

Dems Sep 9 Meeting

Waupaca County Democratic Party Membership Meeting Minutes
Saturday, September 9, 2023 10 a.m. at 401 South Bridge Street, Manawa
The Zoom for the meeting was <https://zoom.us/j/92954085338>

Four members – Tom O, Dean S, Maggie T, and Tracy W – were present in the office, with an additional attendee – Phil W via Zoom. At 10:30, one more – Bill H – joined via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at about 10:10 a.m. by the presiding officer, Treasurer Tracy Walter. She led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The decision was agreed by all to proceed as best as could be done, with the question of a quorum having been raised and all confirming that official approvals can be suspended until the October meeting, if necessary. Not all presentations were followed by votes to accept.

The minutes of the August meeting were read. The only correction suggested was that the spelling of “Terri B” should have been “Terry B.” No other objections being raised, Tom O moved to accept the amended minutes, seconded by Dean S, motion carried.

Tracy W gave the treasurer’s report which was that, at the end of August, we had \$3,365 and that we are collecting more than we are spending. After the August payment, the building loan balance is ~\$2,100, and we have shortened the loan time to five years. She said there will be an email campaign to pay off the balance and, in the meantime, we are making good headway.

At the time of the membership report, it was concluded that we have 108 current members. Maggie T moved to accept the membership report, Phil W seconded, and all voted to accept the information. At 10:30, Bill H confirmed that count and said he will start to send physical letters to former members whose membership had lapsed.

Henry F did not attend the meeting. Tracy W spoke concerning the agenda “Technology” topic, saying that adjustments are being made to the website. A “Defend Justice” button has been added to the website, and a “Poll Workers Needed” button has been added to the website and the Facebook page. A question was raised about the correct spelling: Is the usage “poll workers” or “pollworkers”? [Post-meeting research shows the Wisconsin Elections Commission spells it “poll workers.”]

Per the agenda, County Fair volunteers Dean Sauers, Terry Bobbe, Dave Kropilnicki, Tom Olson, Bill Herrbold, Bob Carothers, John Weber, Connie Morton, Henry Fries, and Barb Kobs were thanked. Dean said the fair went well, adding that Connie and he talked to fire department volunteers. He said they told him that their highest expense is insurance and he suggested looking into helping to back insurance for local fire departments, including EMT staff.

Concerning “Movement Labs,” Dean S said that Wisconsin state parks rely on friends and entrance tags for funding. He asked whether state parks should be funded by the state, and Bill H said former Governor Scott Walker had wanted state parks to be private enterprises. Dean S suggested approaching Wisconsin Assembly District 40 Representative Kevin Petersen (R) in the matter.

Also concerning “Movement Labs,” attendees commented that there needed to be more members to have the discussion. Dean S suggested reaching out to friends. Tracy W said meeting reminders do help.

The agenda had the following suggested actions in upcoming months:
September - Host a candidate recruitment interest event, we need to pick a date.

October – Create a GOTV plan host a phone bank (i.e.: Defend Justice) to those supporters without emails.

November – RCN Training [There was no definition of the acronym “RCN” or what it would involve.]

December – Community Service i.e., Miracle on Bridge Street, Food Pantry drive collect toys.

Phil W said the lists need to be cleaned for a Get Out The Vote project – and that callers should leave a message if the recipient doesn’t pick up the call.

The agenda included topics:

c) Committees

Fundraiser

d) Poll workers sign up due October 31st. The term is two years.

e) Sign Trailer

f) Stuff I Forgot

It was said that the sign trailer is set up and works well – and, “We don’t know what Stu forgot.”

With regard to “New Business,” there was a brief discussion of the state Republicans who said Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Janet Protasiewicz should recuse herself from decisions regarding which she had expressed an opinion. One comment regarded former national Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia’s stand on “free speech” and suggested it be compared with how former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman had behaved. Phil W suggested that, if gerrymandering is fixed, it may make a difference in getting local candidates.

In other “New Business,” Maggie T commented that the door and windows should be redecorated. Dean S. suggested a poster be made based on the (2015) song “We Are Wisconsin Citizens” by Former Chair Phil Nolan and Dean S. Sample lyric (to the tune of Stephen Foster’s “Oh! Suzanna”): “In August 1935/ Our Congress did enact/ A pension for the elderly/ To keep their lives intact./ Oh oh people,/ Can you surely see/ That Social Security/ Protects both you and me?” [Note: This verse was not in the lyrics as supplied in a 2016 email from Phil.]

In other “New Business,” it was commented that Clif Morton had said some time ago that residents in Wisconsin Veteran’s Home at King voted 100% Republican, because Republicans go there and assist them. It was asked whether we could provide a Democratic vet who assisted with voting there. “For all we know, the assistants are marking the ballots. What assistance are they providing?”

Maggie T moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m. Tom O seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, October 14.