

## Benton BPOU Minutes, June 8, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by Chairman Blake Paulson. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation followed.

Executive board members attending: Blake Paulson, Joshua Jones, Sandra Brakstad, Carol Rugar and Janell Jordan (remotely).

Guests attending: Dan Stephenson, Cocoa Robertson, Jim Howe, Marcy Jones, Jim Zitzmann, Philip Kameo, Todd Waytashek, Judy Sommers, Kevin Arnold, and Beth Schlangen.

Blake Paulson reported that 70 people attended the legislative wrap up session that Benton sponsored on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Contributions totaled \$628.00 and the only expense was \$75.00 for rental of the facility.

Blake Paulson also reported that the MNGOP is planning to hold a state central meeting along with a Reagan-style dinner along with a state convention to discuss changes to the constitution. A date has not yet been set but is expected to be held some weekend this summer.

Blake Paulson also reported that the MNGOP is not likely to have funding to help candidates in 2024.

Blake Paulson has been on Ox and Friends on KNSI lately and these programs are now available on the Benton BPOU website.

A motion was made by Kevin Arnold and seconded by Ruth Gruba to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Blake Paulson and seconded by Joshua Jones to pay Carol Rugar \$75.00 for facility rental for the June 5<sup>th</sup> legislative event to be paid from the receipts received at that event. Motion approved.

A motion by Blake Paulson and seconded by Carol Rugar to pay \$10.00 cash to Jim Howe for shredding old treasurer documents at Docu-shred. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Jim Howe and seconded by Carol Rugar to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion approved.

Kevin Arnold reported that he was able to refresh our old domain name and that the website is up and running. Submit items to put on the calendar. He is adding articles all the time.

Blake Paulson announced that the BPOU can elect two delegates to CD6. Volunteers for the position were Todd Waytashek and Phil Kameo. Motion to appoint these two to CD6 was made by Sandra Brakstad and seconded by Ruth Gruba. Motion passed.

Blake Paulson has been in contact with Jodi Henry of Foley about the possibility of ordering shirts for the BPOU board members and caps for the Benton fair booth. He brought samples. A

committee was formed to decide on what to purchase as time is of the essence. Committee members are Kevin Arnold, Beth Schlangen, Blake Paulson and Judy Sommers. Carol Rugar will check with Becker Printing where we ordered from last time.

Phil Kameo suggested purchasing a cap and make patches available which can be attached with Velcro to change the message. Some suggestions are: Patriot, Trump 2024, Walz Failed, We the People are PO'd.

Blake Paulson reported that the BPOU has entered a unit in the Foley parade for Wednesday June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Line up is at 6 PM. Participating will be Congressman Emmer, Sen. Wesenberg and Rep. Schultz

Motion was made by Carol Rugar and seconded by Joshua Jones to skip the Sauk Rapids parade on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Motion approved.

Blake Paulson announced that our next event will feature Scott Pressler on Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> from noon to 2 PM at Rollies. Tables will be available to legislators and interested groups for \$500 per table. They can invite their staff. General admission is \$20.

Beth Schlangen brought to our attention that on Sunday at the Kelly Inn in St Cloud there will be a Drag Brunch being advertised as appropriate for 4-year-olds to attend.

Motion to adjourn was made by Kevin Arnold and seconded by Joshua Jones. Motion adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Rugar, Sec.

Benton Co Republican BPOU