

JEFFERSON COUNTY PACHYDERMS
9642 BYRNESVILLE ROAD
CEDAR HILL, MO 63016

Minutes of the Jefferson County
Pachyderm Club General Meeting, November 11, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Charles Groeteke.

Vice President Don Bickowski read the Pachyderm Prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Don Bickowski read the Pachyderm Preamble.

President Groeteke acknowledged today as being Veterans Day. President Groeteke reminded us of the service and sacrifices made for our freedoms. He asked all Veterans present to please stand and be recognized.

President Charles Groeteke introduced the officers. One officer, Linda Schroeder, was absent.

President Groeteke acknowledged elected officials who were present:

Don Bickowski, County Council District 1	Member
Sherry Ziegler, Board Member, Northwest R1 School District	Member
Don Wieland, Rock Township Ambulance Board	Member
Bob Boyer, County Council District 3	Guest
Jim Terry, County Council District 7, Big River Ambulance Board	Member
Al Barbagallo, Rock Creek Sewer District Board	Member
Gene Barbagallo, C1 Water District Board	Member

President Groeteke asked new guests to introduce themselves:

Jason Fischer introduced himself stating he would like to become involved in politics and make a difference. Jamey Murphy introduced himself stating he works for Senator Paul Wieland. Cary and Teresa Blum, introduced themselves stating Cary works in the Assessors Office.

There were 17 members present and 7 guests present.

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President Groeteke asked members if there were any local events to be announced. Rebecca Leonard announced the Jefferson County Republican Club Christmas Dinner on December 7th at Tratorria Guiseppes at 5442 Old Highway 21.

Sue Bickowski announced that Saturday, November 21st is the Boy Scout Food Drive. She added that volunteers are needed at the Peace Pantry in Cedar Hill to mark, sort and stock donations delivered by the Boy Scouts.

President Groeteke asked any candidates running for office for announcements.

Cary Blum stated he has worked in the Assessor's office for 23 years and that he is running for County Assessor in 2016. He is a licensed Missouri State appraiser. He has been the Appraiser Supervisor for the last 17 years and oversees \$9 million in assessments.

Bob Boyer stated he is on the County Council representing District 3 and that he is also running for Assessor in 2016. He stated he is a licensed professional land surveyor. He stated his experience as a surveyor, serving on the County Council, and as a husband and father makes him uniquely qualified for Assessor.

Ron Arnhart stated he is running for Sheriff. He wanted to thank everyone who attended and donated to his trivia fundraiser and food drive.

President Groeteke introduced Senator Will Kraus, the speaker for the meeting.

Senator Will Kraus stated he was running for the office of Secretary of State. He joined the Military 23 years ago. He served in Iraq for 13 months with 340 combat hours. He now serves in the Military Reserves. He has been married 23 years and has two boys. His oldest son has joined the Military. Senator Kraus stated in the last two years the Democratic Governor has vetoed 5 of his Bills. The Governor was overridden on 4 of the 5 Bills. When Will Kraus served as Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, the first tax rate cut in over 9 years was successfully passed. The 6% tax rate cut will be phased in in the year 2017. Another Bill he worked on pertained to the IRS and sales tax, putting the burden of proof on the IRS and not the taxpayer.

Senator Kraus worked on the Bill that allows Open Carry in Missouri. In the event a Concealed Carry would be inadvertently exposed, that person could not be prosecuted.

Senator Kraus believes the current Secretary of State has not done enough to prevent voter fraud. As Secretary he would gather as much evidence as possible and turn it over to prosecutors. He believes the Secretary of State should be able to write the probable cause statement and he wants a bill to change that law. He gave examples of voter fraud where a State Representative won by one vote and his Aunt and Uncle voted in the wrong precinct; and another case where 27 people voted from an abandoned building.

Senator Kraus also worked on the Bill that reduced the number of days for elections from 5 to 3½ per year resulting in less cost to the taxpayer.

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Senator Kraus helped reduce the time it takes for an absentee ballot to be sent to a serviceman by allowing an online request service.

Senator Kraus helped pass a law requiring an 8-week time limit on changes to ballots. This eliminates late changes to ballots that would require reprinting of ballots and costing the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Senator Kraus stated he has proven leadership qualifications, both on and off the battle field. His life history proves he is a hard worker. He has proven twice he can win races against difficult odds. He stated of the 6 State-wide offices only one, the Lieutenant Governor, is Republican.

Senator Kraus stated he has a proven record of winning tough races, he has fought for our freedoms in Iraq, he's defended our liberties in Jefferson City, he wants to protect the integrity of elections, reduce the burden on Missouri businesses and cut fraud, waste and abuse in the Secretary of State's office.

Questions were taken by Senator Kraus regarding polling place laws, owners of LLC public records, voter photo ID's, Integrity Units within the Secretary of State's office, Drivers license renewals, and Missouri's ethics rating.

President Groeteke thanked Senator Kraus for speaking and presented him with a Pachyderm coffee mug.

President Groeteke then gave his report:

He described the club's participation in the DeSoto Veterans Parade on November 7th.

He asked Sherry Ziegler to report on the Website. She asked members to email their events and/or pictures to post on the Pachyderm Website.

He reported on the 2016 Caucus Rules that are on Missouri's Website and we will have posted on our Website.

He reminded members of the Voter ID petitions available and to be turned in to him.

He updated the Governor's Forum that the Club wants to host at the Jefferson County College. At this point a date is trying to be confirmed.

President Groeteke reminded members that according to Section 3 of our Bylaws, Directors should be elected at the first regular meeting in November, election should be held by ballot except when the number of nominees is equal to the number of vacancies, then a voice vote may be taken. The 3 receiving the largest number of votes

shall be elected. President Groetke stated we only had 2 nominees this cycle, Mrs. Linda Schroeder and Mr. Bob Frank. President Groetke asked for a unanimous vote of the members for these two members to become Directors for 2016. Jim Terry made the motion. Tom Rohrbacher seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

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President Groetke reminded members of the Jefferson County Library Forum on

Thursday, November 19th at 6:00 p.m. at the High Ridge Library. The Jefferson County Library Board specifically invited the Jefferson County Pachyderms to give their ideas for the library's direction in the future.

President Groetke asked Jim Terry to give a report on the Peace Pantry in Cedar Hill. He again reminded members of the Boy Scout Food Drive on November 21st and the need for volunteers. Jim also reported on the inadequate space at the present building. Jim reported on a land purchase in Cedar Hill and a grant of \$350,000.00 which was just received from the Jefferson Memorial Foundation to start the building. He reported on upcoming fundraising.

Bob Frank gave the Treasurer's report of \$1200.00 in the checking account with all bills being paid. President Groetke reminded members this is the time of year the membership fee of \$50.00 is due for 2016. He presented Bob with his check for \$50.00.

President Groetke announced John Brunner, Candidate for Governor, will be our speaker in December.

The 50/50 drawing was held; \$48.00 was collected; Gene Barbagallo won again and donated his half back to the club.

With no further business to attend to Don Bickowski made a motion to adjourn. Jim Terry seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Haynes, Secretary

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