

September 12, 2021

To all fellow members of the State Central Committee –

After the meeting on Friday, I felt it was necessary to write a letter to the members of the Ohio State Central Committee. I have been on the committee for close to 12 years. During those years we have had times where we work as a committee with everyone being able to contribute to the meeting. We have had other times where that was not the case. Friday was probably the best example I have seen of our committee working as an oligarchy.

During the adoption of the agenda, I was hoping there was just some confusion on the part of the chair as the agenda was pushed through for adoption without any chance to make any amendments. I saw several hands go up but the chairman made sure no one could have a chance at making any additions. But then the same thing happened during New Business, when members were trying to bring up new business and the adjournment was pushed through so fast that even a vote for adjournment was never actually made.

One member of the committee had hoped to bring up a resolution concerning the statements our President had made the day before. On the way to the meeting, I was asked when and how it should be brought before the committee. I advised it should be added to the agenda by amending the agenda or it also could be brought up as new business. That member never had the opportunity to do either. I also approached several members who I saw stand to address the chair at the end of new business, before the adjournment was shoved through, to see what they wanted to bring before the committee. One was hoping to pass a motion to adhere to our current By-Laws, referencing campaign contributions. Another had a motion suggesting certain sub committees should meet before our next meeting so we could have updates on what those sub committees were doing. Another was simply an announcement that Mike Berger, a fellow committeeman, had just lost his mother, and there was a sympathy card that would be left at the door for any member to sign. Why would members of the committee or the chair feel threatened concerning those motions or announcements? This is OUR committee. Not a committee of just a select few.

In a confidential letter dated August 12, 2021 from Chairman Paduchik to the Members of the State Central Committee (released in a 9/10/21 article in the Cleveland Plain Dealer), he states at the very end, "We have a regular SCC meeting scheduled on September 10th and I look forward to addressing these and other issues in the appropriate manner, before the entire committee." Yet, he did everything he could to make sure nothing was able to be addressed. We are Republicans, not Democrats. I am very concerned as to why our chairman and certain committee members would be so against hearing what other members felt necessary to bring in front of the committee as a whole. Our chair mentioned several times in his Chairman's report, how we were volunteers. I would like to correct that statement to say we are NOT volunteers, so we are not there representing ourselves, but we are elected members to this committee and therefore we are there to represent the Republicans in our District. With that representation comes the responsibility to communicate to the other State Central Committee members on the items of concern that have been raised to us through our constituents.

So, I ask the committee, as well as the chairman, why would we not want to hear what our fellow members had to say? Isn't it possible that they could come up with motions or resolutions that could better our party and make us stronger? And even if a motion is raised, that may not be passed by the committee as a whole, doesn't that member have the right to bring that motion in front of the committee? Even during the Treasurer's report, when Mark Bainbridge brought up the idea of the fiduciary responsibility of each member, I don't know if the members actually heard that statement and have any clue as to what that means. If you don't, maybe you should look it up.

No where in our By-Laws is there any mention that all new business must be listed on the agenda. In Robert's Rules of Order under the New Business section, it states: "So long as members are reasonably prompt in claiming the floor, the chair cannot prevent the making of legitimate motions or deprive members of the right to introduce legitimate business, by hurrying through the proceedings." Yet that is exactly what happened at the end of our meeting.

I hope to never be in another State Central Committee meeting where I see our chair and certain members of the committee, railroading the process to prevent the ability of members to speak. No members should ever be favored and no members should ever feel intimidated.

Sincerely,

Lisa Cooper
State Central Committee
District 26