

**EXEC AND ACTIVE MEMBER MEETING
FORT WALTON BEACH TEA PARTY
April 27, 2010**

PURPOSE

A core group of people dedicated to keeping the movement going have been meeting regularly to discuss important issues and planned how to grow the Tea Party.

The Fort Walton Beach Tea Party is dedicated to being an Action Group to hold our politicians accountable for their actions. Our core principles are to increase freedom at every opportunity, ensure policies are fiscally sustainable; taxes are low to encourage economic growth and prosperity, and, most importantly, renew the study and knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and its importance as the founding document of the United States of America.

DISCUSSION

1. As always, the FWB Tea Party organization opened its meeting with an invocation, the Pledge of Allegiance, and a reading of our Core Principles.
2. **Spout Off.** A summary of the items discussed follows:
 - a. Honor Flight will be coming back from DC after visiting the Vietnam Wall on May 5th at 7:00PM.
 - b. We have had quite a few letters to the editor of the Daily News which talked about the Tea Party. We must flood the newspaper with editorials.
 - c. Why don't we have a banner over hwy 98 downtown?
 - d. A first time attendee of our rallies said that she thought the Tax Day Rally was great. She especially liked the educational speakers and she wanted to hear more about the Constitution and amendments.
 - e. ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) has a toll free number to contact them about suspicious activity (866.DHS.2.ICE). One of our members has contacted ICE and reported possible illegal aliens working at Holly by the Sea, and within a short time, there were no more such activity. ICE will give you an investigative number (you can remain anonymous) that you can use to check progress.
 - f. U.S. Constitution Freedom Rally Saturday August 21st 2010. 1 pm until 5 pm. Emerald Coast Conference Center Fort Walton Beach Florida.
 - This event is an educational awareness tea party to offer a place for citizens to meet the local state, senatorial and congressional candidates running for office. It is also a fund raiser for the local fishermen, decimated by the federal government's intrusion into the local fishing industry and for the wounded warrior project.
 - Tickets are \$20.00 per person on sale March 1st 2010. Guest of honor is Jason Redmon United States Navy (seal).
 - Meet and hear the local candidates running for office including Mr. Mike Hill Senatorial Candidate District 2 (R) Mr. Eddie Hendry Congressional Candidate District 2 (R) Mr. Dave Murzin Senatorial Candidate District 2 (R) Mr. Jerry Melvyn Candidate For State Representative District 4 (R)

Mayor Craig Barker Candidate For State Representative District 4 (R)
Mr. Matt Gaetz Candidate For State Representative District 4 (R) Mr.
Greg Evers Candidate For Senatorial District 2 (R) Mr. James Bryan
Candidate For Congress (D) Running Against Congressman Jeff Miller.

- Keynote Speaker is Ms. Bridget Gabriel. Ms. Gabriel is the founder of ACT! for America, a non-profit issues advocacy organization. ACT! for America has hundreds of chapters across America and members in 20 countries outside of America. She is also the founder of American Congress for Truth, a non-profit organization which denounces Islamic fundamentalism.

3. Illegal immigration. One of our members reiterated the presentation she gave at the Tax Day Rally on April 15th. Highlights of her presentation were:
 - a. 12 Americans a day are killed by illegal aliens.
 - b. \$25 Trillion cost per year to have illegal aliens using our systems (schools, healthcare).
 - c. American jobs are not available to them, taxes are not paid.
 - d. \$1.1 Trillion abuse of our judicial system.
 - e. Suggested answers to this problem:
 - Keep them, cut back on services
 - Amnesty (triple the cost of illegal aliens earned income).
 - Protect our borders

Ms. Barbara Wal, Chairman of the Okaloosa County Republican Executive Committee (OCREC), was our guest speaker. She talked about Okaloosa County Republican Executive Committee's main responsibilities (find qualified candidates). She discussed the Republican Party governing principles:

- a. Less government
- b. Less spending
- c. Lower Taxes
- d. More Personal Freedom and Responsibility

Highlights of her presentation are as follows:

- a. There are several meetings and committees available for people to attend and join.
- b. Six county Whistle-Stop Tour to Victory. Meet the Candidates, Liza Jackson Park, June 12, 2010, 1:00PM – 4:00PM.
- c. Duties of the OCREC:
 - Visit newly registered Republicans
 - Participate with community affairs (parades, Lincoln Day Dinner)
 - Work with candidates
 - Legislation information
 - Outreach to community (young republicans)
 - Voter registration
 - Keep our members educated on legislation for State, Local and Federal levels
 - Raise money for local party
- f. What can we (the Republican Party) do?
 - Return to their governing principles
 - Organize in all states
 - Appeal to the middle class

- Broaden the base
 - Reach out to young people
 - Stop finger pointing
 - Bond together
 - Use new technology
- g. Goals of OCREC:
- Build local membership
 - Increase visibility
 - Register voters
 - Identify potential candidates
 - Get candidates elected
 - Continue grassroots efforts
4. Our Legislative Chairman provided information on the impact the Tea Party has had on State and local politics. He listed the following:
 - a. EPA issue, pushed back the decision on water treatment plants standards, science was flawed.
 - b. Destin fisherman supporter
 - c. Senate Bill 6/House Bill 7189. We had had many discussions on this issue with state representatives. While this bill passed both Houses, the Governor vetoed it, in part because of its unconstitutionality. This fact was brought to the Governor's attention by our Legislative Chairperson.
 5. Our Events Planner does not have any upcoming events planned. She thanked all that were involved with the Tax Day Rally.
 6. Our Chairman stated "How can we leverage the power and influence that the Tea Party has generated in the last year? He outline of the organizational issues facing the Tea Party. He discussed initial ideas for:
 - a. Mission/Vision Statement
 - b. Objectives
 - c. Organizational structure/Organization Chart
 - d. Actions
 - e. Rules and Procedures
 - f. Elections/Voting procedures
 - g. Delegation of Authority
 - h. ByLaws

He also wants to initiate other organizational structures such as Incubation Team (start up and help new tea parties), Tiger Teams (coordinator would work with members with an interest in a particular issues and help by supplying resources and support), Support Team (media relations and community involvement) and Actions Team (vote as a group to support Tiger Teams).
 7. Our Publicity Chairperson did not have any new information.
 8. Several candidates for political office offered ideas on Tea Party involvement and spoke about their candidacy.
 9. A Navarre Tea Party member provided information on her petition for the FWB City Council to review its financial dealings with several international banks. These financial institutions are engaged in Shariah Finance, also known as Iranian Banking.

10. One of our members attended the Okaloosa County Commissioners Meeting on April 27th. He provided this information to the Tea Party Secretary to include in these minutes:
- a. Reviewed coordination of various government bodies fiscal approval responsibilities: property appraiser, tax collector, board of county commissioners, clerk of circuit court, sheriff, and supervisor of elections
 - b. This FY, all county departments will use a performance based budget
 - c. Okaloosa County population declined .8% from last year; unemployment rate is 8.5% DOWN from 9.3% last year, but translates to total of \$5.6 million dollar revenue decline
 - d. Some factors will drive increasing cost, such as projected increase in gasoline prices, health insurance costs for county employees, increasing Florida Retirement contributions (however, no pay raises for county employees)
 - e. Areas of increases revenues (targeted fees), limiting services (i.e., library, museum), extending equipment lifespan (using vehicles longer), and consolidation office spaces
 - f. Reviewed critical transportation (road) maintenance priorities, stormwater projects, resource (parks) projects, water & sewer department needs, airport expansion, beach restoration (for \$1.26 billion tourism industry)
 - g. \$5.6 million revenue shortfall + \$1.5 million dollar insurance increase = \$7.2 million dollar budget shortfall
 - h. Methodology of expense reductions: across the board 4.8% reduction, reductions based on category heirarchy (top - public safety, second - essential services, last - quality of life services), reductions based on prioritization of services, or some combination of these methodologies Attendees were reminded that we collect one dollar (\$1.00) per attendee to donate to the American Legion for use of their facilities.

11. Our next meeting is May 11th.

12. Action Items: None