

**EXEC AND ACTIVE MEMBER MEETING
FORT WALTON BEACH TEA PARTY
May 25, 2010**

PURPOSE

A core group of people dedicated to keeping the movement going have been meeting regularly to discuss important issues and plan 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 (as read aloud at this meeting) are:

- a. Support, defend, enforce and teach the U.S. Constitution as the Supreme Law of the Land and it's protection of the People from governmental power
- b. Keep taxes low to ensure economic growth and promote economic freedom for individuals
- c. Ensure responsible spending by government at all levels
- d. Always look for new ways to increase individual freedoms in all aspects of life
- e. Promote transparency and accountability from elected representatives at all levels of government
- f. Ensure individual responsibility as a cornerstone of freedom

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.** Why did we have a split in the Tea Party? Several attending members were concerned that there were secret meetings about a new tea party and the membership was not made aware of the situation. One member felt that the members who left were not able to find common ground in our Tea Party therefore started *Florida Panhandle Patriots* in west Destin in order to meet their needs. Another member was blunt and suggested that the reason for the split was that egos and feelings got in the way and finger-pointing was the norm. Our Chairman assured all members that the announcement at our last semi-monthly meeting came as a surprise to most of the attendees at that meeting and that there was no discussion of this happening prior to the meeting. Leadership of the FWB Tea Party has helped other Tea Parties start up including Crestview and Niceville/Valparaiso. We wish the new Tea Party in west Destin success.
3. **Constitutional Convention.** The majority of the discussion at this meeting centered on the FWB Tea Party's Constitutional Convention and the results. The members in attendance (60+) at the meeting had a lively and productive meeting and decided on the following Core Principles, Mission Statement, and Objectives.

Core Principles (Passed unanimously on 5/25/10)

The "membership" (we charge no dues to be a part of this movement) has chosen the following six points as our "Core Principles." The FWB Tea Party will analyze all issues in terms of these six principles. Any issues outside of these core principles are likely handled by other groups outside of the FWB Tea Party.

- Support and defend the U.S. Constitution as the Supreme Law of the Land.
- Keep taxes low enough to facilitate economic growth.
- Ensure responsible spending by government at all levels
- Protect, promote, and expand individual freedom.
- Promote transparency and accountability from elected representatives at all levels of government
- Remember that individual responsibility, self-reliance, and liberty are cornerstones of freedom

Mission Statement (Passed unanimously on 5/25/10)

“We the People.” Empower people to engage in government, voice their opinions, and take appropriate action in accordance with our core principles.

Objectives (Passed unanimously on 5/25/10)

1. Demand fiscal responsibility and accountability at all levels of Government (Federal, State, County, and Local).
2. Promote a free market economy.
3. Empower people to have a voice in Government
4. Actively support and defend the Constitution (Federal and State)

Organizational Structure (Tabled until 6/8/10 Meeting)

There will be seven (7) Leadership Team (or Executive Committee) positions: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Communications, Treasurer, Legislative, Administration, and Community Outreach. All members should review the proposed job descriptions at www.FWBTeaParty.com and provide comments or suggested changes. A vote on this organizational structure and job descriptions will take place at the next semi-monthly meeting (June 8th). Elections for these positions will be held in July and these elected officials will write actions and the official Bylaws to be voted on by members in attendance at a future semi-monthly meeting.

Actions (Not taken up by FWB Tea Party)

Bylaws (To be written and presented by new elected leaders when elections take place, likely July)

4. Our Chairman has posted on the FWB Tea Party website the following discussion on the role of the Leadership Team (Executive Committee) and Tiger Teams and this discussion was also summarized at this meeting.
 - a. Rather than have a top driven organization, we would have teams with individual leaders who take on key issues – Schools, immigration, taxes, etc. and they are the champion.

- b. It is the function of the leadership to provide the resources to help those individuals succeed. How do we truly get more Patriots engaged in making the change we want to happen, happen? The Champion would be the “go to” person for information and leadership on that topic. Our role as the FWB Tea Party leadership would be to help align that issue to our core principles, and then provide what resources we can to help the champion achieve its objectives. The resources could include the Legislative director providing legislative information, or the Community Outreach director providing information on other Tea Parties and what they are doing on that issue, or the Communications director would have a list of volunteers interested in this issue, etc.
 - c. Our founding fathers wrote a Constitution that limited executive power. What we are proposing is much the same – diversify the roles so we have many people who address many topics, and then we as the leaders work together to help advance the individual tiger team leaders.
5. Our Vice Chairman stated that our next semi-monthly meeting’s agenda will include discussion on the actions our Tea Party could be taking; i.e., candidate forums for the upcoming primaries in August (sheriff, county commissioners, judges, state representatives); champions for causes that the Tea Party might select to support, and format for election of executive committee members. Several candidates (Rick Scott (candidate for Governor) (all of the sheriff’s candidates) and have showed interest in speaking to our Tea Party.
6. Cap and Trade bill will be introduced tomorrow in Congress. See our Legislative Chairperson if you are interested in heading the Tiger Team.
7. **Spout Off.** A summary of the items discussed follows:
 - a. Candidate Scorecard. The Tea Party should help find candidates for office that believe in our core principles. We should post or provide information on each of the candidates. We should invite them to our meetings where we would tell them what we stand for and want from them. We should post a scorecard on each candidate’s voting record (if an incumbent) or platform if new to the political race.
 - b. Illegal Immigration. One of our members distributed a survey to determine the extent of support for a Florida Immigration law similar to the recently passed Arizona law.
 - c. Roberts Rules of Order. It was suggested that if we are truly going to be a real organized group, we should follow the rules of order and include reading of the last meeting minutes. These minutes should be approved by vote. We should also have time limits on speakers.
 - d. Waste Management contract. The County Commissioners are negotiating with Waste Management on their agreement with the county. Okaloosa County maintains franchise agreement with Waste Management for household trash, recyclables, and yard waste at curbside disposal in the unincorporated areas of the county. One of our members has voiced concern about this company’s work and wanted information on how she could participate in the negotiations. There will be no competition for this service. The numbers for information are Public Works Department 689-5772 and Customer Service 420-6917.
 - e. Suggested Speaker. Mr. Carl Denninger spoke at the Niceville/Valparaiso Tea Party on May 24. He talks about the fiscal policies and issues. www.market-ticker.dennigner.net

8. This meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM. Our next meeting is June 8th.
9. Action Items: Review draft organizational structure and job descriptions for the seven Leadership Team (or Executive Committee) (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Communications, Treasurer, Legislative, Administration, and Community Outreach). Provide comments or edits on the FWB Tea Party website.