



October 9, 2022

To: All Attendees and Subscribers
From: Jack May - President, Manatee Patriots (MP)

I would like to take this opportunity to shed some light on recent events and the design and makeup of Manatee Patriots (MP) meetings. For those of you who have been long-time attendees, and subscribers, you have seen that our focus has been in two primary areas; the US Constitution, and our education on the Supreme Law of the Land, and local politics; primarily vetting and supporting candidates.

In the past year we have endeavored to broaden that scope by developing our Action Teams. Realizing that all of us have passions and interests, we felt that Action Teams would provide an outlet for education and activism in their respected areas.

During this time we have continued to maintain our meetings and speaker schedule to continue our education in as many areas as possible. Our speaker committee goes to great lengths and sometimes expense, to provide everyone attending an opportunity to be motivated, informed, and educated on a plethora of topics.

Our meetings are specifically designed for like-minded individuals who attend because they are interested in preserving our Constitution, working to insure fiscally conservative, limited government, while preserving our freedoms, and working towards getting conservatives elected to office. We fellowship together, develop new acquaintances, while continuing to foster old friendships. MP meetings are designed to help you leave with a renewed vigor and desire to go out into your world, motivated to action. We want to help you be an informed activist.

Recently there was an attempt to takeover and change our meeting by an individual who decided to use a time of Q&A as an opportunity to call for a vote to leave the agenda to call us into a business session for the purpose of affecting the Manatee County Republican Executive Committee (MCREC). First, based on our by-laws, no one has standing to call us into any type of meeting different than the one we are having. Secondly, we do not interfere with other organizations, whose purpose, and membership is not the same as ours. Finally, the only business sessions held by MP is held by the Board of Directors. I have been asked why we do not run our meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order... the simple reason is that we are not conducting a business meeting.

It is unfortunate what has occurred. One of the things we have not prohibited is the handing out of materials that support our mission and the diverse conservative causes that make us better informed activists. During our October 4th meeting, several individuals handed out a yellow 5-page flyer. I had not read it prior to the meeting and was not aware of its contents until after the meeting. Much to my chagrin, it contained a story about an event which occurred at the local REC meeting. It just so happened that I was an eyewitness to the event. Had I read this prior to the meeting, it would not have allowed to be distributed. It is unfortunate that this event was also captured on video because the incident and the video tell and show two different things. Obviously, both cannot be true.

There are two new meeting rules we must enact because of the actions of a few.

1. Any materials intended for distribution at any MP meeting must be reviewed and approved for authenticity, and accuracy by the Board of Directors. They cannot be divisive for the sole purpose of being divisive. If you have a complaint against MP, please make it known. But know we will not be used as a second party to information that prevaricates the truth or uses slander and ad hominem attacks on others.
2. You have heard me say on more than one occasion, "There is no B in Q & A!". We do not need to B- bloviate when asking a question. I will take that one step further; If a speaker's presentation is on a certain subject, and the person asking the question decides to bloviate by asking a question completely off topic, or the questioner knows it is not in the speakers wheelhouse to ask, or worse yet, the question is off topic for the obvious purpose of either embarrassing the speaker or to introduce a topic that you want to be heard speaking on - Don't.

I have spent many hours since our last meeting, thinking about what happened and why. I have been asked why I'm shutting down free speech and expression... the obvious answer is that we have limited time and resources. Entertaining secondary divisive issues that take MP off its primary mission is not a wise stewardship of your time and investment in our goal to develop educated, and informed conservative activists.

As many of you know, I, and the other board members are available to entertain thoughtful observations and questions.

I appreciate you all.

Jack May
President
Manatee Patriots
Ecclesiastes 4:12