

FairTax Meeting August 24, 2009

Treasurer's Report:

Currently there is a balance of \$729.00. Over the summer we have spent approx \$700 for our presence at the Northern Wisconsin State Fair where we signed up over 400 new supporters, \$100 to FairTax Nation for booths at events in Washington DC such as Netroots Conference and the Congressional Black Caucus, \$450 on promotional materials from DVD's to print materials, \$400 for t-shirts, \$75 for Bloomer Community Fair booth and \$60 for the International Fall Festival booth coming up Sept 19th in downtown Eau Claire. Most of these outlays are offset by donations at the various events we have held.

We agreed to contribute to the National events on a limited basis. We have been sending around \$100.00 twice a year to FairTax Nation, through the Illinois FairTax group for these events.

Supporters on hand approved purchasing a canopy for outdoor events. If you are planning one at a fair or fest or even a back yard and need to use it, contact us. We are going to be getting more business cards, some of them may have the prebate information on the back. Currently we have about 30 generic yard signs and have more on order from Rooney printing. If interested in one let us know.

Discussion Items:

We have been looking into 501(c)3 status. We began to look at it when FairTax.org informed us they were setting something up for the states. The route they set up was to piggyback off their non-profit status and would require an account in Houston that we would have to channel through. Those present felt local access would be much easier if we can get it set up. So we will resume our efforts to establish that on our own. At this time we pay tax on all of our purchases and our donations do not meet the thresholds for having to file but we do need to formalize these facts for the IRS. (Ironic isn't it.)

Matt Nelson is going to design something to hang in public areas and other places to get more people to community presentations and signed up. We are hearing more people say they were unaware we had a local group. He'll look at two designs, one with pull off tabs on the bottom of the paper and another to have a pocket for business cards.

If you haven't done so already, join Fair Tax Nation - it is Facebook of the Fair Tax. Once signed in be sure to join the Wisconsin group. We have 20 there now and want to get that over 100. The site has resources and events posted for your information and a lot of other great resources.

We had some problems getting complete information on sign up forms at some

of the events this summer. It has led to us having to chase these people down by phone. When asking people to sign up to support at fairs and other places, please try and get an e-mail address. If they are concerned about it, tell them they will only get e-mailed about once a month, if that, unless they choose to be actively involved. If you can not get an e-mail or they do not have one, we have to have a physical address to validate their support. We have changed the sign up form to accomplish this. It will be available in the documents section on the new web site.

The new Chippewavalleyfairtax.org web site will be up and running soon. It will still be located at www.chippewavalleyfairtax.org . We will send out an e-mail when it's officially launched. Some things to look for on the website: listing candidates who are running for Wisconsin Federal public office and how to contact them or a link to their website in addition to the incumbents. There is a documents page to print out many resources including the letters for our Congressional Letter Campaign. We have 8 so far and could use some more. If you write your own, send us a copy and we'll format it for generic use and post it in this section. We'll also have our sign up sheets, a document for printing out FairTax labels on standard mailing address stock for use on all of your mail and other printable resources. The site will have much more than we can include here, so check it out- let us know what you think.

We are in need of a volunteer to help Eric with a new program for businesses to sponsor our efforts and/or door hangers. This person should be able to help administer the sponsorships, billing, record keeping, updating website, contacting prospective businesses etc.... Cost to sponsor will probably run \$5.00 per month collected yearly (\$60.00). If they chose to do this there will be a rotating list of all business supporters on the web site home page that can contain a link to their web site if desired. They will also be listed on a separate page of business sponsors. For a smaller contribution they will only be listed on the business sponsor page. We also discussed getting window clings or some kind of signage that sponsors can display at their business along with a counter display for info and/or the local Chippewa Valley group business card if desired. To get this started, we are looking for about 10 businesses to sponsor the door hangers. Projected cost for that is \$75.00 for a 1 – 1 ½ x 3 inch ad space. Fair Tax information and meeting times will be on one side. The businesses will be on the other side. Businesses could purchase one slot or the whole hanger for maybe \$300. If you know of a business that is hesitant about supporting the Fair Tax or is interested in being a sponsor, ask them to contact Eric at the Coffee Grounds at 834-1733. He can talk to them about his decision to support the Fair Tax and how it has affected his business.

Items We Need Help With:

If anyone would like to donate materials, own or work for a business that can provide materials or provide reduced costs for materials we are always open to your offers: FairTax buttons, bumper stickers, business cards, bulk printed

material etc. If you know someone that can do any of these and more at a low cost for us or in kind donations for the business program and add space, please let us know.

We are running low on books. If you have any used Fair Tax books we are buying them back for \$6.00. Don't let them sit on a shelf. Let's keep them moving. Contact us or stop into the Coffee Grounds and we'll take care of it.

We need Community Leaders around the area. We currently have leaders in Osseo, Cadott, and Bloomer. We want to have one in each town and a few in bigger cities, possibly organized by voting precincts. Your name and phone number would be listed on the web site on a "local leaders" page, for people to call and ask questions about upcoming meetings, events, information and such. If interested please let us know. It would be a very limited commitment.

To help get the word out on the Fair Tax, put some Fair Tax information in with any bills you are paying, or when you get junk mail with postage paid return envelopes, don't throw them in the garbage. Put Fair Tax information in them and send them back - someone has to open them and it's free advertising for the FairTax!

Upcoming Events:

1. Jerry Nielsen is going to Wausau this weekend (Aug 29th), hopefully he will get someone in that area to start a Fair Tax group. We are available to help them get started and give them information if needed.
2. International Fall Festival in Eau Claire is on Saturday, September 19th. We will have a booth there again and we will be walking the parade. Let us know if you are available to help out with either function. We had a great time last year. We also want some new ideas to spruce up the booth- think "international".
3. In Oct/Nov we will have a meeting in the Chetek/Rice Lake area. Again we are looking for someone to start a group in that area and points north. We'll need some volunteers for this to help pass out information and get people signed up.
4. Oct 20 is the Chamber Business expo. Eric is looking for a few people to go with him from 5-9 that night wearing any FairTax clothing hats and possibly talking with some of the businesses that will be there. Hopefully we will have our business/sponsor packages figured out by then to present to local businesses at their booths. Let him know if you are interested in going.
5. The next community presentation is Thursday Sept 24 at the Eau Claire Co. Expo Center. Make sure to spread the word. The invitation is included as an attachment. Print them out and pass them out to your neighbors. We will do the same at the Fall Festival on the 19th.