. Will decorate on Saturday or Sunday.

"Lady Up America" has asked us to sponsor a program here in our county. Scheduled for August 17<sup>th</sup>. Nancy Brickhouse volunteered Southern Acres for this event. Only going to 3 states – NC, GA and FL. Chairman Garris reported this will be a ticketed event and lunch provided. The program should run from 9-2. Great program for women. Christian moms, grandmoms, women period. Great way to bring money into the county. Candidates will be invited to participate. Based on Christian training. Carolyn reported we hope to partner with the Beaufort County Republican Women on this event to help with promotion and setup.

Patricia – made a motion we move forward to support this event. Steve seconded.

Ann – dying to hear an answer to the question "Why do our children not vote the way we think they should?" Diane will address this at the meeting to help us answer this question.

All in favor. Unanimous approval.

Next item on agenda – Petition to change how commissioners are elected. Okay to have the petition in the office or not? Some committee members feel we should not have the petition in the office.

Steve brought up the fact that in the past we have voted to oppose this type of petition. Controversy has always been to have at large or district plans. Commission swept this under the rug and it was never decided. Not close to getting the required number of signatures this time. Very appropriate to have a petition in the office. Decide how we are going to handle this in the future. Maybe we need two versions of the petition. Need a consistent plan.

Ray Leary – He has worked on this committee to have the petition. The petition was meant to be non-partisan. We will not be able to get signatures by the mid-term elections. We should start over on this as suggested by Steve.

Patricia made a motion: I move that the acquiring of signatures for the petition to change the method of electing county commissioners to be put on hold in the Republican Headquarters until the information is presented to the Beaufort County Excomm. Motion passed.

HQ update – Jody. Open Tues., Wed. and Thurs. until Election Day. Need volunteers. If you come here you have to discuss goings on in our party. Not here to endorse certain candidates.

Old business: Patricia requests a few minutes of personal privilege. Chair grants.

During the past election cycle, people who contacted her in person or by phone said they came into the HQ and people in here were telling people how to vote. All of us are passionate. In here and in the parking lot we have to be careful not to do that. One person said they were handed a ballot and told who we promote and don't promote. Wanted to make sure we are not doing that. Chair Garris has addressed that situation.

New Business: Patricia and Charles propose setting up a sustaining membership program to raise money. Basic \$20 a year and two other levels \$200 per year. The highest level set up a reception for them with a speaker. Other levels could donate \$100 more and attend. Recruit several ways for sustaining members. Also, recruit through our email. Use a poll as part of the email in hopes they will contribute. Or, we can do direct mail. Next year, set up a raffle of some sort, buttons, and bumper stickers before the convention. Move we adopt that. Unanimous approval.

Resolution on "Red Flag" Laws presented by Steeve Rader on behalf of Keith Kidwell:

WHEREAS so-called "red flag" laws deny the fundamental right of due process to gun owners, in violation of their Constitutional rights, and

WHEREAS, so-called "red flag" laws do not address any mental health issues of those subject to them, and

WHEREAS, there already exist laws to evaluate the mental health of a person and take appropriate steps for evaluation and treatment if they are determined to be a threat to themselves or others,

including confinement at a mental health facility, and  
WHEREAS, “red flag” laws are part of the slippery slope to gun control,  
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Beaufort County Republican Executive Committee calls upon  
our US Senators Thom Tillis and Richard Burr to oppose any federal legislation that enacts “red  
flag” laws or creates incentives for states to pass “red flag” laws.

All in favor – yes.

Chair Garris asked if there was any more new business? Yes, Sean Chilson, Northeast Regional Field Director for the NCGOP. 19 weeks left for the election. Not as much time as we think. Starting June 24-26, he will be here on the 25<sup>th</sup> to get people set up to make phone calls to get Republicans to the polls to vote. Smartphone, tablet or computer, please bring with you. Also, door-knocking. The weekend after July 4<sup>th</sup>, statewide drive to register Republicans. A lot of unaffiliated voters or Democrats are fed up with the Biden administration. We have to start early.

Scarlet – when is this? Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. Will send emails and put online.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:41.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Donna Henderson, Acting Secretary