

Lake County Republican Central Committee

Wednesday, 3 December 2025

Polson Rural Fire Hall

Welcome, Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call and Introduction of Guests, Visitors, and Newcomers

Visitor: Kein Kelley

Captains: Mary Lee & Doug, Ellen Wicklund, Ron McClellan, Cynthia Waters, Ron Tjaden, Micah Robertson, Joe Read (phone)

Adoption of Agenda

- Adopted by unanimous consent.
- Amendment to committee reports in 4 minutes.
 - Approved by unanimous consent.

Approval and/or Amendment of 5 November 2025 Minutes

- Faith correction: Local elections tracking - Dr. Ellen Wicklund volunteered for this duty.
- Adopted by unanimous consent.

Treasurers Report (5 Mins)

- Beginning \$11,790
- Adopted by unanimous consent.

Committee Reports (4 Mins Each)

● **Finance Chairman**

- Tiger Team today met to put a fundraiser committee to meet in January for fund-raiser ideas.
 - Looking for volunteers.
 - Doug suggested the Big Fork gun club (looking for anyone that can contact them).
- Tracy, we need to raise funds for our candidates and MTGOP.
- Our opposition is hoping we, the new MTGOP, will *fail*; we must fight back.
- There has been a change to the status quo in the MTGOP, and it is for the better.
- The MTGOP website has a link to “WINRED” to sign up for monthly donations.
 - This is how some committees are answering the call to raise money; just have members sign up to donate *monthly*.
 - Include a link with the minutes email to help ease the process; put it on our webpage.

- Can the Central Committee donate directly to “Win Red”?
 - Not sure if the Central Committee can do that; need to find out.

- **Congressional Committeewoman and Committeeman**

- Not Present.

- **State Committeewoman and Committeeman**

- Not Present.

- **Technology Committee**

- Tiger Team has been working diligently to update our technological abilities.
- Researching how to host Central Committee meetings using ZOOM.
- Spoke with the commissioners about programs they utilize for meetings.
- Tracy presented a PowerPoint of what was discussed in Tiger Team.
- Faith and Ron have volunteered to help train people interested in learning more about these tools.
 - This training is to give “V” help on the technology side.
- “AI” is going to be an immense help to research legislation.
- Tracy has loaded legislative documents asking for a two-page summary of the document.
 - It simplifies the process, works, and will forecast ‘unforeseen consequences’ of legislation.

- **Tiger Team**

- Working on strategic documents.
- Updates on copyright infringement of photos and how to avoid those problems.
- January and February will be working on getting legislative committee going.

Elected Officials Reports/Comments –

Senate/House/Commissioners/Sheriff/Others (5 Mins each)

Commissioners.

Bill Barron

- Road construction completion is coming on well.
- The first cell of solid waste will be completed soon.
- Deciding what to do for a grant writer.
- Referring to the old Conoco in Ronan, the County has taken hold of that building due to back taxes.
 - The County is engaging in a cleanup of that property; payment for this project comes from DEQ.

- Gale made a proposal to turn the area into a public area to beautify the town (memorials or electric charging station).

Gale Decker

- Continuing project at Ronan Community Center.
 - New bathrooms are being installed that can be accessed from the courtyard and meeting building.
 - They should be done at the first of the year.
 - Putting in an emergency generator to be used as an emergency center if needed.
- We made a resolution intended to form a committee to investigate the detention center.
 - Contracted with a firm for a remodel project that was part of settlement.
 - Add extra beds and kitchen remodel.
 - The County wants to take a long-range view of what will be needed in the future for the county's needs.
 - One person on the committee was recommended by the CSKT Council to ensure the tribe is involved in the process.
 - This remodel is just a "band-aid" solution because the building is so old.

Linda Reksten

- Met with the board of public education and others.
- Received promising data.
- Targeting intervention bill that passed; 3,000 children enrolled.
- Students are monitored in their reading skills.
- Measuring their success through third grade to make sure they are reaching proper levels.
- Board of Public Education is establishing a committee to monitor children's advancement towards algebra.
- 9,000 students enrolled in dual-credit programs (this helps parents in funding for children's college; they already have some college credits behind them before actually getting to university).
- Linda put in a plug for the ice rink; good chance of getting funding through commerce grant.
 - Designed to attract business during the winter months when business shuts down.

Tracy

- Working on the Water Interim Policy Committee (WIPC).
- Next meeting will be an assessment of the CSKT water compact.
- Organizing a group to address implementation issues.
 - Citizens Action Group will be gathering people to be on the panel to discuss what is happening with the Compact and implementation.

- The biggest issue for WIPC is probably ‘exempt wells’.
 - This has been hampering development across the state; unable to build housing.
- Anyone interested will be able to testify and make public comments through ZOOM.

Unfinished Business New Business

● Filling Orphan Precincts with Precinct Team Leaders.

- We have a worksheet for volunteers who wish to be Precinct Team Leaders.
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- Ellen nominated Sandra Carr for Polson 5 Precinct Team Leader position.
- Mary lee seconded.
- Discussion.
 - Favor.
 - Sandra has been helping for the last two years.
 - Instrumental in getting signs made and flag waving.
 - Already involved with LCRW.
 - Incredibly good Christian lady.
 - No disapproval comment.
- Motion carried by unanimous consent.
- Filing window to be a for Precinct Captains and for all other State balloted positions is February 17th - March 4th; a very narrow window, so don’t miss it!

● Amendment to Bylaws Regarding Exec Committee Minutes

- Proposed bylaw amendment.
- “Whenever this Operations Group functions as the Executive Board, comprehensive minutes of that meeting will be kept and distributed to the LCRCC.”
- This will be included at the end of Article VI, Section 1.
- Will be voted on at the next LCRCC meeting.

● Sponsoring Tyler Irwin (Stock Car Racer) Next Season

- LCRW sponsored him on their own.
- LCRCC was asked if we would want to contribute.
- Possibly have the cost split three ways (Women’s group, CC, and Pachyderm).
- The price is not known yet.
- Discuss now the idea of sponsoring Tyler along with Pachyderm and Women.
 - The Close association with the car-enthusiast crowd was great this last year and our sponsorship was announced at every race.
 - Tyler is also a very good, competitive driver; good name recognition and support.

- Motion made by Ellen Wicklund to support Tyler along with Pachyderm and Republican's Women Group.
- Second by Cynthia Waterman
- Motion passed by unanimous consent.

● Christmas Party Announcements

Email from March for life

- Ellen made the motion for LCRCC to support the March for Life in the amount of \$200.
- Second by Sandra Carr
- Discussion:
 - We need these organizations to protect infants' lives.
 - May need to investigate where the money is going.
 - The money will be going towards the event in Helena.
 - Doug went to a similar event close to Whitefish and it was nice and satisfying to stand on the line.
 - No opposition
- Motion passed with unanimous consent.
- Turning Point Usa, will contact Matt Danley to try and see if the Polson chapter would be willing to come and talk; see if we can collaborate.
 - A form has been put together to contact the parents of the youths we are trying to reach to get involved.
- Motion made Ellen offer our support to Polson chapter of Turning Point Usa and other Lake County chapters and the Parental Letter for TPUSA.
- Second by Ron McClellan
 - Discussion: Favor
 - Mat has a good reputation in the community.
 - It would be good to collaborate with them.
 - They are supposed to be for freedom, patriotism, and Christianity.
 - Discussion: Against.
 - Could be problematic considering some youths are moving away with TPUSA promotion of Israel; some feel support for Israel is not "America First" and that Israel's actions in Gaza were/are too heavy-handed.
 - Various States are passing legislation censoring speech against Israel; this seems anti-democratic and against our Republican values.
- A motion was made by Ellen to table the above motion; Seconded by Sandra.
 - In Favor of tabling - 2
 - Against tabling - 5

- Return to the above motion to support a Polson chapter and any other Lake County chapters.
 - Vote on the above motion to pose the question to them and find out if they want our support:
 - Yay- 5
 - Nay- 2
- Motion passes.

● **Lake County Republican Women**

- Jan 5th is the next meeting; at library 11:30-1:00PM - speaker is to be announced.

● **Pachyderm Club**

- Will meet December 12th at 12PM.
- Location is 25 Regatta Rd (Polson Volunteer Fire Department).
 - Speaker for this meeting will be County Attorney James Lapotka.
- Next meeting: January 9th, at 12PM
 - Speaker will be Annette Schiele from Fostering Mission Valley Families.

● **Public Announcements/Guest Comments**

- Passage of Bill HB 201, we will get the check list out to everyone to be able to confront the signature gatherers; they are obligated to comply with this new law.
- In trying to get more funds, we are members of Polson Chamber of Commerce, women are with Ronan Chamber, and they can advertise events of a non-political nature if given a weeks' notice.
 - We might want to reconsider if we want to continue paying dues if they will not advertise political events.
 - We will include discussion of paying dues to the Chamber of Commerce on the agenda for the LCRCC meeting in January.
- Bill Barron announced that he is running for office as Commissioner again; this will be his final term.

Adjournment