

Minutes – July 13, 2022 Shiawassee Dems Party Monthly Meeting

Welcome and Call to Order at 7:04 pm: Chair Janet Kiley

All - Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of silence for pandemic and increase in illnesses, caretakers, concern for what happened on January 6th; contemplate horror of Ukraine war, and other wars.

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

Native American Acknowledgment Statement – Aaron Ray.

Virtual Meeting Attendees: (9) Chris Clissold, Patricia VanLuven, Jeanne Munn, Jerry Siddock, Mark Zacharda, Emily Stivers, Carol Spaniola, Joanne Carlson, Salman Rais.

In Person Attendees: (26) Ann Arwin, Sylvia Avsherian, Don Keskey, Bus Spaniola, Jan Ray, Paul Ray, Lynn Weaver, Ted Webster, Will Edwards-Thro, Laurie Cook, Paul Cook, Linda Anderson, Laurel Robb, Kirk Rheume, Mary (Gus) Rheume, Deb Grazier, Garland Grazier, Jeremy Blatt, Emily Olson, Penelope Tsernoglou, David Dunning, Brian True, Aaron Ray, Janet Kiley, Janae Fear, Becky Perry.

Minutes and agenda: There was no June meeting in lieu of the Pasta and Politics event. Copy of May meeting minutes on the Zoom screen for reviewing. Lynn Weaver asked to clarify dates for road side cleanup. Jan Ray moved to accept the minutes and agenda, Kirk Rheume moved to second. All ayes.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Aaron Ray reported on the June Pasta and Politics fundraiser. He reported \$10,036.11 in the General Fund for July, \$265.35 in Administrative, and \$5 in Savings for a total of \$10,306.46. Lynn Weaver moved to amend the June 9th treasurers report to include the silent auction additional \$60 amount, Bus Spaniola seconded that motion, all ayes. Motion is approved. Bus Spaniola motioned that the Treasurer's Report be approved; motion seconded by Kirk Rheume. All Ayes, June Treasurer's Report approved.

Chair's Report

- Urgent call for poll challengers and other election workers, as well as local people to run for office. Janae Fear asked if you have to be a member of the party and Janet Kiley states that you do.
- There is a county convention coming up on August 6th which will be virtual. The purpose of the meeting is to elect members to the State Convention committees and consider resolutions to put before the party's membership, preliminary to the State Democratic Convention on August 20 - 21.
- MDP has called a Let's Talk Membership meeting on July 20th. If anyone is interested in being on that call, let Janet know.

Committee Reports:

- a. Rules and Bylaws: NR
- b. Community Outreach: Janae reports that food drive will be next month.
- c. Membership and Candidate Recruitment Committee: Aaron showed a chart for Chris Clissold that came from MDP. We have 58 active memberships, 7 recent, and 4 that are expiring soon. Half are based in the city of Owosso.
- d. Rural Caucus Committee-NR
- e. Finance and Fundraising: Pasta & Politics: Janet emphasized how well the P&P fundraiser went and how grateful she is to the committee and many people who really stepped up to make it a success. As Aaron said, we basically cleared almost \$5,000. We had the perfect number of attendees for the size of the Township Hall. We had numerous candidates attend in person and via video. There were great videos from Garland Gilchrist and Dana Nessel.

Parade updates: we have participated in 3 parades including the Laingsburg parade, the Durand parade, and a 4th of July parade in Corunna. Aaron showed a picture from the Corunna parade. We don't have any more parades until the Ovid Carriage days parade in September. Paul Ray asked if we have participated in the Showboat parade in Saginaw county, and that it's in Mark's area.

Janae spoke about a meeting at 3:30 tomorrow to talk about the next phase of fundraising. We want to be mindful of expenses for leasing this office, spending on advertising, money to give directly to candidates. This means a fundraising each month. Since we are already half way through the month, we decided on simply doing a phone banking fundraiser for July. We are hoping to get some donors who would donate monthly at \$22 per month for the remainder of the year. If you are interested in working the phones, hang out afterwards and we will figure out when that meeting will be. Janet emphasized the need for fundraising.

- f. Young Dems: NR
- g. Ad hoc committee reports: letter-writing: update on Roe v. Wade – Janet spoke of how this is looking very good, she heard this petition garnered more signatures than any other past petition. Joanne reported that Promote the Vote is turning in a great number of signatures as well and how they still need to be certified. We still need to educate the voters and get voters to the polls.
- h. Extra-Party reports: NR

Unfinished business:

- a. Precinct Delegates. This vote happens at the August 2 primary, not in November. If interested, come tomorrow, July 14 to the Corunna Library. Brian True is a notary and he will notarize your Declaration of Intent which you can turn in to the County Clerk's office -- or you can get the form online and turn it in to the county clerk where they will notarize it. Your name will not be on the ballot, so you have to write in your name. You need to receive only one vote so be sure to vote for yourself. Responsibilities of a precinct delegate are to identify other democrats, keep leaders informed of important issues, be an ambassador. After primary day, they will convene in conventions to elect delegates to the state level. Paul says that precinct delegates elect the leaders of the county party. The deadline to file is July 28th.
- b. Campaign office celebration: Janet thanks Janae and Brian for doing so much work to find the building and complete the contract. Aaron wants to get a group picture afterwards.

c. Janet invited candidates who are present to speak.

Don Keskey: running for the 75th district. He is an attorney in the public service division, worked under Frank Kelly, environmental protection, giving customers the ability to connect to the grid and sell energy to the grid.

Penelope Tsernoglou: Running for the 75th district. She is hosting a forum on July 26th at the East Lansing Public Library on how to get involved. On election night, at Reno's in East Lansing.

Emily Stivers: Running for the 75th district. Ingham county commissioner with 2 young kids; endorsed by Planned Parenthood. She states that judicial races are important; vote for judicial candidates Berstein and Bolden.

Sam Singh: campaign manager, Will, spoke. Sam was formerly mayor of East Lansing, and served as representative in the House. Fundraiser at the Wrought Iron Grill scheduled for 8.10.

Salman Rais: Running for State Senate, practices medicine. He believes that people in rural areas need democratic representation.

Elissa Slotkin: Jeremy Blatt spoke on behalf of the Slotkin campaign. He spoke of how effective canvassing is to make voter contact. Janet encouraged those present to try canvassing.

Mark Zacharda: running for State Representative in the 71st district. He feels fortunate that he doesn't have a primary race. His campaign us making phone calls and knocking doors.

Campaign manager is Dylan Huff.

New Business:

a. Brian True announced a roadside cleanup. He states we only do this 3 times per year. This time is a little different as canvassing will overlap. Meet at 9 a.m. at Bennington Twp hall for cleanup. Door knocking is from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at campaign office.

b. Aaron announced the annual Picnic on August 16th in the pavilion at 6 p.m. at McCurdy Park, with local candidates. Folk are asked to bring a dish to pass. No monthly meeting on 8.10 as that is during county fair week, where we need volunteers for the vendors' booth We need volunteers. It is best to have 2 people per shift.

c. Upcoming events: September 11th is the Ovid Carriage Days parade.

Good and Welfare:

a. Janae said there is a Shiawassee River cleanup July 23-30, you can sign up on your own through friends of the Shiawassee river. Also reiterated important dates for this Saturday 9 a.m. at Bennington Township Hall and 10 a.m. at the office for door knocking. August 20-21 is the state convention. This is the final meeting of the current 4th Congressional district.

b. Emily Olson introduced herself; she and her husband own the building next door. She is planning a meeting on August 3rd at 7 p.m. next door to start planning and brainstorming for a progressive women's group. Joanne asked if we can have a zoom option.

c. Janet gave a shout out and good luck to Aaron who will be gone for 3 weeks for annual training with the National Guard

Adjourn: Motion made to adjourn by Aaron Ray and seconded by Kirk Rheume. All ayes.

Adjourned at 8:50 pm

Submitted by Becky Perry