

Minutes of the Indian Hill Tea Party
June 7, 2010
Little Red School House

Welcome

Jack Painter called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Diane Benson sang an encore, inspiring rendition of “God Bless America.”

Jack reviewed the Indian Hill Tea Party key principles (fiscal responsibility, limited government, and free enterprise). He reiterated that we are a non-partisan group not affiliated with any political party. We support politicians who believe in our principles.

He directed members to our website (www.indianhillteaparty.org) for more information on what we stand for and what we are trying to accomplish.

Activities of Interest

Project Vote – Jack is working with some 15 – 20 local Tea Party leaders in Hamilton, Clermont and Butler counties to coordinate efforts to get out the vote. The objective of this effort is to identify and register like-minded voters, then motivate and assist them to get to the polls. Jim Troppmann will coordinate Project Vote within Indian Hill, working closely with the 6 Precinct Captains. Anyone eager to assist with this project by helping register voters, developing voter guides or contacting voters on Election Day should contact Jim.

Precinct Organization Training – Sue Hardenbergh from the Anderson Tea Party announced plans for a training program on Saturday, June 12 at Anderson High School from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Peter Wolf, who presented this same material at the national Tea Party meeting, will share a proven methodology for organizing precincts.

Sue pointed out that even though 75% of Americans describe themselves as conservative or moderate, Democrats won the last election because they out-organized us. This training will focus on building networks and relationships within the community. Its overarching principle is that outside the precinct, we can change nothing, but inside the precinct we can change everything. More information about the program is available at TheVoicesofAmerica.org.

Chabot Fundraiser – Susan Wisner reported that the May 13 fundraiser for Steve Chabot at the Kenwood Country Club raised \$51000. Anyone interested in helping the Chabot campaign can volunteer at the Wednesday night phone banking sessions. The latest polls show Mr. Chabot ahead by 16 percentage points.

July 3 Parade - Susan Holzapfel outlined plans for IHTP's participation in the Fourth of July parade (which will be held on July 3). Anyone interested in walking the parade route or riding in Brenda Benzar's antique fire truck should meet at Cincinnati Country Day School at 9:15 am. Non-political signs are welcome as are American flags and Tea Party apparel. Susan will have 200 pocket-size constitutions to distribute.

Petition Drives - Mary Siegel said the Ohio Estate Tax petition drive will extend past June, while the HealthCare petition drive will wrap up by the end of June. Momentum is building – 11,000 signatures were collected in Columbus over the last weekend. Upcoming opportunities to collect signatures include the Concours d'Elegance in Ault Park on June 13, the Fourth of July parade and the Bike Fest in Madeira on June 25. Information and instructions about the petition process are available on the website under "Bulletin Board."

Chris Monzel Fundraiser – There will be a \$100 per person fundraiser for Mr. Munzel in Hyde Park on June 17. Contact Jack for the address.

New Business

Kelli Peters, chairwoman of the Speakers Committee, introduced a panel of 3 lawyers who shared their perspective on the role of judges and judging:

- Chip Miller, of Keating, Muething and Klekamp and head of the Federalist Society in 4 different cities
- Pat Fischer, also of KMK and a candidate for the 1st Appellate District Court
- John Williams, former Director of the Hamilton County Board of Elections and a candidate for Juvenile Court judge

Highlights of their comments:

- Since the 1950's, judges have tended to be more active in social and political issues.
- The role of the Supreme Court is to decide if the law has been applied correctly. It handles determinative issues of law, often accepting novel cases or ones that resolve differences in lower courts. The SC is infallible because its decisions are final.
- Most Democrat nominees for judgeships tend to subscribe to the philosophy that the constitution is a living document that should evolve as societal norms evolve. Advocates of "original meaning" represent the other end of the spectrum and believe the constitution represents what the law is versus what it should be.
- It is paramount that we have courts that recognize their limits because their decisions last for a long time.
- President Obama has set "empathy" as a criterion for his nominees to the Supreme Court. This leads to the appointment of judges who decide based on who the parties are, not the law.

- Good ways to learn about candidates' judicial philosophy is to check sample ballots, read bar association recommendations, pay attention to party endorsements, study who their supporters are (usually on the candidates' websites), read judges' decisions on the website of the County Clerk, and talk to lawyers who practice in front of the judges. For nominee Elena Kagan in particular, check out ScotusReport.com, published by the Federalist Society. It can be found under Announcements on the IHTP website.
- Mr. Williams recounted his experience as Director of the Board of Elections during the 2004 presidential race. He received a number of calls from irate voters who often asked, "Why are you letting the Democrats steal the election?" His response was. "What have you done to help your candidate?" His point is that unless we take ownership of our republic, things may go awry.

Closing Remarks

Jack described a recent meeting with John Boehner and 35 other local leaders. Most of the discussion centered on earmarks, spending and the budget deficit. Jack weighed in that the focus should be on more than those topics. It should be on the fact we are losing our freedom to attacks from all sides. We need to assert our freedom to choose when our choices are not hurting others. We need to protect our freedom to choose how much of our earnings to give to others, to choose which doctors we see, and to choose what political speech we hear.

The forced redistribution of wealth is a cornerstone of the Progressive agenda and a key constitutional debate. The Progressives read the Constitution as granting "welfare rights" – the right to your neighbor's possessions. By that line of reasoning, the rich become exporters of wealth to the "have nots."

To educate yourself on how the Constitution is at risk, read the article on the IHTP website.

Closing

Our next meeting will be in September – date and place to be announced

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Submitted by Jim Troppmann