

the Darke T.E.A. Patriots

... because we care!

MEETING REPORT AUGUST 10, 2010

A Prayer and the Pledge of Alligiance to our Flag started this unusual meeting.

Instead of a typical formal Agenda with allotted times for the speakers, this meeting was an open forum for all attendees. The last seven issues of the Dayton Daily News were to be used to identify current topics/issues for review and discussion. The process was simple. If everyone agreed or disagreed on the merit of an issue, then the issue was dropped. If some participants said YES and some said NO, then the issue was discussed. For example, the first issue identified was on the first page of the August 5 newspaper and it concerned same sex marriage. All voices were against same sex marriage therefore the issue was not discussed.

This process continued for approximately 45 minutes and quite surprisingly, one issue that stimulated the most discussion concerned "the smoking ban in bars". The emotional exchanges focused on an individual's right and responsibility for freedom of choice. If the bar owner has the responsibility to pay taxes, keep his bar clean and meet all the regulations to stay in business while at the same time making his establishment attractive to customers, should he have the right to allow smoking? The concensus was that the decision should be the bar owners and not the governments.

Of the seven Dayton Daily News papers prepared for the meeting, only one was used for discussion. An objective observer might have concluded that the four dozen or so folks at the meeting were knowledgeable regarding the issues presented and were sensitive to any bias that might have been used to present examples. The new faces attending this meeting became actively involved and furnished valued input.

Discussion regarding planned effort to focus DARKE T.E.A. PATRIOTS actions on the General Election (84 days away) with special attention on the County Commissioner election and on the School Board election resulted in a plan to finalize the remaining details at the August 24 Meeting.

The next meeting will be august 24, 2010.

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN CENTER

6:00 P.M.