

Subject: Victoria Hardin Response to Mrs. Benway's email.

Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 at 5:38:09 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Victoria Hardin

To:

MRW Ladies,

I received the email below. It was sent from Marianne Benway. Her message is in black font. If you are wondering how I got your emails, the email addresses were visible in the communication from Ms. Benway.

I have not altered her message in any way.

My comments/response are in red below.

If you have any questions or would like to talk with me, please do not hesitate to call: 910-495-4811. We can set up a time for coffee.

Victoria Hardin

From: Mariann Benway <mariannbenway@gmail.com>

Date: October 15, 2021 at 4:33:56 PM EDT

To:

Subject: MRW November 3rd 2021 Luncheon - ELECTION.

My dear friends, I am writing to you as a concerned member of MRW. Please register to come to the MRW's 11/3/21 luncheon so that you may vote for Maureen Krueger.

RESPONSE: I, Victoria Hardin, am responding to this email as a concerned member of MRW and candidate for MRW President. I am concerned that Mrs. Benway, as an officer of MRW, and a person who is in charge of our MRW membership has taken such an active role in this election. It is my understanding that there was an executive meeting on Saturday October 16th. I have requested the minutes of this meeting so that they may be shared with our MRW club. Transparency in the election process is very important. Don't you agree?

My call to action for all MRW members is that you please come to the MRW luncheon on November 3rd so that you may vote for YOUR choice for President. Your vote is private. I know that I am at a disadvantage in this election because I am not on the slate. However, I don't like to be told who to vote for. I believe in freedom of choice. Don't you?

Victoria Hardin nominated herself to run as President of MRW.

RESPONSE: I did not nominate myself. But if I did, it would have been okay. I was not chosen for this position in a back-room brokered deal. I decided to run on my own. I would have no problem nominating myself as I am my own best advocate, but I didn't have to. I have support. I am not the first to run against the slate. I am following in the footsteps of our former President Kay Wildt. She ran against the slate and won. Even though the nominating committee chose another candidate for President, the MRW members believed Kay was the better choice.

Isn't our MRW club better for Kay Wildt stepping up and going against the slate?

The MRW nominating committee unanimously nominated Maureen Krueger as President.

RESPONSE: Mrs. Benway claims to have insider information regarding the club's election process. She is not on the nominating committee. If she has access to insider information, this is troublesome for our club. I was led to believe that to protect the integrity of this election, details concerning the slate selection and contact between the nominating committee members and the candidates would be confidential.

Election integrity is very important to me. Isn't election integrity, at all levels important to you?

Ms. Hardin was nominated from the floor by ~~Maureen Krueger~~.

RESPONSE: This is correct. I am very grateful to Mrs. ~~Maureen Krueger~~. I have many supporters who were ready to nominate me from the floor. By calling Mrs. Bailey out by name, it appears that this was done for the purpose of shaming her. I care about our MRW members. As MRW President, I will do my best to make sure that all members are treated with respect and kindness.

Victoria Hardin has attended ONLY ONE MRW LUNCHEON in the last 18 months.

Prior to that, when her husband was running for DA, they were in attendance every month up until his election.

RESPONSE: Not true. I have attended two meetings in 2021. However, there were occasions that I did not make the cutoff time for the RSVP.

There have been times when I showed up anyway, saw empty seats and was turned away. I even offered to pay \$20 and not eat and I was denied.

MRW has been inflexible with allowing members to attend meetings, even if they do not eat.

Although I have missed meetings, I have attended all activities sponsored by our MRW club.

Because of the way I have been treated, I did not believe that MRW was a good fit for me. I wanted to quit. It hurts to be rejected. But MRW needs women like me. We need more steel-spined conservative women. But I don't give up easily. Instead of avoiding the meetings and the handful of those who did not offer me kindness, I decided that I could work to make the club more inclusive. Then something really amazing happened, when I began calling other MRW members, I learned that I was not the only one who felt rejected and unwanted. It's an awful feeling to be left out. I don't want any member to ever feel that way.

Ms. Hardin has never served on an MRW committee or the MRW Board, never sold a piece of our "rightwing bling" or a raffle ticket.

Upon joining MRW, I did all that I could to be included. I asked to serve on committees. I asked to help. I offered to stay behind after functions to clean up trash. I asked to volunteer. I was denied. I was rejected and refused. It didn't make sense to me. How could I be a part of a women's club, sharing common conservative goals, and be excluded?

An example is when I presented a blinged-out TRUMP handbag to Mrs. Benway. I informed her that I would like to donate the purse as an auction item. She told me that MRW didn't need it because they already had one. Sadly, MRW could have sold 4 of those bags during the TRUMP 2020 event and our club would have benefitted from the money. Instead, I was able to donate the bag to the Hoke County GOP.

Additionally, I was asked to donate our beach cottage. Not only did we donate a one week stay, I also prepared a display, purchased brochures about the cottage, and donated a beach bag and towels. As directed by MRW, I dropped off the brochures ahead of time, so that they could be reviewed. I arrived early to set up the display. No one could find the brochures. I am very confident that they were intentionally thrown away. There were a handful of MRW individuals, including Mrs. Benway who were very vocal against my husband's campaign for DA. I do not believe these events to be a coincidence.

In June 2021 I thought I had finally broke through and was being accepted by MRW. I was asked to help with the July 4th float. I purchased materials and helped with assembly.

In September 2021 I was asked to help with the MRW Halloween party. I designed and purchased invitations. I took steps to determine a location, and secured and paid for the DJ. I did this because I want our club to be great! I have worked for MRW and although no one has given me a title, I don't expect to be recognized. I don't need to be recognized.

She has no clue how MRW operates.

RESPONSE: I do know how MRW operates and I think we can do better.

What I have learned is that there is a minority in power at MRW who want to tell us who to vote for rather than to present choices. Mrs. Benway, Marueen Krueger, and the small group of others do not have the right to hand-pick a successor. The choice for MRW President should be the decision of the members, and free from influence.

I am disappointed that individuals would use their positions with MRW to influence this election.

I don't like arbitrary authority, do you?

Maureen Krueger has been a longtime member of Moore Republican Women, was a regular attendee at our luncheons, even leaving her office in Carthage and coming to a noon meeting, when she was our DA. She has served on MRW's Board as our legal advisor, has helped with our Outreach efforts with the Moore County first responders, and has recently served on the North Carolina Federation of Republican Women as their Membership Chair, mentoring several clubs to get their NCFRW Charter.

RESPONSE: I believe in transparency. Do you *really* know Ms. Krueger? Has she shown you kindness? Has she made you feel welcome? Does she have conservative values?

I cannot speak as to Ms. Krueger's involvement in MRW. I know that she has been a member for longer than me. I can't change that. However, it appears that her involvement in the club has only recently accelerated since she gave up her seat as the incumbent DA and told our club to vote for Arthur Donadio (the Obama and Schiff donor). Ms. Krueger and a minority of others pushed Mr. Donadio as a conservative candidate. Mr. Donadio lost *every single* Moore County precinct. What was his involvement in our party before Ms. Krueger and the minority chose him to run? Where is he now? It is my understanding that she also inserted herself into a very contentious campaign for Sheriff; and that law enforcement documents were leaked to the paper. Ms. Krueger has a lot of political baggage. I do not.

It is alleged that Ms. Krueger serves as the legal advisor for MRW, but who gave her this position? Her experience is in criminal law. Was this a vote of the MRW club members or the same minority of individuals in power? Was this position advertised or offered to any other attorneys in MRW? I am a civil lawyer. Had I known about this position, I would have applied.

Don't you agree that cronyism is bad? I think it is anti-American, don't you?

Just as Trump is trying to SAVE AMERICA, I am asking you to vote for Maureen Krueger to SAVE MRW!

Save MRW? From me, Victoria Hardin? What is it that people are afraid of? Is it the fear of the possibility of taking back control from a select few and giving it to back to our members?

I have a lot to offer our club. I have a right to run, just as much right as Ms. Krueger. I have to work harder and I'm totally okay with that. I'm not afraid. I won't be dissuaded by bullies. President Trump was not the chosen one. He paved the way for future mavericks. I want to set an example for other women. I want others to not fear speaking out and stepping up.

I believe it shouldn't be this hard for any woman to be included in our club. Most would likely have been turned off and given up. Not me. I'm a fighter. I'm not a quitter. We need more fighters. We need more moral, conservative, and willing women. Don't you agree?

Please vote November 3rd.

**All the best,
Mariann Benway**

Victoria Hardin, Attorney