

## Republicans Independents Democrats United

### Meeting Notes

March 25, 2026 – 7:00PM

Eaton Youth Center

Our **Mission** as Republicans, Independents, and Democrats is to Empower individuals, Educate communities, and Energize a movement for truth, accountability, and integrity in our government. We seek to rise above partisanship to defend the values that strengthen our nation because real change starts when informed voices take united action.

Welcome - Jon Smith and Bev Brubaker

Introduction of Committee of Six

Bev Brubaker and Jon Smith – co-conveners

Janet Crelin – treasurer

Jean Bussell – secretary

Harold Bussell – email coordinator

Kathy Stevens – at-large

Presentation of the Mission Statement – Kathy

Follow-up Report from Committee of Six – Bev

Nametags – Based on request from the February meeting, Kathy presented nametags which she can procure without cost to us. We will have them at all future meetings for each member to have to keep and wear at all meetings.

Constitutions – Based on discussion at February meeting we investigated obtaining pocket-size copies of the U S. Constitution for each member to have and to share with family and friends. Lilah Kline mentioned that she had obtained 50 from Rep. Warren Davidson’s office, so Bev with follow-up with Ben Thaeler for similar service.

Letters to the Editor – Bev reported that we have not been successful in getting many letters into the Register-Herald and that the Citizens for Common Sense from Darke County have experienced similar issues. The Citizens also have changed their position about having our members sign their letters so we no longer will try to do that. And the idea of converting the postcard messages to letters is dropped for the near future as well. We can return to this project as desired.

Advertising Partisan Candidates – RIDU will not endorse partisan candidates, but we will provide information about events related to such candidates that are not aligned with MAGA politics.

Treasurer’s Report + Materials available – Janet Crelin

Treasury has \$119 and we still owe Bev \$160 for rental advances and website registration. Contributions always are appreciated when you attend our meetings.

RID United Postcards were distributed at the evening meeting in February, and some were saved for those of you who attend these afternoon meetings. They are intended for you to distribute to people you want to tell more about RIDU. We can order more of these cards as needed.

Future postcards on various topics will be postponed until the treasury recovers and until we can work through the timing of topics and printing and mailing schedules!

## Announcements

**March 28 No Kings Protest! – Saturday, March 28, 11:00AM – Noon – Southwest Corner of Main and Barron in Eaton – Bev – Posters will be available. Starla is registered as the convenor and Janet is registered as the security officer! The City of Eaton will be notified for safety purposes.**

## Presentation

Alan Clift – “The Three Languages of Politics: Talking Across the Political Divide,” by Arnold Kling.

Alan described this book as a set of strategies for communicating with people who have different beliefs from our own. The author divides people into three general categories: Progressives, conservatives, and libertarians (author is a libertarian). He defines the characteristics of each group as follows: Progressives: concerned about the oppressed who need advocacy to assist them in living in our modern society; Conservatives: concerned about preserving how we got to where we are because it has gotten us to this point and leery of changes that may have unintended consequences (civilization vs. barbarianism); and Libertarians: Concern that no one coerce them into things they do not want – basically anti-state – no nanny state and no police state.

To communicate with each other, Kling emphasizes the importance of listening, truly listening without being distracted with how you are going to respond while you are “listening.” Kling recommends talking about priorities and why each person has his or her concerns. Kling recommends trying to reduce our thinking between good and bad and rather to look for the nuances of our differences and our similarities.

Discussion by the members present was energetic and thoughtful. Lisa presented the Venn diagram which demonstrates how our differences typically overlap where the two circles overlap and present areas of commonality. Janet mentioned the differences among talking “at” and talking “to” and talking “with.” Jon mentioned the importance of asking questions to obtain better understandings. Discussion also included using terms such as “I hear you” and reflecting on what you hear and how you are understanding the other person’s remarks/point of view. And Jon’s last comment: Avoid using MAGA language!

Resources suggested by Alan included the Miami University’s Institute for Learning in Retirement which has classes such as Activism in Senior Years (we could teach that one! ), School Board Governance; Political Extremism; and others. Harold mentioned one of his favorite books “The One Hundred Dollar Misunderstanding” by Robert Gover as an example of failures to communicate.

## Final Remarks and Adjourn –

Bev encouraged us to encourage each other. We don’t all have to do everything, and we all can take a break when we need it. Pick a lane or an issue that is especially important to you and focus on it. And most of all, avoid toxic relationships!

***Take care of yourself!***

## IMPORTANT DATES AND OTHER INFORMATION

Future RIDU meetings schedule – all at the Eaton Youth Center:

- April 22 at 7 PM
- May 27 at 1 PM
- June 24 at 7 PM
- July 22 at 1 PM
- August 26 at 7 PM
- September 23 at 1 PM
- October 28 at 7 PM
- November 11 at 1 PM (second Wednesday, not fourth because of holiday)
- December 16 at 7 PM (third Wednesday, not fourth because of holiday)

Other dates of interest:

**March 28 – 11AM to Noon – No Kings Protest at southwest corner of Main and Barron in Eaton**

For Your Convenience, contact information for our state and federal representatives:

*State Representative Rodney Creech – District 40. 77 South High Street. 12th Floor Columbus, OH 43215. Phone. (614) 466-2960.*

*State Senator Stephen A. Huffman – District 5. State Senate Building, 1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor 040. Columbus OH 43215. (614)466-6247*

*U. S. Congressman Warren Davidson – District 8. 2113 Rayburn HOB. Washington, DC 20515. Phone: (202) 225-6205.*

*U. S. Senator Bernie Moreno - 2113 Rayburn HOB. Washington, DC 20515. Phone: (202) 225-6205.*

*U. S. Senator John Husted - 304 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: (202)224-3353*

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