

CONSTITUTION of The Scott County Republican Liberty Caucus

“God has given to men all that is necessary for them to accomplish their destinies. He has provided a social form as well as a human form. And these social organs of persons are so constituted that they will develop themselves harmoniously in the clean air of liberty. Away, then, with quacks and organizers! Away with their rings, chains, hooks, and pincers! Away with their artificial systems! Away with the whims of governmental administrators, their socialized projects, their centralization, their tariffs, their government schools, their state religions, their free credit, their bank monopolies, their regulations, their restrictions, their equalization by taxation, and their pious moralizations! And now that the legislators and do-gooders have so futilely inflicted so many systems upon society, may they finally end where they should have begun: May they reject all systems, and try liberty; for liberty is an acknowledgment of faith in God and His works.”

- Frédéric Bastiat

Preamble

Man-made law must base its authority on natural law to allow true peace. The first law of nature is self-preservation, defined by three branches of an individual's natural rights: Life, Liberty, and Property. When man-made laws defend against violations of these rights, peace and justice can prevail.

On the other hand, when laws place collective force at the disposal of those who would use it to exploit others, injustice prevails and there will be unrest in society. It does not matter if the exploitation applies to health, labor, education, safety, or religion. The law becomes legalized plunder, blurs society's understanding of justice and injustice, and disguises tyranny and anarchy as law and order. [Anarchy, in this document meaning the state or government's continued and unchecked violation of individual's rights.] Since people naturally rebel against injustice, unrest ensues.

True peace can be achieved only when man-made law obeys natural law, when justice remains impartial, and individual natural rights are protected. This Constitution has been put forth to serve liberty and justice for all.

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be: The Scott County Republican

Liberty Caucus, herein referred to as The Caucus.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to recruit, develop, and support leadership within the Scott County, Iowa Republican Party which supports and promotes the ideals of individualism as laid out in *The Chasm*, by G. Edward Griffin of Freedom Force International.

Article III: The Creed of Freedom

Section 1: *The Creed of Freedom* expresses the core ideology that binds together all members of The Caucus. This is stated in terms of broad principles that do not change over time and that are not focused on specific issues such as a platform. If these principles are followed, then most of the relevant political and social issues will be quickly resolved with the resulting action being consistent with liberty and justice.

Section 2: While *The Creed of Freedom* must remain a part of this Constitution it can be amended only by unanimous vote at two consecutive regular meetings.

Section 3: **The Creed Of Freedom**

1. INTRINSIC NATURE OF RIGHTS

I believe that only individuals have rights, not the collective; that these rights are intrinsic to each individual, as they are granted by the Laws of Nature and Nature's God, not granted by the state; for if the state has the power to grant them, it also has the power to deny them, which is incompatible with individual liberty.

2. SOURCE OF POWER OF THE STATE

I believe governments are instituted among men, deriving their just power from the consent of all individuals. Therefore, the state must never presume to do anything beyond that which is delegated to it by those individuals. Otherwise, the state is a power unto itself and becomes the master instead of the servant.

3. SUPREMACY OF THE INDIVIDUAL

I believe that one of the greatest threats to freedom is to allow any majority to deny the rights of any minority. The primary function of a just state is to protect each individual from the greed and passion of any majority.

4. FREEDOM OF CHOICE

I believe that desirable social and economic objectives are best achieved by voluntary action rather than by coercion of law. I believe that social tranquility and brotherhood are better achieved by tolerance, persuasion, and the power of good example rather than by coercion of law. I believe that those in need are better served by charity, which is the giving of one's own resources, rather than by welfare, which is the giving of other people's resources through coercion of law.

5. EQUALITY UNDER LAW

I believe all individuals should be equal under law. Likewise, no individual or group of individuals should be given preferential treatment, regardless of the merit or popularity of its cause.

6. PROPER ROLE OF THE STATE

I believe that the proper role of the state is to protect, not to provide; for if the state is granted the power to provide for some, it must also be able to take from others, and that always leads to legalized plunder and loss of freedom. The state's power is negative, not positive; defensive, not aggressive. If the state is powerful enough to give us everything we want, it is powerful enough to take from us everything we have. Therefore, the proper function of the state is defensive, not aggressive, and to protect the lives, liberty, and property of all individuals. ■

Section 4: *The Creed of Freedom* is based on six principles. These can be reduced to just three, for caucus members to follow. An additional *Code of Conduct* shall be listed in the bylaws for members to follow, but these first three will be known as *The Commandments of Freedom* and shall not be amended for any reason.

Section 5: The Three Commandments of Freedom

1. INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

Only individuals have rights, not groups. Therefore, do not sacrifice the rights of any individual or minority for the alleged rights of groups.

2. EQUALITY UNDER LAW

To favor one class of individuals over others is not equality under

law. Therefore, do not endorse any law that does not apply to all individuals equally.

3. FREEDOM OF CHOICE

The proper function of the state is to protect, not to provide.
Therefore, do not approve coercion for any purpose except to protect human life, liberty, or property.

Article IV: Membership

- Section 1: Membership of the caucus shall be composed of all eligible voters in Scott County, Iowa who desire to support the objectives of the caucus within the Republican Party and who agree to abide by *The Creed of Freedom* and *The Three Commandments of Freedom* herein stated, and *The Code of Conduct* stated in the Bylaws.
- Section 2: All members are required to affirm their support to The Liberty Caucus. The affirmation shall be listed herein.
- Section 3: New members will be herein referred to as Recruits. Recruits have no attendance requirements and hold no voting authority within The Caucus, except in cases outlined within the bylaws. They are entitled to participate in all membership activities, receive all caucus communications, attend general meetings, and serve on the various commissions.
- Section 4: Members who hold any elected position or who are candidates within the Republican Party and meet the requirements to be a Recruit may become a Captain. Captains are entitled to all the same benefits of a Recruit, plus any Captain-exclusive meetings that may be scheduled from time to time. Captains are required to attend at a minimum half the called Captain meetings, with no more than 3 missed consecutively, and hold voting authority and governance of The Caucus.
- Section 5: Precincts with less than 2 qualified Captains may fill vacancies through a precinct election by the Recruits of same precinct as specified in the Bylaws (Article 1, Section 1.)
- Section 6: Captains that lose their elected position within the Republican Party may request a review by the Captains in order to keep their Captain status until the end of their term. A $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the Captains present is required to allow the member to keep their Captain status. The member in question shall abstain from the vote in this matter.

Section 7: The affirmation for membership will be administered by an officer of The Caucus and reads as such: *"I, _____(name)_____, in order to become a member of The Scott County Republican Liberty Caucus, affirm that to the best of my ability, I will always endeavor to advance the objectives of this caucus, support and follow The Creed of Freedom, The Three Commandments of Freedom, and The Code of Conduct of this caucus, and empower others in my community to support individualism over collectivism and help them understand the caucus slogan: "Those without power cannot defend freedom."*

Article V: Officers

Section 1: The Officers of The Caucus shall be elected by the Captains at the first captain's meeting following the Republican Party's caucus elections. They shall serve for a term of two years. There is no limit to the number of consecutive terms they may serve. Officers must have a membership status of Captain to be qualified for office. Officers that lose their membership status of Captain may remain in office until their successor is elected in their place. Officers may be removed by a simple majority of the Captains at any time without notice.

Section 2: **Chair** - The Chair shall be the chief executive officer, preside over and set the agenda for all general and special meetings, be responsible for the proper functioning of commissions, including the appointment or removal of commission chairmen, and submit monthly status reports to the Captains. The Chair is the principal spokesperson for The Caucus and is expected to be a strong leader, motivator, educator, and organizer. The Chair, however, reports to the Captains and is subject to their authority.

Section 3: **Co-Chair** - The Co-Chair shall be directly responsible to the Chair, perform all duties of the Chair in his/her absence, and be a member of all permanent commissions.

Section 4: **Secretary** - The Secretary shall give notice of all meetings of the captains and of the membership, prepare and keep minutes of their proceedings, archive all critical records as determined by the Chair, and perform other related duties as directed by the Chair. The Secretary may also be elected to the position of Treasurer.

Section 5: **Treasurer** - The Treasurer shall be custodian of funds, pay out or cause to

be paid out same when authorized by the Captains, keep or cause to be kept a record of all financial transactions, submit a report of such to the

Captains no less than quarterly; file or cause to be filed other legal filing requirements and, at the expiration of term of office, deliver to the Treasurer-elect all books, money, and other financial property – or, in the absence of a successor, to the Chair of the Captains. The Treasurer may also be elected to the position of Secretary.

Article VI: Meetings

- Section 1: Regular meetings of The Caucus shall be held once a month, the regular time and place to be determined by a standing rule created by the Captains. If a time and place has not been decided or needs to be changed because of unforeseen circumstances, as determined by the chair, it will be the duty of the Chair to determine the new time and place and have the Recording Secretary send notice to all of the Captains and membership within 10 days of set meeting time with an explanation of the change.
- Section 2: Special meetings may be called by any Captain or Officer, whereupon the Secretary shall send out a minimum 3-day notice with the time, place, and proposed meeting agenda.
- Section 3: A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of Captains present in order to conduct official business of The Caucus. Special meetings may be attended electronically if necessary. Captains attending electronically shall be counted towards constituting a quorum. Informational, training, fundraising, or awards meetings do not require a quorum but still require notice be given to membership of The Caucus.
- Section 4: Notice shall be given by choice of member of mail, e-mail, text message, or phone call. Member shall declare method of notice upon joining and is responsible for notifying the Secretary of any changes.

Article VII: Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a vote of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Captains present at any regular or special meeting, except in the case of Article III.

Date Ratified: July ____, 2012

BYLAWS

of The Scott County Republican Liberty Caucus

Article I: Membership

- Section 1: The procedure for selection of Captains in precincts where there are no qualified members to represent a precinct shall be by a precinct caucus election. A Recruit may request of the Secretary to notify all Recruits within his/her same precinct with a Captain vacancy and call a precinct caucus election together. The Recruit making the request must designate a time and place and act as the temporary chair of the election. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, latest edition, shall be the rules of order for the election. The precinct caucus members may adopt additional or alternate rules. Minutes of the election and the contact information of the newly elected Captain(s) must be provided to the Secretary with a signature by the Precinct Chair, Precinct Secretary, and new Captain(s). There must be a minimum of 5 Recruits present to hold the precinct election.
- Section 2: There shall be no dues to remain a member of The Caucus.

Section 3: Membership termination shall require a $\frac{2}{3}$ -vote of the Captains present at general or special meeting. A 10 day notice to entire membership is required. Prior to said vote, Member in question shall be given 10 minutes to present their case in opposition of termination. A terminated member has up to 30 days to appeal their termination affirmed by their submission to the Secretary in electronic or written format said appeal, upon which the Secretary shall notify the entire membership and said appeal shall be resolved at the discretion of the Chair at the next regularly scheduled or special meeting.

Article II: Selection of Commission Chairs

Section 1: The selection of Commission Chairs shall be done by the Chair unless a simple majority of Captains move to nominate and elect instead.

Section 2: The provisions for removal of Commission Chairs include removal at any time and for any reason by either the Chair or a simple majority of the Captains.

Article III: Code of Conduct

Section 1: The following *Code of Conduct* is incorporated into The Caucus Bylaws and is an application of *The Three Commandments of Freedom*, found in Article III, Section 5 of the Constitution. All members are bound to its provisions in the furtherance of The Caucus' purpose.

Section 2: **The Code of Conduct**

1. INDEPENDENT ACTION

Don't wait for orders, take the initiative to make things happen. Do not wait

for instructions, become self-directed. As long as your activities are consistent with *The Creed of Freedom*, and *The Code of Conduct*, the effort will be constructive. What may seem like chaos at first actually is the ferment of creativity and competition. It ultimately will far surpass the output of bureaucratic and dogmatic control from the top down and it will allow The Caucus to grow and spread beyond our county.

2. KEEP YOUR PROMISES

Respect the seriousness of your affirmation to The Caucus and in cases where you have sworn an oath to support and defend the US and/or

State Constitution, disobey any directives or orders that would violate those oaths. Your word and promises to those you represent and the agreements you have made are more valuable than what some leaders may want you to do. Always fulfill your promises you made and defend that position.

3. BUILD CONSENSUS

There may be disagreements within organizations with others you are involved and you should find a way to build consensus, rather than create division. Use the process of law and common interests to bring together factions within an organization and settle differences. This may not always be possible, but try your best without compromising your principles.

4. TRUST BUT VERIFY

If all of mankind were angels sent down from above, there would be no need for government and we would naturally live together in harmony, but this is not the case, so make sure to support and protect all checks and balances within systems. Better safe than sorry. Record everything when possible for the record and follow up. Never take anything for granted, that will be the time you wish you hadn't. Be the people's watchdog.

5. INFLUENCE OTHERS

Join other organizations, churches, or clubs to network with others. **Serve** on their Board of Directors, or volunteer as an advisor. Become active in local movements to promote individualism.

6. PRINCIPLE OVER PARTY

Don't fall prey to the mob mentality where you lose sight of your own principles just so your team wins. Power without principle is a lost cause and only serves your opposition. Never sacrifice your own principles for some short term gain of power. You may be shunned by your fellow Party members, but remind them that principle over power always wins in the long run. There is no victory to celebrate when you are running the show but enforcing the opposition's agenda and principles.

7. POSITION YOURSELF

Plan ahead and be where the action is about to happen. Be proactive, lead with your issues, don't be reactive and chase after your opposition. Make them react to you, change the environment around you to match your focus. Make yourself part of the process.

8. BE RESPONSIBLE

Leadership brings power but also responsibility. When holding positions of authority, adhere to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. Never betray those you lead.

9. DON'T COMPROMISE

Live by your principles without compromise. Let it be known where you stand. You cannot achieve victory by hiding. Popular approval is not your primary concern. You are a warrior. Accept the risks and the consequences. Stand tall in your convictions. Be an example for others.

10. SHOW GOODWILL

Show tolerance, compassion, and goodwill toward all. Extend a welcome to members of all races, nationalities, religions, and cultures, provided only that they honor *The Creed of Freedom*. Expect diversity, knowing that, in spite of differences, our common purpose binds us to a genuine global understanding.

11. FIND COMMONALITY

The Caucus embraces the highest principles shared by the great religions of the world. It is open to those of all religious persuasions without requiring acceptance of any particular doctrine. We believe in open debate and the marketplace of ideas, but be respectful of others' beliefs and refrain from violence of thought, word, and deed. Never let your personal opinion drive a wedge in the interactions of the group. Focus on those things that draw us together rather than those that divide.

12. RESPECT TRADITIONS

Totalitarians prefer that we make no distinction between love of country and loyalty to leaders. They want us to believe that dissension is unpatriotic. In truth, opposition to corruption in government is the highest obligation of patriotism. If we, the governed, are of a collectivist government, we face the challenge of opposing national policies while at the same time demonstrating love of country. Therefore, when attending patriotic ceremonies, we should participate freely, knowing that in our conscience we are respecting the feelings and good intentions of our fellow neighbors and not honoring our politicians.

13. DON'T MIX BUSINESS

There is no shorter path to dissension and corruption-of-purpose than to

bring marketing programs and business opportunities into The Caucus. Therefore, our meetings and channels of communication may not be used for promoting professional services and products no matter how beneficial they may seem.

14. REMAIN EDUCATED

Knowledge is power and applied knowledge is powerful. Whether it is parliamentary procedure or the political philosophy of natural law, we must make sure not only that WE are learning and growing, but our new members are getting the attention they need to understand what and why we are involved and how to apply this knowledge in the real world of politics and government.

15. READ THE RULES

At every meeting attended by twenty members or more, read aloud *The Creed of Freedom* and at least five items from this *Code of Conduct*. The principles contained in these statements are of no consequence if they are forgotten. Reading them aloud in this manner will always keep them in the center of our deliberations. This recitation will help keep us, and those who follow, on the right course - forever.

Article IV: Commissions

- Section 1: All permanent commissions shall be formed by either the Chair or a simple majority of the Captains. These commissions can be removed by the same. These commissions are to meet no less than once per month and shall be guided by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, latest edition. Each permanent commission's function and specific duties will be listed herein.
- Section 2: All special commissions shall be formed by either the Chair or a simple majority of the Captains. These commissions will have a specified duration and task and may not be listed in the bylaws.
- Section 3: The permanent commissions shall be as follows:
1. The Fundraising Commission, which shall plan, recommend, recruit volunteers for and operate fundraising activities.
 2. The Organizational Commission, which shall plan and recommend

general and special meetings, constitution and bylaw matters, and other organizational matters that may arise.

3. The Budget Commission, which shall plan and recommend a budget for each year for expenditures of The Caucus and shall amend that yearly budget when decided by the Captains for additional items of expenditures that may arise from time to time.

4. The Campaign Commission, which shall plan and recommend the strategy and funding of political campaigns, campaign efforts, and recruitment or endorsement of candidates.

5. The Membership Commission, which shall plan and recommend new member welcoming and training programs, membership retention and communication strategies, other membership related matters that may arise, and serve to check in and credential Captains at meetings.

6. The Special Events Commission, which shall plan and recommend public activities and events for The Caucus for promotion and recruitment purposes such as parades, shows, Party events, and other local rallies or events where a table may be set up.

7. The Communications Commission, which shall plan and recommend any public marketing and communications such as website, print material, audio/video, e-mail, and other media available.

8. The Policy Research Commission, which shall plan and recommend positions to take on issues based on research into the laws and actions of governing bodies within our community and implement action alerts for membership.

9. The Judicial Commission, which shall plan and recommend any judicial related activities or projects with regards to judge retention, trial and grand jury systems within Scott County. Also responsible for any legal matters for The Caucus.

Article V: Standing Rules of Order

The Caucus shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, latest edition, and any other special rules so adopted by a simple

majority in cases when it is applicable and consistent with The Caucus' Constitution and Bylaws. The standing rules of order may be amended by a simple majority at any general or special meeting without prior notice but cannot be in conflict with the Caucus' Constitution or Bylaws. The Secretary shall maintain, for reference at each meeting, copies of the Constitution and Bylaws.

Article VI: Amendment

These Bylaws may be amended by a vote of $\frac{2}{3}$ of The Captains present at any general or special meeting without prior notice.

Date Ratified: July ____, 2012

[Ratification:]

We, the members of the Scott County Republican Liberty Caucus Constitutional Convention, having deliberated in the spirit of *The Creed of Freedom* and *The Three Commandments of Freedom* contained herein, on this 13th day of July 2012, adopt and publish this Constitution and Bylaws.