

## Minutes – September 13, 2023 Shiawassee Dems Party Monthly Meeting

Welcome and Call to Order at 7:10 p.m.: Chair Stephen Schlaack

All - Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of silence

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

Native American Acknowledgment Statement – read by Laurie Cook

In-Person Meeting Attendees: (20) Stephen Schlaack, Laurie Cook, Kristin Babel, Aaron Ray, Bailey Leppert, Janet Horvath, Bus Spaniola, Patricia Whitlock, David Busch, Marianne Dorais, Jan Ray, Paul Ray, Paul Cook, Don Surprenant, Ann Arwin, Kirk Rheume, Curtis Hertel, Sophia, Patty VanLuven, Janet Kiley

Virtual Meeting Attendees: (3) Chris Clissold, William Workman, Maureen

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 September 10, the balance of the administrative account was \$1,963.89. The general account had a balance of \$4,448.48 with \$5 in savings for a total of \$6,417.37. Janet Kiley asked about the Facebook charges on the report. Aaron explained that we are paying for boosted advertising on Facebook to promote our posts. Jan Ray moved to approve the treasurer’s report. Bus Spaniola seconded. All ayes.

### Chair’s Report:

Stephen reported on the monthly chairs’ call with Lavora Barnes. There has been an uptick in spam emails pretending to be MDP officials, so reach out to county or state level MDP representatives if you receive any questionable emails. The state party is working on plans to potentially allocate funds to county parties to support their operations. Stephen reported about two informational podcasts, Party on the Peninsulas and A Republic If You Can Keep It, both featuring MDP current and former officials.

### Committee Reports

- A. Fundraising Committee: Aaron presented about the upcoming Pottery and Politics fundraiser on September 30 at Playing Picasso in Lansing and how to purchase tickets. The fundraiser committee will be meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, September 19. They are looking for volunteers to bring appetizers to the fundraiser and also looking for volunteers to plan Pasta and Politics 2024.
- B. Membership & Candidate Development: Ann Arwin showed the thank you card we received from Cheryl and Tom Farver for our sympathy card on the death of their daughter. Ann has started sending a thank you card for signing up as a new or renewing MDP member, in addition to the birthday and renewal reminder cards. Ann hoped

everyone enjoyed the ice cream social and the committee looks forward to working with the Community Outreach committee to attend more events together.

- C. Community Outreach: Laurie reiterated Ann's point about attending more events together to grow the numbers of Democrats in Shiawassee County.
- D. Communications: Stephen presented that he is hoping to have a meeting of the committee soon and solicited new members.

### Old Business

Stephen thanked all the volunteers who helped with the Shiawassee County Fair and noted that it was successful to be able to talk to so many people. Paul Ray pointed out that the Shiawassee County Republican Party did not have a booth at the fair this year. Laurie presented about our successful picnic. Rep. Tsernoglou, Senator Singh, and Sophia from Curtis Hertel's campaign attended and spoke. Laurie thanked everyone who helped.

Aaron reiterated the upcoming Pottery and Politics fundraiser on September 30 and showed where to buy tickets on our website.

Aaron stated that the available dates for the fall roadside cleanup are September 23 or 24 or October 1. Stephen held a straw poll for the dates. 6 people are available on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. 10 are available on the 24<sup>th</sup>. 12 are available on the 1<sup>st</sup>, but Janet Kiley pointed out that if we go with the 1<sup>st</sup>, we won't have a rain date. Based on this, it was decided that September 24 will be the main date and October 1 will be the rain date. We will meet at Bennington Township Hall at 9 am. Paul Ray announced that we can get additional state approved trash bags at the Bus Spaniola Road Commission building. Janet Horvath stated that we need drivers to run supplies and people in addition to those walking and picking up trash.

Bailey presented about the upcoming Shiawassee Conservation District meeting next Tuesday for anyone interested in identifying local conservation issues. She also stated that there is an available position on the Owosso Downtown Development Authority board in case anyone is interested in applying. Finally, she gave an update on the plans by local municipalities for hosting early in-person voting next year.

### New Business

Curtis Hertel introduced himself as a candidate for Congress. He explained that you can go to [HertelForMichigan.com](http://HertelForMichigan.com) to sign up to volunteer or donate. He spoke about how important it is to hold this seat and bring our Michigan common sense and values to Washington and to regain the majority. Patty VanLoven asked Curtis what type of volunteer work he needs in the short term and long term. Curtis explained that he will need canvassers next year because of the importance of in person conversations. He currently needs volunteers to collect signatures to submit to be on the ballot. He encouraged people to talk to their friends and neighbors and offered to come to small venues to speak. The campaign also needs people willing to host

fundraising events. Email [info@hertelformichigan.com](mailto:info@hertelformichigan.com) with any local events the campaign should be aware of.

Dylan Huff presented about the opportunity to work with FORUM Political Consulting, run by Steve Ross and Mark Grebner. They can help us in a wide variety of ways to support local Democratic candidates in 2024. There was group discussion about the support they could offer, the way it could be tied into campaigns, and the cost. Janet Kiley moved that we spend \$200 on the initial consultation with FORUM Consultants. Kirk Rheume supported her motion. All ayes.

#### Good and Welfare

Aaron Ray stated that state campaign finance laws are changing and requested that people making political donations do so with check or credit card rather than cash to make reporting easier.

Stephen showed the new shirts available on our website and discussed our new merch.

Janet Kiley asked people to take leftover ice cream.

Adjourn: Motion made to adjourn by Janet Kiley and seconded by Paul Cook. All ayes.  
Adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Submitted by Bailey Leppert