

## WEXFORD COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

### General Membership Meeting

November 13, 2024

1. **Call to Order:** 6:10, established a quorum and Pledge of Allegiance
2. **Introduction of members:** MANY new faces welcomed!
3. **Review & approval of October minutes:** Moved for approval by Tiyi S. and seconded by RuthAnn F. Passed.
4. **Review of 2024 Election Cycle Activities:** Bill A. reported on the efforts of, not only our “Teams”, but also individuals who stepped up for the cause. The overwhelming impact was the fact that WEXFORD COUNTY was acknowledged by many candidates and their operatives as a viable source of strength for the advancement of our democratic beliefs. He compared the Manistee party and their HEALTHY coffers with our meager financial resources and rightfully believes that we held our own with regards to the impact we made and the imprint we left on our community. Our teams included:
  - \*\*Pop-ups with a total of approximately 46-48...2 in Manton and the remaining in and around Cadillac.
  - \*\*Canvassing w/Dave Maynard and teams w/approx. 400+ doors knocked on.
  - \*\*Post card mailings w/Cindy Lakin Morley/800+ handwritten mailings and postage costs covered by individuals, and Christopher Crain with 2000+ postcards on his campaign dime with volunteers from the WCDP.
  - \*\*Letters to the Editor
  - \*\*Hosting of Candidates and their representatives...
    - Hill Harper
    - Michael Lynch
    - Christopher Crain
    - Elissa Slotkin
    - Kimberly Thomas
    - Shauna Diggs
    - Dana Nessel

Along with the Boon get together w/Tom Bratton, Slotkin’s Northern Michigan campaign manager, and our many social events over the past months greatly helped move the needle here in Wexford County. The impact and the difference it made cannot be stressed enough.

## **5. Reports and Updates:**

- a. Treasurer's report: State account \$562.59 Administrative account \$6,518.13. Bill thanked Amanda Moore for her continued accounting for the WCDP.
- b. Secretary's report: Chad Phillips, our interim "media consultant" has been in charge of our Web page and assisting Bill A. with the "mail chimp" postings. A discussion ensued regarding the division of this "secretarial" position into a recording secretary for monthly meeting minutes and "media/tech" position. Chad stated that he would be willing to continue with his assistance in the tech category.
- c. Food Bank: Paula M. stated that we are collecting at monthly meetings and events, if appropriate, for the Oasis Shelter. As always, cereals, pastas, canned goods, toiletries, diapers, etc. are always requested items and can be dropped off between meetings at the Oasis office at 118 S. Mitchell St., Cadillac.
- d. Newspaper ads: Bill passed around our latest Cadillac News ad and mentioned that one of our previous ads was paid for by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District and another by a "matching grant" of \$250 by the Antrim Co. Dems to aid in our recently reorganized group. No new ads are planned at this time.
- e. Cider and Donuts Social: Bill reported that a great group imbibed on local cider and donuts at his home. A good time was had by all and discussions were flowing freely.
- f. Pub and Politics Happy Hour: Bill reported that an overwhelming turnout was unexpected and extremely appreciated. An estimated 60+ attending with appetizers purchased by WCDP and prepared by the staff at The Raven with Christopher Crain footing the bill as a "thank you" for the first round of drinks!
- g. Slotkin visit: Bill asked for a show of hands of those in attendance. It was a VERY special meet and greet organized by her campaign held at the Evergreen Resort. Very well attended and appreciated. Again, Wex. Co. Dems are on the map!
- h. Manistee Women's March: Sue reported that approximately 125+ marched from US 31 and continued through downtown to a sit down presentation of political film shorts and campaign speeches by local candidates. It was extremely supported by the locals along the route.
- i. Friday coffee hour: We will continue to meet at After 26 in Cadillac at 10:00 for coffee and conversation. ALL ARE WELCOMED!

## **6. Discussion and Action Items:**

- a. Holiday Social Get Together: After a lengthy discussion of alternative times and dates, a motion was made by Meg S. and seconded by Tiyi S. to hold the "informal" holiday social at After 26, Friday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 with After 26 supplying 2 hors d'oeuvre platters with the room charge of \$250. Motion

passed. A team was formed w/Erin Barbus and Chad Phillips in charge of the media posting and RSVP requirement. Erin, Meg, RuthAnn, Courtney, Sue and Amy to help w/the particulars. Due to an invite only and NO charge per person, attendees are allowed to bring their own beverages. However, seating is limited. Bill has graciously agreed to obtain temporary insurance which is required.

- b. Toys for Tots: The group has decided that we “missed” the deadlines this year but will revisit this worthy endeavor for next year.
- c. Oasis Adopt a Family: Paula and Tiyi reported that the need this year is extreme. The group agreed to take on the challenge of the mother and NINE children. We will get the particulars via website, FB, and mail chimp with the assistance of Erin B. and Chad P. Stay tuned☺
- d. Strategic Planning session at Dec. business meeting:
  - \*\*Extensive review of by-laws to be handled by Bill A and Tiyi S
  - \*\*Mission going forward –will revise our action plan. ALL ideas are welcomed by the membership. Please come forward with any and all ideas you may have for future community “projects” by the WCDP and others.
  - \*\*Fundraising ideas for both accounts to continue to grow, especially the State account which is solely used for future political campaigns. Again, please come to the Dec. meeting with any ideas!
- e. Appropriate \$91 for US Post Office Box AND
- f. Appropriate \$50 for the Raven Staff gratuity for the Pints & Politics Gala Both appropriations were moved by Meg S and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sue A. Passed. Bill explained that we needed the PO Box address for compliance w/the MDP by-laws AND the \$50 gratuity was an oversight in the cost of the P&P gala.
- g. WCDP Book Club: Bill suggested forming a book club simply as another way to stay connected with the group and their varied interests. It will be discussed at the Dec. meeting.

#### **7. Comments from the floor:**

\*\*Bill, along with many members, voiced their concerns over the election results. Many in attendance had family members searching for the proof of their vote with no luck as yet. Also, questions arose as to the # of new registrations and the lower voter turnout.

\*\*We all have our own coping mechanisms and a heartfelt discussion followed.

\*\*Bill also informed the group that a “County Convention” meeting would follow the adjournment and everyone was welcomed, however, you must be a “member of the Democratic Party” to be eligible to vote. He mentioned that a YEARLY RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP is a requirement in Michigan and he had placed a call to the powers

that be regarding information on dates of renewal and where the info could be found. He has yet to get a response. So, if you haven't gone online to register, please do so.

- 8. Next regular business meeting December 11, 2024 at the MEA office in Cadillac.**
- 9. Adjourn:** Paula moved and RuthAnn seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:13.