

Lake County Republican Central Committee

Wednesday, 7 January 2026

Polson Rural Fire Hall

Welcome, Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call and Introduction of Guests, Visitors, and Newcomers

Precinct Captains: Micah Robertson; Ellen Wicklund; Susan Lake; Doug & Mary Lee Syme; Ron McClellan; Frank & Mary Mutch; Ron Tjaden; Cynthia Waterman; Ray Winn; Joe Read; Max Krantz

Guests: Chris Warden

Adoption of Agenda

Tracy moved to modify the agenda for the Tiger Team section and battle plan for 2026 to be dealt with first.

Adopted by unanimous consent

Approval and/or Amendment of 3 December 2025 Minutes

Adopted by unanimous consent.

Chairman comments & Battle Plan for 2026 - All Hands on Deck!!

- Holidays are over and it is time to get to work.
 - Primaries are here and we need to work hard to get good candidates in office.
 - Cannot have statuesque campaigns.
 - Three prong attacks to move us forward.
1. **Spiritual front. We are dealing with spiritual voids and evil.**
 - a. Youth are waking up to this.
 - b. Fighting Islami-Nazi; Rino; globalist; democrats; commies; and out of state dark money.
 - c. Get churches involved (cannot say abortion, transgenderism, is ok we have the moral high ground).
 - d. Fight against paganism (tribalism in the country).
 - e. Law has changed about church involvement in politics.
 2. **Political front. Politics is downstream of culture.**
 - a. Vetting process again.
 - b. Primaries are critical to get the person you want in the general elections.
 - c. Art Wittich is pushing MTGOP to focus on primaries.
 - d. Working on messaging.

- e. Election observers & judges training.
 - f. Must defeat the “C’s” that are funded by dark money groups (NGOs)
 - g. Must raise funds for MTGOP, our candidates, radio ads, posters.
 - h. Will talk to the RNC about funds the federal groups can bring in.
3. Grassroots front.
- a. Letters to the editor.
 - b. Door-knocking
 - c. Sign waving.
 - d. Funding the race car as a sponsor.
 - e. Observe (harass) signature gathers.
 - f. Work with local attorneys with what we need to do if signature gathers do not follow the law.
 - g. HD 91 needs a candidate & HD 15
 - i. They are gifts to the democrats due to redistricting.
 - ii. Even if it is just a name.
 - h. Give one week a month to move the ball down the field for Republicans.

Need to move on all three at the same time.

Treasurers Report (5 Mins)

- Beginning balance: \$11,790
- Donation to “March for Life”: \$200
- Ending Balance: \$11,590

Committee Reports (5 Mins Each)

● Finance Chairman

- Great committee meeting ideas to start on fund raising ideas.
- Having a golf tournament.
- Shooting range in Big fork we could maybe use.
- Start on Lincoln/Reagan Dinner.
- Renting out the “Shoe”.
- Non-fundraising,
 - Host a big party for 250 years of United States of America celebration.
 - Get Turning Point involved.
 - Cherry festival is good exposure.
- We welcome any ideas to help.

● Congressional Committeewoman and Committeeman

Not present.

- **State Committeewoman and Committeeman**

Not Present

- **Technology Committee**

Faith.

- Ron and I were able to meet with different people to help them learn ZOOM.
- Planning another training course at the end of January or first week of February to help the ones that missed the training.
- Will have a separate training for the social media side of things (Facebook, Instagram, “X”)
- Sign-up sheet will go around for the social media training.
- Tracy: We need to utilize and grow in our technological capabilities.
 - Learn “AI” and its limitations and capabilities.
 - Want the LCRCC to be able to use ZOOM and vote even if not in person.
 - Would like for the LCRCC to have one in-person meeting a month and then one ZOOM meeting in the same month (2 meetings/month this election year).
 - Legislature uses ZOOM routinely.
- Joe Read.
 - Option with ZOOM on your phone; keep working while listening to meeting.
 - It does not have to interrupt your day.

- **Tiger Team**

- Will have two halves working with TT once the Legislative Committee begins.
- This committee will focus on the legislation we want for Lake County specifically; not all the possible legislation the legislature might put forward.
 - The idea is to narrow the scope to something manageable.

Elected Officials Reports/Comments –

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

Bill Barron.

- Elected chairman for offices and committees.
- Completed one variance on a wastewater issue.
- Working with election officer who has been put on a State committee to possibly move the primary.
 - Move the primary earlier in the year to align with Super Tuesday.
 - If this happens then Montana’s vote would have more power than in June.
 - Maybe invite Tony to come and talk about this move.

- There was a lawsuit in Chouteau County of not enough tribal representation on the county commissioners.
 - This was settled but not favorably nor based on competence; instead gave tribal carve-outs.
- Working on the MOU for PL280 that is in limbo
 - Has been hijacked by the Governor/Lieutenant Governor.
 - They are intentionally putting poison pills in the bill to make the county the sole supporter for PL280 for all time.

Joe Read (Freedom Caucus).

- Montana Talks ran a statewide piece on Representative Bedey and other RINOS.
- Llew Jones has an ad running against him along with numerous robo calls.
- Flip side is three of the RINOs got with other individuals to post on CBS to raise money from outside the state for their campaigns.
- Outside money: 2019 my opponent was running a school solely funded by George Soros.
- Will need to buy ads for the primaries about where the money is coming from for these campaigns.
- HD 91 is winnable. Must be the right person.

Tracy Sharp

- Water Interim Policy Committee meeting on Monday.
- Will talk about exempt wells (hot issue across the state)
- Will talk about data centers on Monday afternoon; they still want a data center on Kerr Dam, but this is not being talked about anywhere including in Helena.
- Montana is never *not* in drought; just different stages of drought (D1, D2, D3, D4).
- Will ask hard questions about using water to cool a data center.
- Will talk about implementation of the water compact in a March meeting.

Unfinished Business

- **Paying Dues to the Chamber of Commerce - Continue?**
 - Nothing against the chamber but they will not advertise political ads.
 - There should be someone participating in their meetings if we are paying dues.
 - We need more information before we can decide whether to drop or not.
 - Linda Stewart volunteered to meet with Chamber on fact-finding mission.
 - Motion made to *table* by Ron and seconded by Doug.
 - Motion carries.
- **Filling Orphan Precincts with Precinct Team Leaders**

- Volunteer for Polson 5 is Kevin Kelley for the open male Precinct Captain for Polson 5..
 - Ron nominated Kevin Kelley for Polson 5, seconded by Mary Lee.
 - Unanimous decision approved Kevin Kelley for the male Precinct Captain for Polson 5.
 - Linda Stewart volunteers for PTL of Polson 2.
 - Motioned by Doug and seconded by Ron
 - Linda Stewart was approved by unanimous decision to be the PTL for Polson 2.
 - Need to move Sandra Carr from Polson 5 to Polson 4.
 - Motioned by Ron and seconded by Mary Lee.
 - Motion approved by unanimous decision, Sandra Carr is the PTL for Polson 4.
 - Pablo 2 male Precinct Captain to be held by Jack Lake.
 - Motioned by Ron and seconded by Mary Lee
 - Motion approved by unanimous consent, Jack Lake is the male Precinct Captain for Pabo 2.
- **Vote on the Tjaden Amendment to Bylaws New Business**
 - Motion carries by unanimous consent

Announcements

- **Lake County Republican Women**

Feb 2nd will be the next meeting at the Miracle Museum in Polson.

Tyler Irwin sponsorship.

\$750 from Pachyderm and LCRCC.

\$1,500 from the women.

- **Pachyderm Club**
 - January 9th at 12 pm, 25 Regatta Rd (Polson Volunteer Fire Department)
 - Speakers will be Annette Schiele and Mckenzie McElderly.
 - From a new organization, *Fostering Mission Valley Families*.
 - They currently assist tribal and state social services with new placements.
 - January 23rd the speaker will be District Court Judge John Mercer
- **Public Announcements/Guest Comments**
 - Jack Wirth is running against Lou Jones.
 - Jack is a strong conservative.
 - Donation envelopes were passed around, and the max donation is \$470.
 - **Finley Warden**

- Last 2 elections worked with Republican party to help get candidates in office.
- Have worked heavily in the education committee.
- Running for HD 13.
- Claims the last session the House and Senate were held hostage by Republicans voting with democrats and passing Democrat budgets.
- Will run against Linda Reksten for this seat.
 - Passed out information about Linda's voting record.

Adjournment