

Minutes of Perry County Democratic Committee Meeting  
April 15, 2021

Attendees:

Jacob Zentichko	Melanie Wertz	Karen Anderson
Margueritte Colledge	Barb Hench	Emily Burt-Hedrick
Alane Balchunas (Zoom)	Evelyn D'Elia (Zoom)	Jerry Philpott (Zoom)

Meeting was held in person (for the first time in a long time) in the Perry County Courthouse, in the courtroom. Six members attended in person—it was so nice to see people in person!!—and 3 members joined the meeting on Zoom.

It is planned that future meetings will be held both in person and with a Zoom connection.

Jacob opened the meeting at 6:34PM

Jacob told us that he will get his first vaccine on Saturday (congratulations!!).

Jerry made a motion, and Alane seconded it, to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2021 meeting. All approved.

Jerry, as Treasurer, reported that the balance in our committee account is \$2491.66.

Discussion ensued about how to spend this money. Melanie mentioned that if we are to have a presence (table) at the Perry County Fair, then we will need to purchase material we can give away. Apparently the Fair Board has decided to hold the fair this year, so we will need to restock our Perry County Democratic materials to make available.

Chairman, Jacob, reported that right now all we have from the PA Democratic committee is general strategy. This includes discussion of what points that we need to emphasize right now, such as the American Rescue Plan, passed by only Democratic votes. If an infrastructure deal is reached and passed, we will need again to emphasize that accomplishment.

In terms of Voter Suppression, we will need to do more voter registration.

Jacob has been reviewing the outcomes of the State Senate meetings on “Election Integrity”. These have been recorded and are on a website.

Karen mentioned that she had brought up, at a recent Commissioner meeting, the issue of “election integrity”. The Commissioners stated that they had not been consulted to give input to the State Senate Committee. But rather, the county Election head, Bonnie, had given input.

SECA (the organization of County government), has stated that 100% of PA counties has given positive feedback on the question of mail-in ballots.

Jacob talked about coordination of efforts to defeat/replace Fred Keller as 12<sup>th</sup> District representative in Federal Congress. There is a Facebook group that is meeting bi-weekly. This is a group of Democratic committee members from all counties in the 12<sup>th</sup> district. Currently they are gathering lists of local publications in order to do Letters to the Editor. Jacob would like someone besides himself to be the Perry Cty representative on this FB group for the meetings. Right now there is no named FB group; it is coordinated by email. They meet every other Saturday. Karen Anderson expressed some interest in representing Perry County, but needs more information. Jacob will put all the information about the 12<sup>th</sup> District Democrats in to an email and send to all, asking for volunteers.

### Old Business

Jacob discussed a potential Campaign Finance Reform Amendment to the Federal Constitution. If such an amendment were passed and added to the Constitution, then Congress would have the right to limit campaign spending. This is, of course, an effort that arose from the Citizens United Supreme Court ruling. Passing and adopting such an amendment would only be the first step in controlling campaign spending. If the amendment were adopted, then Congress would have to pass a law limiting spending.

Jacob proposed that at the next meeting, the Committee will vote on an endorsement of the proposed Campaign Finance Reform amendment. Jacob will send out the proposed language for all to read before the next meeting.

The call for Poll workers for the May 18 primary was cited on the “Perry County Democrats” Facebook community page page.

## New Business

Jacob asked that if anyone wishes the Perry County Democratic Committee to coordinate with regional groups, then please let us know. The group should have a specific agenda, so that we can stay focused.

Canal Day in Newport is to be the first Saturday in October, 2021. It costs \$25 to have a table, from which we can hand out Democratic materials. Jacob will send in an application for us to have a table.

Perry County Fair, this summer, will be held. Melanie got a lot of supplies from Mark, such as displays and flags, but not the kind of materials that we would give as handouts at the Fair or at Canal Day. We do not have any pins or bags or such.

Jacob will contact the judicial candidates that we are working with, to see if they have any handouts we could give out.

We discussed the PA Constitutional Amendments, which will be voted on during the Primary on May 18. These include amendments to limit the Emergency authority of the governor. The "Perry County Democrats" Facebook community page has a guide on voting on these Amendments.

Also the League of Women Voters (LWV), at <[Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org)>, has detailed information about these amendments. Go to that website, then "My Races", to find the information.

Melanie got a call from George Scott recently. He wishes to make a donation to our Committee, but he could not figure out how to donate. Right now the only way to donate is through Act Blue. Melanie asked Jacob to include on the "Perry County Democrats" community Facebook page the mailing address of our Committee post office box, so that anyone who wishes to donate via check, can send a check that way.

The committee discussed a concern that there are two political flags on display at houses, in New Bloomfield, that say "F\*CK BIDEN". One is next to the elementary school, and one is next to the house where Steve and Cindy Naylor's grandchildren are babysat. Steve went, in military uniform, to knock on the door

of the people who displayed the one next to the babysitter. He explained his concerns that such language should be visible where children can see it. The woman who answered the door said that she will talk to her husband. Cindy Naylor has contacted the Mayor and Borough Council about this. Apparently there is a Borough ordinance that prohibits "obscenities" in signs. However, attorneys from the State organization of municipal councils have advised New Bloomfield not to pursue this, because of free speech rights.

Karen expressed the opinion that this is an issue that belongs to New Bloomfield. The people of New Bloomfield should object, including sending a letter to the editor of the PeCo Times about it. It was also noted that such signs are on display prominently in Shermansdale, along Rt. 34, very close to the Perry County Day Care Center.

The next meeting will be May 20, 2021. This meeting will again be in person and on Zoom. The physical location and time will be provided via Email.

The meeting was adjourned, by consensus, at 7:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Emily Burt-Hedrick