



Monthly Membership Meeting - Minutes

Minutes – November 7, 2023 Shiawassee Dems Party Monthly Meeting

Welcome and Call to Order at 6:37 p.m.: Chair Stephen Schlaack

Pledge of Allegiance - all

Roll Call of Officers: Present - Schlaack, Ray, Cook Absent - Leppert

Native American Acknowledgment Statement – read by Stephen Schlaack

In-Person Meeting Attendees: (20) Stephen Schlaack, Laurie Cook, Aaron Ray, Chris Clissold, Janet Horvath, Paul Cook, Dave Busch, Marianne Dorais, Bus Spaniola, Curtis Hamilton, Cheryl Farver, Rose Wilson, Jan Ray, Paul Ray, Carolyn Lawrence, Noreen Schlaack, Ann Arwin, Brian True, Patty VanLuven, Danny Miller

Virtual Meeting Attendees: (3) Jeanne Munn, Joanne Carlson, Ronald Hudson

Bus Spaniola moved to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting and Janet Horvath seconded the motion. All ayes. Paul Cook moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting and Bus Spaniola seconded his motion. All ayes.

Treasurer's Report:

Aaron Ray presented the treasurer's report. As of November 5, the balance of the administrative account was \$544.47. The general account had a balance of \$4,845.99 with \$5 in savings for a total of \$5,395.46. Aaron explained the return and re-issue of the UAW check is in process. Chris Clissold moved to approve the treasurer's report. Jan Ray seconded. All ayes.

Chair's Report:

Stephen Schlaack reported that this month's chairs' call has not taken place yet. He introduced Curtis Hamilton, vice chair of the MDP's Rural Caucus, who spoke briefly on the Caucus's mission to bring attention to and act as liaison for the rural areas of the state. Meetings are held via Zoom on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 pm. Members can join the caucus at mdpruralcaucus.com to receive the link to the meetings.

Committee Reports

Tonight's food drive: Janet Horvath shared that 271 lbs. of food and \$100 cash were donated by tonight's attendees for the Laingsburg Area Food Bank. The next food drive in March 2024 will be to benefit the food bank at New Lothrop United Methodist Church.

Fundraising Committee: Aaron reported planning has begun for Pasta & Politics '24, set for April 19. The committee expects a higher turnout since it will be an election year, and are seeking a larger venue. Currently, the Z Hall & Comstock Inn are being considered. Ann pointed out that an advantage of the Comstock Inn would be that less volunteer labor would be required than at



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a hall-only venue. Aaron said the committee's goal is to select the location before yearend. The next committee meeting is Tuesday Nov 14 at 7 via Zoom.

Membership & Candidate Development and Community Outreach Committees: Ann Arwin called attention to the sympathy card for Janet Kiley available for signing. She reported that we have gained 4 new members since last month, for a total of 10 since the picnic. She shared that it is a goal for the committee to grow the volunteer base so that we can identify one person to take responsibility for individual events-- fair, roadside cleanup, etc. The committee would like to work toward providing an activity each month.

Comms & Tech: Stephen will be presenting an update on our social media growth at a future meeting.

Old Business

In lieu of a December meeting, we will be hosting a holiday party on December 13 at Corunna Community Center at 7 pm. We are hoping to have a potluck and games.

Stephen gave an update on the Durand Union Station Christmas Tree Sponsorship. Decorating will take place Sun., Nov. 12 at 1 pm. All are welcome to help, including by loaning decorations. Everyone is also welcome to gather at noon at Union Station Smokehouse for lunch beforehand.

Aaron reminded attendees about the Lookout program. He shared a Lookout tip shared by Bailey Leppert, that the Shia. Co. Planning Comm is holding a public hearing about amending the zoning ordinance to create a zoning district for utility-scale renewable energy development and to create regulations about the permitting for such development. There was discussion of issues surrounding renewable energy projects in rural counties. The public hearing is set for Wed., Nov. 15 at 7 pm in the Surbeck Bldg. in Corunna.

New Business:

Aaron encouraged prospective county & local candidates for the 2024 election to contact either an officer or the Membership/Candidate Development Committee, so that they can be put in touch with applicable resources and support.

Good and Welfare

Brian True will be relocating to Ukraine at yearend, and we requested an update from him on his work there. Since 2019, he has headed the nonprofit Eye Care for Ukraine, which since the outbreak of the war has increasingly focused on the 20% of those injured who experience vision loss. They welcome donations via their website, eyecareforukraine.org.



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Adjourn: Motion made to adjourn by Bus Spaniola and seconded by Danny Miller. All ayes.
Adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Submitted by Laurie Cook