



Minutes – September 14, 2022  
Shiawassee Dems Party Monthly Meeting  
818 W. Main Street, Owosso, MI

**Welcome and Call to Order** at 7:05 p.m.: Chair, Janet Kiley

**Pledge of Allegiance**, Moment of silence for September 11<sup>th</sup>

**Roll Call of Officers**: All present (Janae Fear via Zoom); secretary – Becky Perry

**Native American Acknowledgment Statement**: Noah Weitzner (Slotkin campaign)

**Virtual Meeting Attendees**: (3), Patricia VanLuven, Carolyn Lawrence, Shanay Watson-Whittaker, MI  
Reproductive Rights

**In Person Attendees**: (25) Becky Perry, Steve Perry, Lynn Weaver, Alex Berge, Ann Arwin, Bus Spaniola, Will Edwards-Fluro, Laurie Cook, Paul Cook, Janet Horvath, Linda Anderson, Barb Nees, Chris Clissold, Jan Ray, Jeff Apsey, Kirk Rheäume, Paul Ray, Dylan Huff, Mark Zacharda, Don Suprenant, Danny Diller, Anthony David Karhoff, Aaron Ray, Janet Kiley, Noah Weitzner.

Janet asked for review and motion to approve July 2022 minutes (no August minutes because of Party Picnic). Don Suprenant motioned to approve both the agenda and minutes from July. Kirk Rheäume seconded. All ayes.

**Treasurer’s Report**:

Treasurer Aaron Ray reported \$9,514.78 in the General Fund, \$740.08 in Administrative, and \$5 in Savings for a total of \$10,259.86. Ann Arwin asked about the Digital for Dems cost and if they were doing a good job. Discussion ensued about this. Chris Clissold motioned that the Treasurer’s Report be approved for both July and August; motion seconded by Bus Spaniola. All Ayes.

**Chair’s Report**:

Janet gave highlights from the MDP monthly call. There are 3 ballot initiatives on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Prop 1 is for term limits. Prop 2 would ensure broader voter protections. Prop 3 is about women’s reproductive rights. MDP is neutral on proposal 1. They express support for Proposal 2 and 3. Project 83 is a support organization in every county to print mailing materials for local candidates. The deadline to submit requests is September 21 to be in time for absentee ballots which will begin to go out on the last week in September. MDP is also recruiting poll inspectors - people credentialed by the MDP, to watch at the polls. Don Suprenant and several others noted that they have been poll watchers in previous elections.

**Unfinished business**:

- Women’s reproductive rights: Shanay Watson-Whittaker from Reproductive Freedom for All (Prop 3) stated that Prop 3 restores women’s reproductive rights that had been available under Rove v. Wade for the last 50 years; it blocks the MI law from 1931; and puts the decision-making between women and their doctors. Janet Kiley asked about literature that people could pass out. Shanay stated she would get that to us if we wanted to have it while canvassing.
- Janet endorsed the importance of canvassing in supporting our candidates. Dylan Huff, campaign manager for Mark Zacharda, spoke about the effectiveness of canvassing. We have a wonderful slate of candidates. Dylan grew up in a very conservative family, started at a conservative

college, then started to realize that democrats seemed to him more altruistic, more caring, and less about the wallet. He spoke of how effective door knocking is. Mark added that of all the door knocking he has done, he has only had two mean people. Noah Weitzner, Elissa Slotkin's campaign worker, spoke. He said door knocking is definitely preferable to phone calls. Door knocking is really about just having pleasant conversations with your neighbors. He gave updates from the campaign. There is a debate, live on TV, on October 6<sup>th</sup>. There is finally a full field team, they are getting students ready to vote at MSU. He shared numbers and statistics on the contacts they have made with potential voters. He emphasized the importance of Elissa winning this house seat to keep the house blue for the nation.

- Janet invited candidates to speak.

Sam Singh: Will from Sam's campaign spoke of how few days are left, hopes for winning this county. He spoke of how much help they need with knocking doors, making calls.

Mark Zacharda: he spoke of feeling that they have good momentum. He says their campaign has been very collaborative with Sam and Penelope. He has been neglecting the farm. He reports positive signs, making good contacts. Mark spoke of a small poll they had done that showed Mark leading 58-42 over the opponent. They had to do an adjustment that shows this is closer to 50-50.

Penelope Tsernoglou: She feels fortunate to be in a majority democratic district. She spoke of that giving her the ability to help fellow democrats that aren't in such a good situation. She spoke of organizing a week of action the first week of October in areas for Steve and Mark, knocking doors, canvassing.

Steve Perry: running for county commissioner, district 6. He spoke of running against someone who is pretty corrupt. He spoke of not having a lot of time to knock on doors, but trying to engage with people wherever he is and find common ground. He wants to recognize how much help Penelope has been as well as her husband.

Anthony Karhoff: firefighter, captain, running for county commissioner district 5. He just got yard signs, he states he wants to build the community, not separate it. He spoke of being transparent, having a digital log of county commissioner funds and where they go, instead of FOIA requesting everything. He spoke of good feedback from people.

- Janet introduced Alex Berge with One Campaign (MDP). Alex noted that Michigan expanded voter protection after chaos from 2020. MDP is asking for poll challengers/watchers to ensure that election processes at local polls are working smoothly. MDP has indications that the GOP organizing an army of poll challengers to challenge voters' ability to vote. MDP is not there to challenge anyone's vote, they want people to witness that inspectors know people can vote without an ID on the day of the election as long as they sign an affidavit. If you sign up, they ask you what distance you are willing to travel.

### **New Business:**

- ShiaDems' fundraising disbursement to the candidates. Janet thanked Sam Singh and Penelope Tsernoglou for their support and consent for the final decisions. The goal was to keep Shiawassee Dems funds IN the County. Aaron Ray presented \$750 checks to each county commissioner candidate, Steve Perry and Tony Karhoff. Aaron Ray presented a check for \$3500 to Mark Zacharda. A total of \$5,000 was provided to our local Shiawassee Candidates.
- Janet congratulated 30 precinct delegates for 2022-2024. Janet Kiley states that we could have as many as 450 precinct delegates – according to the rules, but we are very happy to have 30 to start.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Rules and Bylaws:** No Report
- **Community Outreach:** Janet Horvath said we can bring food to the November meeting or drop things off at her house. Roadside cleanup is Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> is the preferred date, rain date of October 2<sup>nd</sup>, to meet at Bennington Township Hall. Cleanup takes about 1.5-2 hours.
- **Membership and Candidate Recruitment Committee:** Chris Clissold reports 60 members paid for this month.
- **Rural Caucus Committee:** No Report
- **Finance and Fundraising:** Parade updates: Noah spoke of the parade in Ovid Carriage Days. Janet Kiley urged folks to donate monthly at \$22 per month for the remainder of the year. We were able to recruit 22 donors who are donating \$22 through December. It is very much appreciated.
- **Young Dems:** No Report
- **Ad hoc committee:** No Report
- **Extra-Party reports:** No Report

### **Good and Welfare:**

- Jan Ray spoke of huge consequences for school board election in this county. She said to check out the candidates, and vote. Mark Zacharda said to vote for Rick Mowen, Olga Quick, and Yaklin and Kurtz in the Owosso School Board election.
- Brian True reminded folks to come into the office on Saturday from noon-3 to pick up yard signs
- Noah reminded folks to sign up to canvass.
- Janet gave a shout out to Penelope for all of the outsized help she is giving for having only a small portion of our county in her district.

**Adjourn:** Aaron Ray made a motion, seconded by Kirk Rheume. All ayes. Adjourned at 8:35 pm

Submitted by Becky Perry