

Minutes – October 11, 2023 Shiawassee Dems Party Monthly Meeting

Welcome and Call to Order at 7:05 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 Aaron Ray

In-Person Meeting Attendees: (16) Stephen Schlaack, Laurie Cook, Aaron Ray, Bailey Leppert, Janet Horvath, Bus Spaniola, Jan Ray, Paul Ray, Paul Cook, Ann Arwin, Bob Kavetsky, Lynn Weaver, Chad Schoch, Helen Howard, Brian True, Tim Ray

Virtual Meeting Attendees: (2) Leslie Schlaack and Linda Anderson

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

Treasurer's Report:

Aaron Ray thanked everyone who attended or supported us in the Pottery and Politics fundraiser last month. He presented the treasurer's report. As of October 7, the balance of the administrative account was \$1,879.18. The general account had a balance of \$4,990.57 with \$5 in savings for a total of \$6,874.75. Bus Spaniola moved to approve the treasurer's report. Janet Horvath seconded. All ayes.

Chair's Report:

Stephen Schlaack reported that this month's chair's call discussed the death of Ingham County Party Secretary Ted Lawson and safety information for canvassers. He also discussed problems with email scams and how to spot fake email addresses pretending to be the Democratic party. He presented about the Right to Repair bill that will make it easier for farmers to repair their equipment.

Committee Reports

- A. Fundraising Committee: Aaron presented that the SCDP made \$581.25 from the Pottery and Politics fundraiser on September 30. The committee will be having its next meeting on October 17 on Zoom. The new goal of the committee will be to fund an office space for the next year during the campaign year. Chad Schoch asked if we have a dollar figure goal and Aaron said \$5000 based on how much the 2022 office space cost. Ann Arwin asked if we will be requesting funding from the Slotkin campaign again and Aaron replied that we are currently planning to ask the Hertel campaign. Stephen also responded that he has contacted the MDP to ask for funding.
- B. Membership & Candidate Development and Community Outreach Committees: Ann Arwin presented that the Membership & Candidate Development Committee is pivoting from hosting Civic Caucus events to working with the Community Outreach Committee to host or attend events that are meaningful to the people we are trying to reach. Laurie

Cook explained our next outreach event which will be our food drive at the November meeting. We will be supporting the Laingsburg Methodist Church's food pantry. If you donate 5 items to the food drive, you will get a free chili dinner. Lynn Weaver asked if there is a cash donation alternative. Janet Horvath reported that the food pantries are grateful for cash donations so we will accept those as well.

- C. Communications & Technology Committee: Stephen stated that we have a merchandise section where you can purchase items on our website and said you can submit new merch ideas to him. He discussed the articles posted on our website, including his recent piece on the UAW strike. He also explained the online trainings offered by the National Democratic Training Commission. He also said there will be a training coming up in Lansing or Flint to become a national delegate.

Old Business

Stephen presented about the Durand Union Station Christmas Tree Sponsorship. He has reached out to Mary Warner Stone to ask about the cost for sponsoring a Christmas tree this year. He will present more details at the November meeting. In lieu of a December meeting, we will be hosting a holiday party on December 13 at 7 pm. We are hoping to have a potluck and games. Bailey did not have any updates for the Lookout program. She solicited any submissions from party members.

New Business

Stephen stated that Kristin Babel has resigned as co-vice chair. Paul Ray made a motion to make Laurie Cook the sole vice chair and not replace Kristin Babel. Bus Spaniola seconded the motion. Janet Horvath asked if Laurie would prefer to have a co-vice chair to split the work and Laurie responded that the executive team feels that we would prefer to encourage people to get involved with the committees rather than recruit a new co-vice chair. All ayes.

Stephen reiterated the online trainings available through the National Democratic Training Commission and the upcoming in person training on how to become a national delegate.

Stephen presented about the executive team's meeting with FORUM Consultants. Bailey stated that they have data we can use to build our party here in Shiawassee County. Aaron described their novel data collection methods that can help us find Democrats in the county we might not know. Laurie stated that they are willing to work with us on a very limited budget and based on our limited personnel resources.

Good and Welfare

Janet Horvath reminded everyone to bring their food donations to the November meeting.

Aaron Ray said there is a condolence card for the Ingham County Democratic Party on the death of Ted Lawson for everyone to sign.

Lynn Weaver stated that we need to combat the negative images of Democrats that many people have in order to grow our party by showing the good we do in our community. Paul Ray stated that there was an excellent editorial in the local newspaper about this point written by our very own county party chair.

Aaron reminded everyone to collect their pottery from the table and we will take a group photo.

Adjourn: Motion made to adjourn by Janet Horvath and seconded by Ann Arwin. All ayes. Adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Submitted by Bailey Leppert