



Manitowoc County Republican Party General Meeting April 14, 2014

Meeting called to order at 6:37PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Guest Speaker

**Olga Halaburda**- First generation Ukrainian and a native of Detroit. Many Ukrainian immigrants came to Detroit and set up their own community services (education, churches, etc.). One issue they learned was not to blame the Russian people for what the Russian government does. Russian and Ukrainian people have intermarried and lived well together, however there has been a history of Russian invasion and tyranny. Dating from Czar Peter to the present day, the Russians persecuted the Ukrainian people and government. The Russians have kept this secret through revisionist history; even going as far as erasing people from history. The Russian media has also played along and has been pushing propaganda to the people of Russia.

The Ukraine is the second largest country in Europe. It is home to 47 million people and is the "breadbasket of Russia." It was first a nation in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, and eventually the country became one of the most powerful countries in Europe during a time period when the rest of Europe descended into the dark ages. At this time, the Russians were trying to connect the history of the Ukraine and Russia as a common history, which is false. Unfortunately Ukrainian history is full of war and there was no time where foreign powers did not try and take over the nation. Times would get worse under Soviet rule under both Lenin and Stalin. Under Stalin, 7 million Ukrainian people died of starvation, many of them in Eastern Ukraine. Stalin then decided to repopulate the eastern half with ethnic Russians. When World War II broke out the Ukrainians thought they were liberated by the Germans, but that was not the case. Eventually, a resistance formed that fought both the Russians and the Germans. It even lasted beyond 1945, after World War II. Stalin then began his post-world war evacuation of ethnic groups in Crimea, and replaced many of them with Russians. Young teenagers were forced to be indoctrinated into the Communist viewpoint of the world. Finally in 1991, The Soviet Union collapsed, and the Ukraine voted to have independence.

Despite their independence the Communist still held control of the country. Despite the progress of removing the Communist the government was still run by a puppet government from Russia. They eventually removed many of the corrupt forces. However, Putin has now pushed Russia into Ukrainian politics and annexed Crimea through a rigged referendum. Reports of assault, rape, and intimidation are being released. Russian nationals and guns for hire are starting to stir up violence in Eastern Ukraine. Only time will tell what happens next in the Ukraine, but we all must be vigilant and on guard on what Moscow plans next.

Treasurer's Report- \$6,439.00. After expenses \$5,800.00. Lincoln Day Dinner- 230 people turned out for the dinner. Governor Walker delivered a great speech and laid out his plan for his upcoming reelection campaign.

State Convention- Please talk to any of the officers for questions about the state convention on May 2, 3, 4. Great time to get involved and meet candidates.

Reports from Elected Officials-

Scott Feldt- running for state treasurer. He asked for your support in the upcoming elections. He has ten years' experience in the treasurer's office. He wants to open up transparency of our state finances. Believes in accountability. He says "keep voting Scott."

Paul Tittl- He is running for reelection to the State Assembly. He asked people for support and help in running for reelection. He will stand on his record.

Joe Leibham- He is considering running for the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District vacated by Tom Petri. He has not made a decision yet, but asks you to keep him in his prayers.

Meeting Adjourned 9:00