**Lake County Republican Central Committee**

**Wednesday, 7 May 2025**

**Welcome, Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call and Introduction of Guests, Visitors, and Newcomers**

**Adoption of Agenda**

* Adopted by unanimous consent

**Chairman’s Comments**

* There is a lot of fighting left to do. Some good things were done in the legislature despite it not being a great session for conservative America-First principles
* Lake County will receive PL 280 funding, and this should allow eventual withdrawal from the agreement (the State wants out). For PL 280, the County should get $250,000.00 this summer. The county (all State counties) should receive some funding for the people they are holding locally for the Department of Health and Human Services just as they do for their Department of Corrections; this was Tracy’s bill that passed by a large margin and is on the Governor’s desk now (as of 3 June);
* The Republicans still have a body of *moderates* that cannot be relied upon to support America-First conservative initiatives; this was quite apparent in this session
* We tried to pass a lot of bills to stop *gender denying* surgeries on young people but had trouble getting them across the House floor (moderates)
* Tracy’s driver license bill did not pass through Senate judiciary despite getting through the House Committee and the House floor. Many did not understand that the ‘driving privilege card’ bill was ***not/not*** Tracy’s bill and that the privilege card bill was modified by Tracy to ensure the cards ***could not be issued to people not in the USA legally***. That misunderstanding likely killed both bills; end result—now illegals *can* drive in Montana.
* Helena as a rule does not understand tribal relations and have been successfully *propagandized* by the tribes and the *Indian Caucus*. This will be difficult to overcome, and much work is ahead on this issue
* The conservative Republicans tried valiantly to permit judicial candidates to put an “R” or “D” behind their names on the ballots; this was defeated by moderate Republicans
* Democrats did not want this because the judicial is obviously partisan in their favor today and they must cloak this fact behind a smoke screen of babble and propaganda that the judiciary is actually non-partisan as is and must stay that way

**Approval and/or Amendment of Minutes**

* Approved by unanimous consent

**Treasurer's Report**

* Beginning balance: $3,396
* Ending balance: $3,396

**Committee Reports**

● Finance Chairman

* Lincoln/Reagan/Trump (L/R/T) dinner working on price from caterer
* Printing tickets for raffles and dinner to sell through June July august
* Will combine the buying tickets online and printed tickets
* Working on getting items for the raffle and auction.
* Will have merchandise to sell during the Cherry Festival and will use leftover merchandise for L/R/T dinner.

● Congressional Committeewoman and Committeeman

* President trump got rid of the CDC today.
* Mike Taylor has been moved to Brendan house.

● State Committeewoman and Committeeman

* Not present

● Technology Committee

* People need to participate on the social media side.
* President Trump will be a lame duck if we are not loud and proud of what he is doing.
* There is the Rino removal project movement in Montana.

● Tiger Team

* Met today; working on bylaws
* Moved out of John Mercer’s office and now meet in the Polson Library; LCRCC thank you card and flowers were sent to the Secretary to thank her for putting up with us; a thank you card from the LCRCC was sent to Judge Mercer

**Elected Officials Reports/Comments – Senate/House/Commissioners/Sheriff/Others**

Linda Reksten

* Linda was Chair of House education
* There was a split in the Republican group while Democrats worked lockstep
* Passed the STAR act to raise teacher’s pay; heard a school choice bill that was poorly crafted and died quickly; tabled the bill for banning menstrual products in men’s bathrooms; tabled another bill to put chaplains in public schools
	+ The chaplain bill was poorly crafted; you could be 18 years old and take a one-day course to counsel children in schools
* Provided support for mentoring new teachers
* A bill passed to recruit people from local communities to go into education
* Majority of the bills were killed by committee even when there was bi-partisan support of education bills
* They were able to push out 4 to 5 bills that had merit

Bill Barron

* Bill discussed property taxes with Senator Hertz
	+ There should be a decrease of 6%
	+ Next year it should decrease about 19%
* There should be about a $4M appropriation to work on Finley Point Road
* Working on Dublin gulch and then the North Reservoir; these should be paved by the end of this year
* Open house for the new annex 9 August; same day as “Art in the Park/Car Show”
* Senator Hertz stated this was the worst legislative session he has ever seen since being in the MT legislature
* Department of Transportation (DOT) stated they cannot build vertically (traffic lights) out by the Shoe where the new Casino traffic will meet 93because of the approach to landing at the airport
* In the last meeting DOT said they will not do anything because each study shows there will not be an increase in traffic; our local Representatives will talk to DOT in Helena
* The tribes are being pressed to put in turning lanes

**Unfinished Business**

* None

**New Business**

Summer Activities Announcements

* Elections for Montana GOP in June; this will be the most important election for the MTGOP in decade; will be picking a new Chairman; Don K is leaving that position
	+ Known candidates thus far are: Tanner Smith, Troy Miller, Art Wittick, Stacy Zenn, and Dave Sanders
* 4th of July and Cherry Festival approaching (Cherry Festival is 26-27 July)
* Lake County Women have sponsored a race car driven by Tyler Irwin
	+ The first race is May 17th; turn out to to support Tyler Irwin at the Mission Valley Oval; Tyler and his car will lead the Republican float on the 4th of July parade and he may be available for the Cherry Festival
* Lake County Republican Women
	+ Caroyln Hall will be the next speaker in June
	+ They meet at the library in Polson; there will be a social before the noon meeting
* Pachyderm Club
	+ Will meet noon on Friday, May 9th at the Polson Volunteer Fire department; speaker will be Montana State Auditor, James Brown

**Public Announcements/Guest Comments Adjournment**

* Doug, shout out to Linda Sauer for latest *Last Chance Patriots* articles
* Dorothy Ashcraft noted that Larry spoke at Pachyderms and is looking for input about the committee auditing Polson city government; Larry noted there will be three replacements for the *City Council*, and *they are far left leaning*; he noted the city has a charter that states the council will establish policy and the city manager will implement the policy, and when he pointed this out to the council, it appeared to be new information to them
* The Chair hoped to set up a committee to look at and revamp the bylaws; however, there were no volunteers, thus it looks like the Tiger Team will have to do it