

Wexford County Democratic Party

General Membership Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2024

- I. Call to order – 6:00, Pledge of Allegiance, Establish a quorum
- II. Introduction of new members and guests...thank you new attendees!
- III. Speaker Tiyi Shippers, board member from Oasis, described the program that Oasis follows when a client reaches out for help. She noted that October was their Purple Ribbon Campaign to help raise awareness of the issues surrounding domestic abuse here in Wexford and Missaukee County. It was incredibly eye-opening as to the depth of the issues that Oasis handles on a daily basis and the sheer number of cases they have dealt w/this year which is well over 3000. She stated that October was a very difficult month due to the “Fiscal Year” of many of their sources of income and that they actually had to reach out to donors to meet their payroll. Without going into more details, our “food bank” committee will post details on our website and FB page. Of importance this month due to the # of children in the shelter are items such as: cereal, pull-ups, diapers, personal care items, etc. Also, Thursday Oct. 17th is a candle light vigil at the Market Place in Cadillac beginning at 6:00 and then continuing at their office on Mitchell St. with an open house. They are asking that you bring a candle and donation if you are able. Their fundraising goal for this year is \$100,000 with many events in the works. **ALSO**, they are looking for board members so if you are interested, please contact them directly.
- IV. Reports and Updates
 - a. Treasurer’s Report—State Acc’t. \$3,307.59 Admin. Acc’t. \$3,194.07
 - b. Secretary’s Report – Paula reported that Chad Phillips had been helping us out in the interim until we can secure either one person to take this responsibility or to split the position with 1) a recording secretary to take minutes at our monthly meetings and 2) a “social media/marketing” secretary with tech skills. **PLEASE** reach out to us if interested or you know of someone to fit this bill.
 - c. Food Bank –Anita reported that our focus on the past 3 months has been Love, Inc. and that our collections were greatly appreciated. Our next 3 months will be focused on Oasis with a push for cereal, etc. with more involvement in the future. Tiyi said that she will post items in demand on FB. Cereal, cereal, cereal! All items can be dropped off at their office at 118 S. Mitchell St., Tele #775-7233.
 - d. Pop-ups continue to be successful. Always beginning at the Shay on Tues. at 5:30 and Friday at approx. 11:00. Paula stated that the woman/man’s health care information pop-up organized by Dr. Meg Santangelo, Dr. Susan

Betts-Barbus and Dave Maynard was a great success. Hope to have more in the future.

- e. Canvassing – Dave and volunteers (all welcomed) continue to canvass, meeting at the Shay on Tues. 5:30 and Saturday 9:00 at After 26 with coffee and then hitting the pavement. A smile and cell phone are necessary! Dave mentioned that they have encountered VERY positive responses.
- f. Phone Bank – RuthAnn said that they have depleted their call list for Wexford County and hope to do more when they receive more names. She reported that they had 2 new volunteers last session.
- g. Coffee hour—10:00 at After 26 every Friday with great conversations and info shared. Please come!
- h. Post Card Campaign—Cindy Morley had complete success and her volunteer group sent over 700 postcards and at this point had completed their project.
- i. Blue Wave Gala—Paula reported that she and Jim Hunt attended the 2nd Congressional District’s Fund Raising Gala in Mt. Pleasant to represent Wexford Co. and support the efforts by Mary Minnick and her team. They thoroughly enjoyed the presentation by Jocelyn Benson and other candidates representing the 2nd Cong. District.
- j. Slotkin Open House—This was held in Boon on September 18th with Tom Bratton, Elissa Slotkin’s Northern Michigan Campaign manager, as the featured speaker. Wonderful turnout w/Democrats and Republicans! Tom fielded some tough questions and welcomed them w/open arms.
- k. Shay Gala – Dave reported that we had a full house w/68 paid attendees (and 2 body guards) enjoying a great buffet by Steve, Billy, and their staff at The Raven Social with catered desserts by Meg Santangelo, Sue Allen, and Pj. Meyers. Dana Nessel spoke and gave a very rousing/positive speech about the “state of affairs”. A profit was realized of over \$2500 which included 8 auction items by: Sue and Bill Allen, Susan Betts-Barbus, Mary Davis, Dave Foley, Pj Meyers/Tim Birtles, Ami Peltier, David Petrakovitz, and Joyce Petrakovitz. Paula read the nominating entry for the “Service Award” of the year which was presented to Bill Allen along with a WCDP logo water bottle and a gift certificate to The Raven in honor of his incredible work and guidance over this past year. A VERY GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!
- l. Affiliated Groups—Manistee Area Women’s March for Democracy will be held Nov. 2 beginning at noon. Just a 2 hour commitment will go a long way. We will post info on our website and FB and Paula suggested that car pooling could be arranged. More info to come.

V. Action Items

- a. Cider and Donuts Social Event will be held this Sunday, Oct. 13 at Bill and Sue Allen's house at 213 Holbrook Street, Cadillac beginning at 4:00. Bring just yourself and a friend!
- b. Pints and Pub Get Together is planned for Friday Nov. 8th at The Raven Social beginning at 5:30. Tiyi made a motion to approve up to \$200 for appetizers for the event. RuthAnn seconded and the motion carried. It will be a cash bar. Dave suggested that we highlight the efforts of ALL the volunteers at this function and everyone applauded the suggestion. Christopher Crain stated that the "first round" was on him!!! After some giggles and hurrahs, he amended that to be the "first round of 'well' drinks". ☺
- c. Newspaper Ad—Ruth Ann made a motion to approve \$229 for an ad prior to the election. Pat seconded. Discussion followed as to the message along w/info on the Pints and Pub event. Pat and Bill will be in charge of the content. Motion passed.
- d. Holiday Social get together was tabled at this time. More info to come.

VI. Comments from the Floor—

We have AND will be getting more Harris/Walz signs.

Christopher Crain stated that due to a printer's error he was flooded with "post card size" campaign material. Discussion followed as to the best way to distribute his material in a timely manner short of an aerial drop! He will be at the coffee this Friday and begin the distribution "with a little help from his friends".

Paula mentioned that Dr. Paul Bizzigotti had contacted her regarding any way he could be of assistance to the "Cause". He has organized a calling bank event to be held this Friday from 5-8 at his office here in Cadillac. Pizza provided! Bring a lap top and cell phone. Script provided. Paula will post on FB to inform people of this last minute opportunity.

VII. Next regular meeting will be November 13th at the MEA office at 6:00.

VIII. Adjourned 7:45