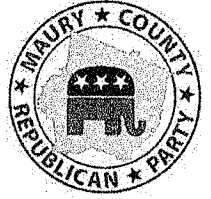


## Monthly Meeting of the Maury County Republican Party

Thursday May 25 6:00 PM

1. **Call to order** - Jerry called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.
2. **Prayer followed by the Pledge.**
3. **Minutes** – Jerry asked if all members received and if any changes. Some mentioned they did not get them; they should confirm their info on the MCRP website member portal. Should be going to all members and following Roberts Rule of Order, if any corrections let us know. As no corrections minutes approved.
4. **Treasurer's report** – Todd Hopper is new Treasurer – appointed tonight in the EC meeting. Chris Chumley Vice Treasurer gave report. \$575.14 in the PAC while \$1156.88 in the general fund. Current expenses include building rental, food, and Red Dot Storage. MCRP Has gained 4 new members. Motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made and approved by voice vote.
5. **Update on PAC and QR Code**  
Chris Morris- Counties going to 1 PAC account per SEC meeting Chris M attended on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. On June 8<sup>th</sup> there is a meeting to learn about PAC, meeting at 6 pm Elks Lodge, Pulaski. Everyone is invited to attend.  
Brady Carr- Cards left on tables have QR code that leads to Maury GOP donations page. Info needed to donate is listed including employer as required by ethics and finance in Nashville. Yes, even if you are donating tonight to help with food costs, all info is required.
6. **E-Mail Address for Officers** -Brady Carr – working to get set up for officers and can do for committee heads as well. Can be used by the next group of officers as well. No longer will need to use personal email. Jerry stated that all emails will be stored on a server, and this takes off liability from using personal email accounts.
7. **Meeting Day Discussion and Vote** – Jerry B- Want to move meeting from 4<sup>TH</sup> Monday to 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. Less conflict for County Commissioners who usually have meetings first of week. Jerry has confirmed all 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays the building is available thru October. Forms on table for membership to vote. A YES vote is a vote to move to Thursday. A NO vote is a vote to keep it on Monday. VOTE TAKEN and it is voted to move to Thursday by a vote of 45 for the move and 9 wanting to keep it on Mondays.
8. **Report from Sub-Committees**
  - a) By-Laws -Lona is chairperson – has 3 volunteers now. Updates need to be done and submitted to the state GOP by July 31.
  - b) Legislative committee -Chris Cervantes is chairperson. Has 3 volunteers now
  - c) Finance (Funding) – Chris Chumley is chairperson - Has 4 volunteers now.
  - d) Membership – Jason Gilliam is chairperson. 1 volunteer now. Looking for 2 more. Will also working with communication committee.



### Executive Committee

X = in Attendance

X\_ Jerry Bridenbaugh -Chair

X\_ Lona Heins – Vice Chair

X\_ Brady Carr – Cor  
Secretary

X\_ Chris Wilson – Rec  
Secretary

X\_ Chris Chumley -Vice  
Treasurer

X\_ Todd Hopper -Treasurer

\_ Debbie Matthews – Past  
Chair

X\_ Chris Cervantes -MCRY

\_Cindy Rial - MCRW

X\_ Chris Morris - SEC

\_ Angie McClanahan - SEC

e) Communication – Brady Carr- e-mailed night of MCRP reorganization asking for login to all social media. Twitter and Telegram accounts deleted by prior EC. SEC member and former EC member not giving him full access to Facebook, he is only able to post. On the 1st of June he will start a new page if not given full access to the current page. He would like this issue settled quietly. There are currently 2 Maury County GOP Facebook pages. A new one would be the third. Reach is down 70% and no new members have been added to the current Facebook page. Page currently has 2069 followers so all would be lost if had to start a new Facebook page.

-Any surveys sent out to members will be blind surveys. Keep an eye on spam folders in case emails go there.

- Looking at sponsors to help with fixed costs of MCRP. Has 2 lined up so far and 2 who are on hold at moment. Sponsorships run June 2023 to May 2024. Sponsor would get 10 minutes to speak at MCRP monthly meeting and table set-up at all meetings. Business link on MCRP website and be listed on bi-monthly MCRP newsletters. Cost \$1500 for the year. Would need 10 to cover yearly fixed costs of MCRP. **See attachments.**

9. **Floor Discussion: Caucus v Primary-** Jerry B- Open discussion with membership about having a primary vs caucus. It will be decided by the EC but would like membership input before a decision is made. Comments listed below from the floor and legislators in attendance.

- In favor of primary as we have lots of Independents now, it will force politicians to declare if Democrats or Republicans by 2<sup>nd</sup> time around. It matters who leads.
- Primary has crossover voting.
- Does not affect state or federal elections.
- "R" next to name was appreciated last year.
- Strategy- voter base influx. Primary opens opportunity to get more Republicans involved. Obligates us to get more voter turnout.
- Will be signs at voting centers letting people know it is illegal to crossover vote.
- If Democrats have no primary, they will come and vote in the Republican primary.
- It was hard to get candidates last year with caucus. Williamson County had 2500 democrats vote in primary last year for Jack Johnson.
- If the caucus is done correctly, it is good and increased voter turnout in Giles County.
- State Legislators would have to enact putting a D or R next to candidates for city elections. It was done last year for the school board and county commission.
- Primary would be easier for Democrats who are fed up with their party to switch to Republicans. We should encourage this and make it easy for them. We need more people to vote.
- Next year is an off year with half of the school board up for election.
- Vetting process keeps Democrats out of Republican party.
- If we had closed primaries, would it matter? YES
- Caucus could affect younger voters and keep some of them out of the process.
- There is no perfect solution.
- Jerry B -Any additional comments or questions send them to the EC through the website. Look for possible surveys to come out as well.

**See attachment distributed by a GOP party member.**

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10. **AUGUST SPECIAL SESSION** – MCRP and some other county parties are looking at getting a busload of people to attend the called special called session in Nashville. Be on the lookout for additional information.

Motion to adjourn, seconded. Approved and adjourned at 7:29PM

Chris Wilson  
Recording Secretary  
MCRP

*\$1500*

## **Supporting Contributors**

### **June 23 - May 24**

- Sponsorship Covers one meeting (2 Maximum per entity)
- 10 minutes to address the membership at one meeting.
- Table with company Rep and/or information at ALL MONTHLY MEETINGS. (Special events such as Reagan Day are not included)
- Hyperlink with logo on the MauryTNGOP.com website.
- Hyperlink with logo on the MauryTNGOP.com bi-monthly E-news. May not be included in some special action notices.

*No politicians or candidates.*

*If a company wishes to participate but doesn't wish to speak, we'll be happy to write and/or read a statement to the body on their behalf.*

We have a lot of positive things happening, but we do have one negative issue that I'll address first.

It's an unfortunate situation that we believe the membership has a right to know about, and we have a responsibility to inform you of.

At 9:23pm April 24 after the reorganization election I asked for the login details for all Maury County GOP social media platforms.

These included Facebook, Twitter, telegram and any others.

Twitter and Telegram were both deleted completely, I can't say for sure by whom, but Valerie Wilson was the only admin for them that I'm aware of.

FB was left up and I was given low level admin authority. SEC member Angie McClanahan was added as one of the top-level administrators. Valerie Wilson was removed. Paula Sanders remains on as one the two top level administrators more than a month after the Reorganization.

I have asked numerous times for this to be corrected.

Neither of these ladies have the right to be on the MCRP FB at all.

The reasons given for this action have changed several times. From I don't know how to change it (then why are you

an admin if you don't understand the basics of managing a FB page?), to I don't have time, to you can post, to Paula OWNS IT, to the state wants to control all county social media and websites? To third parties Angie has stated that she's not going to turn it over because of our disagreement over an email sent (becoming judge and jury? Finding me guilty after you the membership reelected me?) and that they're worried that I'll bash the former EC on the page.

I don't operate that way. If I'm going to say something to you, you'll know it.

I say a lot on social media NONE OF IT IS PERSONAL.  
I don't attack people online.

Unlike what WAS done, BY MEMBERS OF the previous EC to Kathey Grodi, myself and others - but i didn't respond to any of it.

So, if you've been wondering why your FB page hasn't had any activity since the reorganization. This is why. It's also why Reach is down 70%. Engagement is down 87%. New Followers is a ZERO for the last 28 days.

Because I refuse to stand quietly by and allow you, the membership that elected a new EC to have those who YOU REPLACED remain in control. And I will not accept partial access – PERIOD.

Fact is, I was elected to this position TWICE.

So, here's the bottom line.

The newly elected EC wants to unite the party, which is why I'm telling you this IN PERSON not on social media.

Ronald Reagan said that the 11th commandment was thou shalt not speak ill of fellow Republicans.

In my opinion this shows a lack of respect for the election and you the voting member.

So, we're hoping that Mrs. Sanders and Mrs. McClanahan reconsider and do the right thing.

If not, we're prepared to create another Maury County Republican Party FB page The third one! If this issue hasn't been rectified by June 1st.

That will damage the party. We'll lose access to the 2039 followers leading up to an election season.

We'll have to start over from zero.

Let's hope and pray that for the good of all these members reconsider their actions.

And if it makes them feel better, I'll pledge right here, right now not to disparage them or any former members of the EC on Social Media.



Now, on to what we're working on that's positive.

- The Communication Committee will be working with Jason Gilliam & and Membership Committee to update the database so it includes each voters district information so we can use it for election communications.

### Website updates

Go To the ABOUT Page you'll find -

- New Privacy Policy
- State & County Bylaws
- New LOCAL Page – a quick reference point for the MC Commission meetings, School Board as well as Spring Hill & Mt Pleasant
- communication committee is working on a new layout but want to get the content updated before we work on the look.
- adding surveys to get your input on important issues – we had 39 respond out of 189 sent. 28-11 for Thursday night by the way.
- working on some visual step by step instructions on setting and retrieving your password.
- news page is being redesigned to be separated into three sections.

- Local for county and city information

- State for state

- National and international

- DONATIONS page that works with the cards you see on the tables.

Fund Raising – I've worked with the state Ethics & Campaign Finance office to ensure our fund-raising efforts are done correctly. The EC just approved a plan to offer a limited number of Supporting Contributor Spots. This is designed to fund the annual fixed costs of 12-15 thousand per year.

Here's a brief overview:

### Supporting Contributors

June 23 - May 24

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If you, your company or someone you know might be interested in partnering with the Maury County GOP – please see me after the meeting.

Here are my compelling reasons why the Maury County GOP should prioritize primary elections for local offices:

1. **Enhanced Representation:** Given Maury County's population exceeding 100,000, conducting primary elections is a logical step towards reflecting the size and significance of our county accurately. It allows for a broader and more inclusive representation of the Republican voters' preferences.
2. **Benchmarking with Comparable Counties:** Many neighboring counties, such as Williamson, Rutherford, and Sumner, have already embraced local primaries successfully. By adopting a similar approach, Maury County can align itself with best practices in the region and ensure consistency in our electoral processes.
3. **Clarity and Increased Participation:** Unlike caucuses, primary elections are a familiar concept to Republican voters. Utilizing primaries would minimize confusion among the public and provide a clearer, more accessible voting method. This, in turn, can encourage greater voter participation, which is a positive outcome for our democracy.
4. **Broader Candidate Selection:** By holding a primary, all Republican candidates have an equal opportunity to seek support and be elected. A primary election allows for a fairer and more inclusive process, ensuring that candidates are chosen by a larger segment of Republican voters, rather than a select few attending a caucus.
5. **Democratic Transparency:** A Republican primary election would also lead to a Democratic primary, thereby requiring Democrats to declare their affiliation openly. This transparency enables the people of Maury County to make informed decisions about the candidates they are electing across party lines.
6. **Addressing Previous Issues:** While the previous caucus had its merits, it also encountered problems, particularly concerning vouching, candidacy eligibility, and voter rights. By transitioning to a primary system, we can learn from these past challenges and implement improvements to ensure a smoother, more efficient election process.
7. **Managing Crossover Voting:** While crossover voting can present challenges, it should not overshadow the importance of adopting primary elections as our standard method for selecting Republican candidates. Strategies can be employed to mitigate crossover voting concerns without compromising the overall benefits of primaries.

If the committee decides to pursue primary elections, I am committed to securing the necessary funding for the election commission through the county commission. By investing in this essential aspect of our democratic process, we can ensure a more representative and participatory system for the people of Maury County.

Ray Jeter

5/25/2023