

WCDP Membership Meeting

Wednesday, August 11, 2025. 6 pm, Manawa

Present: Tracy W., Stuart W., Sandy, Tom, Diana B., Judy Christensen, Janice Christensen

ZOOM: Phil W., Dean S., Bill H.

Stu called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda was approved and minutes of the last meeting were accepted.

Tracy reported \$2,900 in the bank account. She explained that she has started to track money differently to keep track of income and expenses. The group has purchased a new button-making machine and receives reimbursements when other groups use it.

Other groups also give reimbursements when they use our postal permit. The new system will make those situations clearer.

Membership is up to 144. There has been improved reporting of membership from the State.

Tracy also reported that she had been working on using the statewide Action Network to manage the mailing list, coordination with the State, and correspondence with membership, but it was not efficient for our needs. She suggested that it might be more useful for groups with a larger membership. She has decided to stay with our current system. She has been working on cleaning up our email list, and she and Diana will be working together to update addresses.

Tracy reported that we have been forwarding emails from other groups, including the New London group and the “Do Something” group. Personal letters that people have written have also been forwarded, and they are clearly marked as the personal opinions of individuals.

Treasurer’s report was accepted.

Membership Director

Bill H reported on an issue with check to Wendy S. Tracy will check with bank and contact Wendy, then issue a new check.

Chair's Report

Stu reported on Farm Tech Days. WCDP had a presence there on Aug 5, 6 and 7. Stu said that they had basically “emptied the office,” providing tables, chairs, and a 30X30 tent. He reported that they had a lot of volunteers, including some from Shawano and others from around the state. He said there was relatively low turnout because of heat, air

quality because of fires in Canada, and competition with the Wisconsin State Fair. In addition, there was concern about the economy. Farmers are not looking for new equipment, crop prices are down, and people are taking a “wait and see” approach to buying new equipment.

Phil reported that we had done “marble voting” with visitors putting marbles in various jars to indicate top concerns. He said that the jars for Health Care and Public Schools received the most votes.

Stu also reported that they had “Good Trouble” buttons from the Do Something group available. They had the button maker on site and used it for a kids’ activity letting the kids color on pieces of paper, then making their drawings into buttons. They also used it to make name tag buttons for volunteers.

He also noted that Shawano County wants to borrow the button maker.

Stu also reported that they will also be providing a tent and other materials for the Waupaca County Fair August 21-24. At the time of the meeting, he reported that roughly half of the volunteer slots had been filled and encouraged people to sign up. He reported that Julie Hancock had recommended someone who wants to visit the booth during the fair. She also recommended involvement in the Waushara County Fair, scheduled for August 14-17 in Wautoma. Stu reported that he loaned her one of our two

sets of posters.

Stu reported that we are doing a mailing of 1,250 pieces for Shawano County. We are also doing hand-written “get out the vote” postcards for Pennsylvania.

We are putting together a fundraising letter for Waupaca County to go out this fall. We need to replenish the “war chest” to get ready for the next election.

Poll workers are needed. Nomination papers are due at the end of November. We need to find ways to recruit poll workers. Tristan recommended we look at past poll workers lists and compare them with our membership list, then reach out. Once approved poll workers’ credentials are good for two years.

Helene has prepared a spreadsheet of people who have signed nomination papers.

This list would be helpful to recruit possible poll workers and could be incorporated into our mailing list.

Stu reported that after we finish with the Waupaca County Fair, we will take the opportunity to rearrange the office as we move things back into it. Discussion proceeds about how to reorganize things.

Stu reported that people are donating food for the food pantry and empty ink cartridges and reminded people to spread awareness about that.

New Business

Judy Christensen reported that that the Do Something group is taking at least part of August off. There was much activity as members and organizers wrote letters to the editor after the appearance of a front-page article in the July 24, 2025, issue of the Waupaca County Post titled “Protest on the square” covering the Good Trouble rally on

July 17. She reported that the group is planning a general community meeting to discuss future directions of the Do Something group. The meeting is scheduled for

September 17 from 5 to 7 pm at the Waupaca Public Library.

It was reported that Menomonee County and Shawano County Democratic Party groups have merged.

There was discussion about Justin Malueg who is running as an independent for Waupaca County Sheriff. He would like to attend a WCDP meeting, either in person or on Zoom.

Chris Taylor is running for Wisconsin Supreme Court in 2026. Nomination papers are due in December. Phil suggested we try to get her to come and do a local meet-and-greet.

Stu suggested that we write letters to Senator Baldwin asking her office to send regular press releases to local newspapers, including the Waupaca County Post.

There was further discussion about possible upcoming candidates.

Next meeting date: Wednesday, September 10, Manawa

Judy C. made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm, Phil seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Christensen

Guest volunteer recorder