

Minutes – May 11, 2022 Shiawassee Dems party monthly meeting.

Welcome and Call to Order at 7:03 p.m.: Chair Janet Kiley

All - Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of silence for pandemic service workers, people of Ukraine and all of those affected.

Roll Call of Officers: All present; secretary – Becky Perry

Native American Acknowledgment Statement – Joanne Carlson.

Janet Kiley explained the history of why we read the Native American Land Acknowledgement.

Virtual Meeting Attendees: (7) Carolyn Lawrence, Sue Grigas, Patricia VanLuven, Butch Griffith, Cheryl Farver, Jerry Siddock, Becky Perry.

In Person Attendees: (15) Allen Thompson, Janet Horvath, Joanne Carlson, Bus Spaniola, Paul Ray, Kenneth Micketti, Scott Zuckschundt, Tamara Sanders, Laurie Cook, Paul Cook, Ann Arwin, Janet Kiley, Penelope Tsernoglou, Jan Ray, Aaron Ray.

Janet Kiley and Aaron Ray presented the minutes from last month. Bus Spaniola made motion to accept the minutes. Joanne Carlson seconded the minutes. All ayes, motion passed. Janet Kiley asked if there were any questions regarding the agenda. Bus Spaniola made a motion to approve the agenda. Joanne seconded the motion. All ayes, motion passed and agenda is approved.

No Chair's Report tonight.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Aaron Ray reported \$3,537.34 in the General Fund with the caveat that it has ballooned since he ran this report. He reports next treasurer's report will reflect contributions from the MDP. Aaron reports \$393.13 in Administrative, and \$5 in Savings for a total of \$3,935.47. Paul Ray motioned that the Treasurer's Report be approved; motion seconded by Joanne Carlson. All Ayes, motion passes.

New Business:

a. Janet spoke of canvassing for democrats up and down the ballot, but really for county commissioners after pasta and politics is over. She likes the idea of choosing 2 days per week for canvassing.

b. Discussion of Roe v. Wade:

Participant states it is critical to preserve women's bodily autonomy.

Ann Arwin appreciates previous speakers view, glad she came to the meeting. Ann states that she doesn't think any one is a fan of abortion, she is a fan of choice.

Tamara states that she is thinking of how broadly these laws would affect women, it is her understanding that a woman might have to carry a dead fetus in her body.

Joanne spoke of how she was listening to NPR and it spoke on gerrymandering and how it has affected voters. They said Roe v. Wade was based on right to privacy as was gay marriage. So, she is wondering if gay marriage is the next issue.

Ann Arwin spoke again asking what we should do? She believes we should write a letter to the editor at least in the Argus about the ballot initiative Reproductive Freedom for All.

Another participant spoke of how this could be a decisive issue for our members.

Maybe we could make it more about how the minority is ruling the majority.

Janet Kiley spoke about institutionalization of these practices. She states that we need to talk more about the brownies and less about the recipe.

Jerry Siddock states that talking about Roe v. Wade is counterproductive.

Another participant states that the court just gave democrats a gift with this.

There was a motion to form an ad hoc committee to write letters to the editors of the Independent and the Argus. Ann Arwin made the first, Tamara Sanders made the second. All ayes and the motion passes. Janet and Tamara volunteer to be on the committee.

Unfinished business:

- a. Precinct delegate recruitment for the May primary did not happen, but there is another chance for the August ballot. Ann Arwin spoke of how she thinks every one of us should be a precinct delegate. She explained how easy it is to become one. Paul said he and Jan put their applications in last week.
- b. Campaign office update: Janet spoke of hope that we get the building for our office but there are some complications currently.
- c. Aaron spoke of Juneteenth holiday, hosting a celebration in the office space, everyone is welcome.
- d. Ballot initiatives: Janet spoke of how some democratic parties put out easy to understand ways to know how to vote on all of the propositions. She showed an example.

Committee Reports:

- a. Rules and Bylaws: NR
- b. Community Outreach: Next food drive will be in July. Roadside cleanup went well, next time will be in August.
- c. Membership and Candidate Recruitment Committee: Aaron showed a chart for Chris Clissold that came from MDP. We have 57 active memberships and 4 that are expiring.
- d. Rural Caucus Committee-NR
- e. Finance and Fundraising: Roma's will be catering the pasta and politics. Paul Ray spoke of sending out flyers for pasta and politics. There is an Act Blue page for admission for pasta and politics. Mark Brewer is going to be the speaker at the dinner. Janet said we are still working on other potential speakers. There will be a silent auction table. Next pasta and politics committee meeting s May 17th at Aaron's house on 1014 Krust Drive in Owosso at 6:30.
- f. Extra-Party reports: NR

Jessica Ayonb from ACLU-MI spoke of how if the Supreme Court overturns Roe v Wade, Michigan reverts to a 1931 law that criminalizes abortion for doctors as well. Ballot campaign "Reproduction for All" is to amend the constitution for freedom for reproductive healthcare without interference from political forces, enforces safe and protective care, need 425,000 signatures by July 11 to get to the Secretary of State. Joanne asked where people can get more information. Jessica said she will provide a list and a link after the meeting. Janet said if anyone is interested in circulating petitions go to mireproductivefreedom.org. Tamara suggested getting a booth at the Owosso Farmers Market.

Joanne spoke of protecting voter rights through promote the vote. She cautioned about secure the vote, which restricts voting. She spoke of need for 175,000 signatures, not partisan, needs to be turned in by July 11th. They are ¼ of the way there. Tell neighbors and friends how important this is.

Durand Railroad parade is on Saturday. Janet plans to get signatures for promote the vote afterwards. Kirk offered his pontoon for the parade. Mark Zacharda plans to be in the parade.

Laingsburg parade is at the end of May. We will probably use Mark Zacharada's truck for that one. Penelope plans to attend that one.

Janet offers the floor to any candidate who wants to speak:

Penelope spoke in person. She spoke of being a mom, attorney, democratic party activist. She spoke of talking individually to people at the pasta and politics dinner and being excited that Shiawassee County is in her district.

Emily Stivers, who is also running for the 75th district, spoke of mental health platform concerns as well as funding for infrastructure and mentioned visiting emilystivers.com

Salman Rais spoke of being a physician in DeWitt and how he started as a precinct delegate. He wants to serve his district. He sees Republicans making efforts to take over these rural areas. His goal is to make sure as a democrat he meets all of the people in the district.

Good and Welfare:

- a. Emily Stivers suggests social media posts regarding Roe v. Wade.
- b. Janae said she thinks we will have an email update regarding office space soon.
- c. Stand-up Shiawassee, a serious group about getting conservatives on school boards, an anti-trans group, plans to attend Monday school board meeting at Corunna schools. If people are available to attend and wear pride gear to show support to these youth.

Adjourn: Motion made to adjourn by Ann Arwin and seconded by Jan Ray. Adjourned at 8:53pm

Submitted by Becky Perry

