



Monthly Membership Meeting - Minutes

Minutes – February 14, 2024 Shiawassee Dems Party Monthly Meeting

Welcome and Call to Order at 7:14 p.m.: Chair Stephen Schlaack

All - Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Officers: all present: secretary – Bailey Leppert

Native American Acknowledgment Statement – read by Stephen Schlaack

In-Person Meeting Attendees: (15) Stephen Schlaack, Aaron Ray, Bailey Leppert, Janet Horvath, Dan Olvitt, Bus Spaniola, Jan Ray, Paul Ray, Paul Cook, Danny Miller, Patty VanLuven, Janet Kiley, Kirk Rheame, Loretta Harrison, Brandon Wallace

Virtual Meeting Attendees: (6) Laurie Cook, Shannon Higgins, Joanne Carlson, Jeanne Munn, Emily Havelka, Mark Zacharda

Bus Spaniola moved to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting and Janet Horvath seconded the motion. All ayes. Danny Miller 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 February 11, the balance of the administrative account was \$560.19. The general account had a balance of \$4,944.53 with \$5 in savings for a total of \$5,509.72. Bus Spaniola moved to approve the treasurer's report. Danny Miller seconded. All ayes.

Chair's Report:

Stephen Schlaack reported that this month's chairs' call discussed the MDP's efforts to get funding to support rural campaigns. There will be ways we can ask for funding for our local efforts.

Committee Reports

- A. Fundraising Committee: Aaron presented on continued planning for Pasta and Politics, April 26. All the written invitations have been printed and will be mailed out this week. He announced that we are now selling tickets to Pasta and Politics on the Shiawassee Dems website for \$60 each. We are also selling sponsorships in the program, \$300 for a full page, \$150 for a half page, and \$75 for a quarter page. Silent auction donations can be brought to the March and April monthly meetings. Donors can also contact Jan Ray to arrange drop off of auction items. Next meeting of the committee is Tuesday, February 20 at 7 PM on Zoom.
- B. Membership & Candidate Development and Community Outreach Committees: Bailey presented about the Run for Office 101 event held on February 6 and a planned upcoming event focused on local ballot proposals.



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Old Business

Stephen presented that we purchased a list of donor data from Practical Political Consultants for \$50.

Bailey and Aaron presented about an available office space at 1213 ½ Corunna Ave in Owosso. It would be \$650 per month including utilities. Bailey is waiting to hear back from the realtor if they would agree to a nine-month lease. Bus moved to approve the lease for the office at 1213 ½ Corunna Ave if the lease can be nine months or less. Paul Cook supported. All ayes.

Bailey did not have any updates for the Lookout program. She solicited any submissions from party members.

New Business

Aaron reported that the presidential primary is on February 27 and reminded attendees to vote.

Aaron presented that the Shiawassee County Red Cross has reached out to us to see if we want to participate in the Camel Races this year on March 9. Aaron asked to spend \$275 to sponsor a camel in the Red Cross and Kiwanis Camel Race. Bus Spaniola moved to approve the motion to sponsor the camel. Janet Horvath seconded. All ayes.

Aaron reported that the Durand Railroad Days Parade is on May 18 and we have been invited to participate. Line up is at 11 AM and the parade begins at 1 PM. There is no cost to participate, but there will be an expense for candy and flags.

Janet Horvath solicited 8 volunteers for the Spring Roadside Cleanup as well as drivers. The date options are April 20 or 21. April 20 will be the set date, with April 21 as the rain date.

Stephen reported that the Shiawassee County Fair will be August 4 through 10. He solicited volunteers to be a Parade Coordinator and a Fair Coordinator.

Janet Horvath reported that we will have a canned food drive at the March 13 meeting at Caledonia Township Hall. Our donation will go to the New Lothrop United Methodist Church's food pantry. Bring your canned goods to the March 13 meeting.

Bailey presented about Rep. Penelope Tsernoglou's fundraising event to support six state representatives in key swing seats, which is on March 13 at 5:30 in Okemos.

Stephen suggested writing a statement in support of the SATA funding ballot proposal that is on the Feb 27 ballot in Owosso. Group discussion on the importance of SATA and the services they offer. Stephen and Mark will work together to write a statement and Bailey will send out an email with a reminder about the Feb 27 primary vote and local ballot proposals.



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Good and Welfare

Bus reported that he attended a recent fundraising event for Elissa Slotkin and three attendees questioned Elissa on the Israel-Palestine conflict. He also said it is important for us to reach out to Curtis Hertel to include him in Shiawassee area events. He also pointed out that in looking through the Shiawassee County Directory, we should note how many Democrats are in elected roles and appointed roles.

Aaron invited volunteers to come to his house to stuff Pasta and Politics invitation letters on Friday, February 16 from 4:30 to 7 PM.

Adjourn: Motion made to adjourn by Bus Spaniola and seconded by Janet Horvath. All ayes. Adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Submitted by Bailey Leppert