



Shiawassee County Democratic Party

Regular Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2021 – Virtual Zoom

- CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Chair Mark Zacharda
Pledge of allegiance and moment of silence
- PRESENT:** **EXECUTIVE TEAM ROLL CALL:** Mark Zacharda, Chair; Janet Kiley, Vice Chair; Aaron Ray, Treasurer; Robert Doran Brockway, Secretary
- MEMBERS:** Bus & Carol Spaniola, Kirk Rheaume, Muhamed Salman Rais, Cheryl Stevenson, Janet Horvath, Sue Grigas, Brian True, Jan & Paul Ray, Chris Clissold, Laura Archer, Jeanne Munn, Tyler Corbin, Anthony Feig, Joanne Carlson, Cheryl Farver, Amanda Root, Susan Doty, Patricia Van Luven, Bill Workman, Sylvia Ashram, Laura Raisanan, Jerry Hilliard.
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Bus Spaniola moved to approve the agenda as presented. Motion supported by Kirk Rheaume. Ayes all; motion carried unanimously.
- APPROVAL OF TREASURERS REPORT:** Bus Spaniola moved to approve the treasurers report as presented. Motion supported by Laura Archer. Ayes all; motion carried unanimously.
- NOTE:** Treasurer Aaron Ray and Chair Mark Zacharda briefly discussed the transition of the Treasurer’s duties and apologized for any possible confusion. Aaron will be on active duty until March and he will work with Mark on any outstanding treasurer business.
- CHAIR’S REPORT:** The following topics were discussed by the Chair:
- Continue to apply pressure on Moolenaar and other local Republicans
 - State Dems are setting ambitious goals on reforming the VAN. This is important for anyone who is trying to organize future campaigns.
 - Redistricting training from MDP.
- COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Future Committee Structure to be discussed in New Business
- UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** No Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS:

THE FOLLOWING TOPICS WERE DISCUSSED:

- Chair Zacharda again thanked everyone present and thanked the new executive board.
- Chair Zacharda announced the Spring 2021 County Convention, to be held on Monday, January 25 at 7:00 pm.
- Accountability of Moolenaar. The members felt that it was appropriate to put pressure on Moolenaar as well as Ben Frederick and Tom Barrett. Secretary Robert Doran-Brockway discussed the possibility of an ad calling out Trump for the attack on the Capitol. He presented the details of the ad, suggesting a ¼ page for the amount of \$900.
- Cheryl Farva discussed doing what we can to keep the attack in the public eye. She suggested helping people to write letters to the editor and via social media. We all agreed that the attack was an affront to the voters and the State of Michigan. She added that our state government is currently under threat of violence, why has not anyone stepped up to tamp them down.
- Paul Ray indicated that we want to be careful about spending local party money for federal elections. Bus Spaniola indicated that we should investigate the legality of how we disperse our money. Discussion ensued about how we can and cannot spend the money.
- Susan Reisman suggested sending a letter to speaker Pelosi and that we need to stick to facts as much as possible and remain cautious that we do not inflame the fires.

Kirk Rheame moved that the Shiawassee Party place an ad decrying the violence at the US Capitol in the Independent newspaper on 1-17-2021 for the amount of up to \$900. The motion was supported by Cheryl Farva. Ayes all; motion carried unanimously.

- The discussion continued with members inquiring how they can donate directly for this specific ad initiative. Joanne Carlson reminded that the ad needs to call out Ben Frederick and Tom Barrett as well as the rest of the Republicans who voted against democracy.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE DISCUSSION

- Chair Zacharda initiated the discussion regarding how at the beginning of last year the committee structure was moving in the right direction until March, when Covid turned everything upside down. Chair Zacharda laid out the current committee structure and asked if everyone agreed with the proposed changes. Secretary Doran-Brockway interjected that the executive team would be meeting next week to work on committee structure and would come up with the following:
 - Committee Name
 - Committee Job Description
 - Budget
 - Goals with Specific Initiatives
 - Short- and Long-term Goals
 - Work Plans
- Chair Zacharda initiated a Rural Caucus update. Brian True interjected that he recently attended their monthly meeting and added that everyone is scrambling to respond and organize to last week's disaster at the Capitol. Brian further discussed that we all need to address and push for an equitable distribution of vaccines in the rural areas. The Rural Caucus is demanding more

money and attention to the rural areas of Michigan. The best way to attend Rural Caucus meetings is to contact Brian. You can also sign up for their meeting through their Facebook page.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Laura Reisman interjected that former Michigan Governor Rick Snyder had been charged with 2 counts of willful neglect, a misdemeanor. Several of his colleagues were also charged with misdemeanors and felonies.
- Laura Archer shared that the YMCA is doing a food drive on MLK day, Monday, January 18, this time at the High School parking lot. She asked if anyone was interested in helping to please contact her and sign up.
- Janet Kiley discussed three things that President Elect Biden is asking Americans to participate in:
 - January 18 – Day of Service. This is a great opportunity to join Laura at the YMCA food bank.
 - January 19 – President Elect Biden is holding a memorial service on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial for those who have died from Covid. Ask local leaders to light up buildings, ring bells (church), and place a candle in the window. All of this is supposed to commence at 5:30 PM.
 - January 20 – Attend a virtual Inauguration event

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm. Bus Spaniola moved to adjourn the meeting, supported by Kirk Rheume. Ayes all; motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting will be on October 14.

Minutes taken by Secretary Robert Doran-Brockway

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