

Minutes of Indian Hill Tea Party  
Regular Meeting  
March 15, 2011  
Indian Hill Primary School

## **Welcome**

Eppa Rixey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Approximately, 201 people were in attendance.

Eppa Rixey outlined the agenda for the meeting noting that, in order to give more time to the guest speakers and questions for them, the regular meeting reports would be abbreviated.

He stated the Tea Party principles – fiscal responsibility, constitutionally limited government and free enterprise. He also noted some key goals of the Tea Party movement:

- 1) Elect new leaders who believe in our principles
- 2) Reduce the size and intrusiveness of government and promote reform
- 3) Educate our members and the public on our principles and how they apply to public policy issues

He introduced Pat Fisher, Court of Appeals Judge, who thanked the Tea Party movement for its crucial role in his defeating Bill Mallory by 20,000 votes. He then left to avoid ethical problems if the subject matter discussed at the meeting came before him in court.

## **Reports**

### **Jack Painter, Ohio Liberty Council (OLC) liaison for the IHTP**

Meetings of interest: In the last few weeks, Jack met with the following people to discuss policy issues:

- Newt Gingrich
- Senator Rob Portman. Urged Senator Portman to support Paul Ryan's plan to restructure Medicare and Medicaid
- State Senator Bill Seitz. Discussed Senate Bill 5 (collective bargaining) and they had one disagreement – Seitz supports using binding arbitration to resolve impasse
- Kevin DeWine (Chairman of the Ohio Republican Party). Told him:
  - We are potential allies with them - that is also potentially true for the Democratic Party to the extent they support our principles.
  - We didn't like the use of Republican Party money to elect Central Committee members who were party insiders running against Tea Party candidates.

- The Republican Party has been lax in speaking out about principles the way the Democrats do.
- The Republican brand is tainted, and about half the Tea Party members are hostile toward the Republican Party and are as disappointed, if not more so, with them than they are with the Democrats. It will take a lot of work on the part of the Republicans to change their brand even though the Tea Party has helped them make some progress.
- Jack and others will be meeting with John Kasich this coming weekend.

#### Initiatives:

- Actively involved with the collective bargaining law and trying to understand it and how it needs to be changed.
- The OLC issued a press release in response to concerns that police and firemen have over collective bargaining reform. It argued strongly to strengthen civil service laws so that the elimination of binding arbitration doesn't put police and firemen in a difficult position.
- Working on the budget, the Healthcare Freedom Amendment and estate tax repeal.
- Jack engaged in a debate today at UC law school with a constitutional law professor over the constitutionality of the Obamacare individual mandate. A written presentation is available on the IHTP Web site.
- Jack will be speaking at a seminar in the near future on Medicare and Medicaid - part of the EmpowerU seminars.

#### **Marcie Longenecker, Get Out the Vote**

Two focus areas:

1) Get out the vote: registering voters and making sure that if anyone has moved their voter registration is updated; distributing absentee ballot applications; working to staff the polls; promoting candidates who agree with our principles; recruiting for our six precinct teams in Indian Hill as well as helping Precinct Executives in Mariemont, Madeira, Columbia Township and Terrace Park. We need volunteers for these precinct teams.

2) Combating voter fraud. Denise and Janice from the Anderson Tea Party have developed a training course largely for preparing inside poll workers. A recent class had 50 participants, 20 of which came from the Indian Hill Tea Party. A lot of precincts outside of Indian Hill don't have enough poll workers.

#### **Bill Moore, Policy Change**

- He asked for help. We need to communicate our point of view. Top priority is reestablishing constitutionally limited government, which will lead to a smaller, more efficient government that can live within its means. We need to communicate our point of

view and support our leaders to make some things happen. Bill asked for help writing articles, calling radio shows and publishing on the IHTP Website.

### **Mary Siegel, Member Communication and The Grapevine**

- Redesigning the Web site to make information easier to find.
- She's looking for volunteers to help out with the Ohio Project, which is the Healthcare Freedom Amendment petition. As of March 5<sup>th</sup>, we have 296,000 signatures to amend Ohio's Constitution. We need a minimum of 385,000 signatures by July 5<sup>th</sup>. We'd like to get 140,000 more signatures in order to have a buffer. We're also looking for signature validators to check the signatures against the voter registration database. Lynn Lippert and Brenda Benzar will be passing out signature packets.

### **Kelly Peters, Education**

- The April 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting will host Hamilton County Commissioners Chris Monzel and Todd Portune. Greg Hartman had a scheduling conflict and won't attend. They will address the County budget and solutions for budgeting problems.
- Upcoming seminars. A week from Wednesday, the IHTP, the Cincinnati East Tea Party and the Anderson Tea Party will be hosting a panel discussion on the role of public employee unions. This will be held at the Oakley Community Center at 7:00 p.m. The Panelists will be Gary Greenberg, Attorney; Steve Lazarus, Attorney; Mary McCleary from the Buckeye Institute; Don Mooney, Attorney. Jack Painter will be the moderator. As with other events, this is to foster education, learning and information gathering.
- See EmpowerUOhio.org for free seminars on various topics in the EmpowerU University series around the city. These are to help us learn about our country and get information so that we can all be good citizens.

### **Presentations**

Kelly introduced and thanked the guest speakers: State Senator Shannon Jones and Representative Peter Stautberg (34<sup>th</sup> District), who filled in for Ron Maag who couldn't attend the meeting because of recent surgery. They talked about pending legislation and, more specifically, Senate Bill 5. Each spoke for 15 minutes and fielded questions from the audience.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9.00 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, April 11, 2011 at 7:30 pm at the Indian Hill Primary School.