

Minutes of Indian Hill Tea Party Group

January 11, 2010

Welcome

Jack Painter called the meeting to order. Approximately 85 people were in attendance.

He reviewed the Indian Hill Tea Party's key principles (limited government, free markets, and the rule of law), core message, and areas of focus (elect leaders who agree with our principles, pressure elected leaders to support our principles, and educate the public on the importance of our country's founding principles.)

He also read a statement by a former statesman on what the American people should expect from an elected leader who holds true to our founding principles of limited government and individual liberty.

Jack emphasized that our organization is not a political party and is non-partisan. We welcome members from Indian Hill and the areas surrounding Indian Hill.

Recent Activities

Jack cited a favorable article about IHTP which appeared in the Indian Hill Journal.

Committee Reports

Member Recruitment (Marsha Haberer) – We now have 123 members, exceeding our year-end goal of 100.

External Relations (Karen Robichaud) – Karen attended the Eastern Hills Tea Party meeting on Dec. 15th. She liked the fact they start their meetings by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The highlights of their agenda were the introduction of Second District candidate Michael Kilburn and a discussion of precinct membership.

Karen will continue to connect with like-minded groups to look for opportunities to magnify our voice.

Guest Speakers (Kellie Peters) – We will host a Candidate Night in conjunction with the Eastern Hills Tea Party. Location to be determined. Invitations will likely be extended to candidates for the Second District, Hamilton County Commission, and possibly Tom Ganly and Rob Portman. Note: after the meeting, it was decided to host this in March so we can invite only candidates that have filed to run.

Kellie recommended the www.CincinnatiTeaParty.org site as an excellent resource for information on events taking place throughout the region, including:

- January 23 – The Making of America seminar, part 2, developed by the National Center for Constitutional Studies.
- February 6 – the Ohio Energy Conference

Candidate Support (Susan Wisner)—IHTP has decided to support Mike Wilson, founder of the Cincinnati Tea Party, in his bid to become a State Representative. The Painters will host a fundraiser at their home on February 25, 7:00 – 9:00 pm. This will be limited to IHTP members. The suggested donation is \$75. “E-vites” will be mailed February 1.

Alex Triantafilou, Chairman of the Hamilton County Republican Party, will host a fundraising lunch at the Queen City Club on February 26 for Michelle Bachman, Representative from Minnesota. The cost is \$1000.

Finance (Gary Hartman) – Gary is working to get IHTP registered as a 527 organization with the IRS. He will also open an IHTP bank account. In the meantime, contributions to cover expenses can be made out to “Jack Painter – Indian Hill Tea Party.” Tax deductible contributions can be made at <http://www.americanjunto.org/donate.html>. (If you specify that the funds are for use by the Indian Hill Tea Party, American Junto will make them available to us for use for educational purposes.)

Precinct Organization (Barbara Holwadel) – The organization of both major parties begins at the precinct level. People at the precinct level are responsible for electing party chairmen/women and determining the slate of candidates. In May, elections will be held for Precinct Captains for 4-year terms of office. IHTP’s goal is to find and support candidates who believe in our values. We now have volunteers from the IHTP to run in 5 of Indian Hill’s 6 precincts and one Madeira precinct. George Vincent, former Chairman of the Hamilton County Republican Party, is the current precinct executive in precinct C in Indian Hill. He has indicated he supports our principles, and we intend to support his reelection. We probably will have people we run for precinct executive sign a pledge to support our principles.

Petitions to run for Precinct Executive must be submitted by February 18. The petition for each precinct must be signed by 5 registered voters (15 recommended) from the party in question.

Jack reported that Alex Triantafilou is supportive of IHTP’s efforts to be involved in precinct elections because he believes our core values are consistent with those of the Republican Party.

John Rabenold, Ward Chairman for Indian Hill, offered to help Barb in her efforts.

IHTP aims to have 25 of its members active in each precinct. These people will be available to go door-to-door to handout literature, get out the vote, encourage people to attend rallies and participate in IHTP events. This kind of grassroots involvement can have a huge multiplier effect. The difference of 3-4 votes per precinct can have a major effect state-wide. (There are several hundred precincts in Hamilton County and 88 counties in the State.)

New Business

- Alex Triantafilou has asked to speak to IHTP. We agreed to extend an invitation on the grounds that, while we are non-partisan, we want to influence both parties and will extend a similar invitation to the Democratic Party.
- Jack proposed that we create an Executive Committee of IHTP made up of the Chairmen / women of each committee. The motion passed.
- Dan Peters nominated Jack to be President of IHTP. He was unanimously approved.
- Jack suggested IHTP sponsor a booth at the IH 4th of July parade. The booth will increase our visibility and serve to recruit new members, handout literature and perhaps help with gathering signatures for petitions. Anyone interested in helping with the booth should contact Jack. Susan Holzapfel and Peg Grosser have already volunteered.
- The 912 Project and the Tea Party movement will sponsor a rally in Washington D.C. on August 28. The goal is to have such a huge crowd the event cannot be ignored by the mainstream media. Marsha Haberger agreed to organize a trip for our members.

Other Topics

- Howard Jinkinson wondered if there is a way to measure the impact of local Tea Parties. One way is through membership numbers. But those can be misleading because people are sometimes unwilling to be identified as Tea Party members. Anecdotal evidence of the impact of the Tea Party movement includes a New York Times article about the Senate race in Florida and the support that appears to be flowing to Scott Brown in Massachusetts.
- Please limit emails to Jack to “meaty” topics.
- Two Republican candidates who plan to file to run against Jeanne Schmidt in the Second District attended the meeting and were introduced: Tim Martz of Indian Hill and Mike Kilburn, currently Warren County Commissioner. Debbi Alsfelder from Mariemont also plans to run, but she had a death in the family on Monday and could not attend. Her campaign manager, Greg Ladd was at the meeting on her behalf.
- IHTP will soon have its own website. The site will eventually allow us to post a calendar of events, relevant articles and emails, provide instructions on how to write letters to our representatives, and make donations. Bill Ivers has volunteered the resources of his company Club Essentials to set this up. Club Essentials does this type of work for country clubs and others.
- Consider writing letters to the editor as a megaphone to convey ideas.
- The key to making the Tea Party work is for all of us to get involved at whatever level makes us comfortable. Reluctance to get involved now may result in a very different kind of country in 20 or so years.

Our next meeting is February 8 at 7:30 p.m. (Little Red School House). Note that the candidates night will be scheduled for March.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Jim Troppmann