

Minutes – January 11, 2023 Shiawassee Dems party monthly meeting.

Welcome and Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.: Chair Stephen Schlaack

All - Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of silence for members of the military and those that can't be here with us.

Roll Call of Officers: All present Aaron Ray: recording secretary – Becky Perry

Native American Acknowledgment Statement – read by Aaron Ray

Virtual Meeting Attendees: (6) Mark Zacharda, Muhammad Salman Rais, Kirk Rheume, Francis Leon Griffin, Bill Workman, Dylan Huff

In-Person Attendees: (20) Stephen Schlaack, Emily Havelka, Paul Ray, Jan Ray, Becky Perry, Laurie Cook, Paul Cook, Ann Arwin, Bailey Leppert, Brian True, Danny Miller, Janet Horvath, Janae Fear, Bus Spaniola, Carol Spaniola, Janet Kiley, Kristin Babel, Emily Olson, Aaron Ray, Patty VanLuven

There was a question about the September meeting minutes being included as opposed to November. Discussion ensued. Stephen states he will either address the November meeting minutes later in this meeting or address at the next meeting. Bus Spaniola made a motion to approve both the agenda as well as the minutes from previous meeting. Janet Kiley seconded. All ayes.

Introduction of new officers: Kristin Babel, Stephen Schlaack, Aaron Ray, Bailey Leppert, Laurie Cook, Becky Perry. Stephen thanked Janet and Janae for attending and leaving the board and the party in a good position. He opened it up for questions.

Treasurer's Report:

Aaron presented the treasurer's reports. From December, Aaron states there were many donations leading up to the November election. At the end of November, the administrative account had \$3,017.96. General account had \$576.23 with \$5 in savings for a total of \$3,598.42. For December, the administrative account had \$2,699.85, general had \$220.93 and \$5 in savings for a total of \$2,925.78. Ann Arwin asked if membership had been asked about free storage. Kirk Rheume motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Bus Spaniola motioned to second. All ayes.

Chair's Report:

Stephen spoke of the call last night. He states main items highlighted carrying on with momentum. He states that we are already focusing on county commission seats we want to focus on as goals and target some resources towards. They spoke of the state convention in February. Stephen states he is registered, and he invited others to register and carpool. He states there is a county convention also coming up. They started discussing an emerging situation in Ottawa County with dark money on Facebook. Lavora Barnes announced she will be running again for Chair of the state party. Janae spoke about the resolutions committee.

New Business:

- a. Stephen appointed Aaron Ray as head of the Fundraising committee and Emily Havelka as head of the Communications & Technology committee. He states he will do an organizational

chart of roles and responsibilities. Discussion ensued. Emily Olson asked how open we are to new and inventive ideas or staying with what works. Discussion ensued.

- b. Aaron spoke of how we need to get started very soon on organizing for Pasta and Politics. He is volunteering to be the chair of the Fundraising committee. He wants to get started quickly. Please get in touch with Aaron and he is hoping to have the first meeting next week.
- c. Ann Arwin spoke of getting precinct delegates together to talk about different precincts and the voters in that area. Patty Van Luven and Bus Spaniola also discussed how the acceleration of voters turning out to vote democratic showed by the numbers and knocking on doors helped. They spoke of needing candidates for all of these areas. Emily Olson spoke of having a committee to analyze data. Ann Arwin makes a motion that the precinct delegates meet this month to look at past election results, facts and figures to analyze these to help towards future elections. This motion is seconded by Bus Spaniola. Brian True spoke in favor of this motion. He states it is important to look at this data from the recent election and how we need to actually use the information we have in a productive way. Janae Fear asked if we could tie this to the county convention meeting. Ann amended her motion to take place at the county convention. Janae Fear seconded. All ayes.
- d. County convention is on January 28th in the morning at the McCurdy park community center. Discussion ensued about the resolution committee and the rules that the State party sets for this. Paul Ray spoke about how the MDP sets these rules.
- e. Stephen spoke of transferring website of www.whoisbrianbegole.com from Mark Zacharda campaign to the Shiawassee Dems. Bus Spaniola motioned to table this decision until next month. Jan Ray seconded the motion. All ayes.

Committee Reports:

- a. Rules and Bylaws: NR
- b. Community Outreach: Janet Horvath does the food drives three times per year, she states we need to have a presence at the Shiawassee County Fair as well.
- c. Membership and Candidate Recruitment Committee: Janet Kiley spoke of how Chris Clissold is currently the chair and is very involved in this.
- d. Rural Caucus Committee-NR
- e. Finance and Fundraising: Aaron will be organizing a meeting to begin work on Past & Politics
- f. Ad hoc committee:
- g. Extra-Party reports: NR

Good and Welfare:

- a. Janae Fear spoke of how Elissa Slotkin reached out to city council and it's the first time a representative has done this since Janae has been on the council. She also spoke of the recent meetings and how it has been rough lately and they could use support if people want to come out. Normally meetings are Mondays, next meeting is next Tuesday.
- b. Bus Spaniola said that he was at the swearing in ceremony today for the senators.

Adjourn: Motion made to adjourn by Janae Fear and seconded by Paul Cook. All ayes. Adjourned at 8:41 pm

Submitted by Becky Perry