

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

There was a 5th Congressional District Republican Convention on April 27, 2024. In a lead up to the convention Rep. Bob Good and his employee, Diana Shores, who is also the Chair of the Prince Edward County Republican Committee sent out various emails to the delegates. The emails disparaged a number of organizations and individuals. As a former member of the Prince Edward County Republican Committee, I was dismayed to read the letter Ms. Diana Shores as Chairman of Prince Edward County Republican Committee (PECRC) wrote and sent to convention delegates in support of several candidates that ran for the Virginia 5th Congressional District State Central Committee seats. She made several disparaging and false comments regarding members who left PECRC in July 2023. I was one such member who resigned from PECRC and want to set the record straight.

First and foremost, I left due to the dictatorial leadership method of Ms. Shores. Anyone who disagreed with the Chair or tried to debate an issue or even bring up a matter not on the agenda was silenced by her use of Roberts Rules of Order. In my entire career in Corporate Governance, I had never seen such an abuse of power. In addition, Ms. Shores upon becoming Chair in February 2023 due to the resignation of the then current Chair, called the entire membership toxic and stated no one on the Committee does anything. She condoned the circulation of a petition to have members removed from PECRC. Rather than attempting to resolve issues, she sought to further divide the PECRC. That is not how a leader acts.

The members who resigned from the PECRC in July 2023 simply wanted transparency and their greatest sin was insisting that the minutes accurately reflect actions that occurred at the meetings. I had been told by various members of PECRC that we need to look at the bigger picture and not worry about the details in the minutes. I could not in good conscience continue to be a part of an organization that would seek to silence debate, whose leadership has no respect for its members, and, above all, would sacrifice transparency and accuracy for the bigger picture. I can assure you that my resignation was not because "I don't like following the rules" as Ms. Shores implies.

The former members of PECRC still wanting to be involved in helping local, state and federal Republican candidates get elected decided to form the Southside Virginia Common Sense Republican PAC (SVCSR). The First Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the right of people to assemble and organize, and to have free speech. This is exactly what we did when we created SVCSR. We wanted transparency, truthfulness, accuracy in reporting, and the ability to debate. In her letter to the convention delegates, Ms. Shores stated that the SVCSR was "another rogue organization parading as the local GOP" and insinuates that we are seeking Democrats to run for office on the Republican ticket. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is the policy of SVCSR not to endorse anyone running in a primary or seeking the Republican Party nomination at a convention. However, SVCSR will do all it can to ensure that those Republicans who win the primary or the party nomination via a convention get elected, until then we remain neutral. Ms. Shores comments are a prime example of how she believes the bigger picture is more important than stating the truth. Apparently, Ms. Shores only believes in free speech if it agrees with her viewpoint and that of her employer Rep. Good. The phrase 'my way or the highway' aptly describes the attitude of the leadership of PECRC; unless you bow to their way of thinking they try to silence you with any means possible.

SVCSR is simply an additional voice seeking to get Republicans into office. Want to know more about SVCSR see its Facebook page "Southside Virginia Common Sense Republican PAC" or its webpage: SVCSR.com

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