



Southwest Conservative Republican Women

Engaged – Educated - Empowered

Meeting Minutes

The SWCRW monthly meeting was held at the Prior Lake City Hall, Parkview Room, on **February 17, 2018**. The meeting was called to order at 9:02a.m. with President Alexandra Matyja presiding and Sharon Sykora volunteering to take the meeting minutes.

Invocation led by **Lori Clausen** and Pledge of Allegiance led by **Michele Even**

Alexandra Matyja welcomed and acknowledged our new member from January, Candice Reyes-Associate Member and passed around the Volunteer Hours binder along with the Attendance sheets. Members were asked to confirm information and add their house District if they knew it.

Guest Speaker, State Representative **Bob Vogel**, was introduced by **Lori Clausen**. Bob reviewed the Even and Odd year responsibilities of the legislature with Odd to pass the State budget and Even to pass Bonding and Policy bills. Key take aways include:

- Governor has proposed Bonding of \$1.5 Billion. Typical bonding level is \$800 million.
- With the US Tax bill that was passed the state needs to pass a 'Tax Conformity' bill to align the MN Tax forms to the Federal Tax form. If that is done without any adjustments, **the State will collect \$750 Million more taxes without raising taxes. The Governor views it as a negotiation on how much he keeps of the additional Revenue!**
- A Gain Sharing Bill was passed back in 2011 to 'reward' state employees for saving money of up to 10% of the money they saved. At this point over \$10 Million dollars has been paid out and when asked where the savings was, they said they couldn't figure out how to calculate the saved money. Look at the Office of the Legislator Auditors (OLA) site for more information. This is Government waste or misappropriation of funds.
- Need a Republican Governor THIS election and Majority in House and Senate when next redistricting occurs in 2022 to positively influence districts to be in Republican favor.

Club Business and announcements led by **Alexandra Matyja**

- Sharon Sykora motioned to accept the 1/20/2018 meeting minutes with corrections to Lori Clausen's name and to rephrase the topic that Sharon presented from an 'opinion piece' to 'reviewing the 2018 election year with Convention dates'. Motion 2nd by Pat Hartell. Motion carried.
- Alexandra shared that Trish Sing stepped down due to relocation to FL and asked everyone to carefully consider this role. Sharon summarized the responsibilities of taking notes during club meetings, Executive Meetings and that time commitment was approximately 7 hours a month. **ACTION:** Club will send a note to all members to consider Secretary role.
- Annette Thompson motioned to accept the January Treasurer's Report and Diane Bur 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

- Membership – Requested any members that haven't renewed to renew soon. Requested volunteers to promote SWCRW at upcoming BPOU Convention leveraging business cards, new club Banner and History Board. Michele Even, Sue Holman-Sutich and Sharon Sykora volunteered. Rita to provide BPOU Contacts to Sharon so that she can contact to request permission to have a presence prior to the conventions. Annette passed around names and phone numbers of area Republican Women for each to call 1-3 names and report outcome. This was done last fall resulting in 1 new member out of about a dozen attempts. All 23 names were drawn! **ACTION:** Confirm Call scripts available on Member's Pages
- Next Executive Committee Meeting is next Thursday, 2/22/2018, at Alexandra's home.
- Next month's volunteer for Invocation is Annette Thompson and Pledge is Michele Even.
- New Club Banner revealed and sent home with Sue Holman-Sutich for use at her Convention next week along with the club history board and some business cards.
- Noted Scott BPOU convention on **3/10/18**, registration at 8:30a.m., at Shakopee Sr HS.
- Opened discussion to share how some are thinking about involvement in the 2018 elections with some hosting fundraisers, some calling or door knocking, etc. Start planning your election year participation and commit to it soon!
- MNFRW Day at the Capitol, Thursday, 3/8/2018, 9:15AM-1PM; RSVP to Kathy Tingelstad (North Metro RW) 763-286-7293/
- Reviewed 'Take action and make an impact' topics on Immigration and healthcare.

IMMIGRATION

As Congress continues to discuss and potentially act on legislation that addresses the status of 690,000 DACA recipients, it must address chain migration.

- ❖ **Urge lawmakers to support ending chain migration in an immigration proposal.**

HEALTHCARE

- ❖ **Call on President Trump to overturn the Office of Personnel Management (OPM)'s 2013-era guidance that authorized illegal insurance subsidies for lawmakers and congressional staff so they don't feel the full burden of Obamacare. (*This may motivate them to address Obamacare.*)**

Congressional action may still take place on the **Bipartisan Health Care Stabilization Act**, authored by Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA), and the **Lower Premiums Through Reinsurance Act**, introduced by Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Bill Nelson (D-FL). These bills are Obamacare bailouts and would give billions of federal dollars to insurers, imposing new wasteful and unnecessary costs on taxpayers.

- ❖ **Call your lawmakers to oppose both bills and support President Trump's decision to end the illegal cost share reduction (CSR) payments to insurance companies.**

- **Popcorn Minute:** Sonja Swanson and Michele Even share a "Say No" effort to SF1722 to provide \$18 Million in funding to Muslim groups. **ACTION:** Send Action Alert on SF1722 bill. Candice Reyes distributed information about Better Angels.
- **Adjournment** at 11:15a.m. Pat Hartell motioned, Annette Thompson 2nd . Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: March 17, 2018 – (Parkview Room) which is located in Prior Lake City Hall.

SWCRW Meeting Minutes Approval Date: _____

Submitted by: _____

