

Perry County Democrats Meeting Minutes
Sept. 16, 2021

Participants: Alane Balchunas, Dana Cotton, Jerry Philpot, Susan Washinger, Jacob Zentichko, Diane Bowman, Melanie Wertz.

Call to order: Meeting was held in Cooperative Extension Office.

Minutes of July 15, 2021 were not approved according to my record. We did not meet in August due to participating in the county fair.

Treasurer's Report: \$2,582.13 in the bank. Jerry made a motion to approve payment of Melanie's bill of \$69.38 for printing of materials for the fair. Alane seconded. Motion passed. Jacob still needs to tally his fair expenses to submit to the committee.

Diane Bowman: We welcomed a new member tonight. Diane recently moved to Landisburg from Dauphin County. She has been a township supervisor, has run for county commissioner, has been the chair of the Dauphin Co Committee, is chair of the PAC for Tri-county Federation of Women and has been active with the state Democratic Committee. She is also interested in becoming a committee member.

Motion to confirm Diane as a Committee member for SW Madison Township was made by Jerry and seconded by Melanie. Motion passed.

Chair Report: Jacob reported that the State will be having a meeting next month and he is planning to attend.

Old Business:

Member participation: How do we find people who are willing to run for office? We have no "bench" of people to work with. We need young blood. Could we look at getting our committee members to run? We need to start NOW! How could we best reach out to democrats in Perry County? School Boards are very toxic right now. We have to be realistic about people volunteering to run for positions where they are going to get yelled at. Dana reported that Susquehanna and West Perry school districts are doing write ins for school board members who do not want mask mandates. It has gotten very ugly! We need a focused plan for Democrats.

Street lists are available from the election office 10 cents a page. Can each person call the people in their municipality? Dana and Diana are willing to work together to sort out dems in each municipality and get them to Jacob, so he can distribute them to committee members. Hopefully, they will reach out to their township dems to get involved!

The Fair: We were in the middle of the hall this year, so we had no wall to mount the flag. Also, the Republicans were behind us in the hall and displayed one of their signs behind our table. We discussed trying to get away from them, but it was thought that the county fair committee designates table locations and they will not get involved in politics. The fair was poorly attended and our table was sparsely visited.

New Business:

October 2: The Women's March and Canal Day are both being held on Oct. 2, 2021. Jacob could use another volunteer or 2 for Canal Day, since many of the women in our committee will be attending the Women's March.

The Blue Wave parties were a success. We held the Blue Wave gatherings twice a year, in the spring and fall. Maybe next year we can get the pancake breakfast going again. We need hold a Petition signing event this spring.

What about other Fall Events such as National Night out, Heritage Days, etc.?

Volunteers for Election Day: Jacob will check with Bonnie about volunteers needs for the upcoming election.

State Representative: Elaine Doran has served as our State Committee representative for many years. Recently, she has not been active. Jacob said he contacted her about her participation and hadn't received a reply. He will check with her again. Diane is interested in serving in that position, if it becomes available.

Meeting time: we had an email request for a later starting time for meetings. So few members were present, Jacob will reach out to others for opinions on changing the meeting start time.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: October 21, 6:30.