\*Corrections made 9/12

President Hickman called the meeting to attendance at 7:01, preceded by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Housekeeping**

* Copies of the agenda were shared with the group – note the agenda can be found following the meeting minutes.
* Welcome Guests – Becky Edwards
* Corrections to July Minutes –

1. Website will be **tentatively** completed on August 14
2. August 3event has been canceled.
3. ~~Katelyn~~ Terry Chapin and Sandy Cox (unknown last name) will be at Senior Fair on September 14
4. Senior Fair on September 21 was not included in the original July minutes – Cristi Shaefer and Julie Stutterheiml are to attend.

* Old Business – July meeting minutes were approved and passed.
* Collection of Dues – Helen Weigman collected dues from members and issued receipts.

**Discussions**

1. **Topic: Voter Registration**

* Voter registration forms have been difficult to acquire.
* Sonjia Wilson called the Secretary of State’s office and learned of a pending court case.
* Lawsuit is in process, which is preventing new voter registration from occurring under a voter solicitation order (HB 1878).
* Workarounds and thoughts from the group 🡪
  + Cannot sign up anyone on the spot.
  + If you give them information, this could cause confusion for the potential voters and hurt our credibility.
  + President Melissa Hickman recommended tabling the events until we get more clarification to mitigate risk to voters. There seemed to be modest support for this recommendation. Risks include a $2500 fine.
  + Vice President Mary Dunn recommended we hand out information on how voters can register online without political party affiliation – merely providing information on how and when to register. Most of the group seemed to prefer this approach, leading to another conversation about materials.
* Materials for voter registration booths need to be created and finalized. Hickman is working on the official logo with the site creator. This is to be reviewed and approved by Julie Wilson and Kristi Shaefer. President Hickman is to send out the logo by August 15.
  + Printing out materials (note of who we are, the website, voting cards – how-to material, where/when). This should be complete by our first event on 9/14.
* Julie Stutterheim brought up a good point – “how-to materials” are largely available online; we just need to print the materials.

1. **Topic: Mission Statement**

* President Hickman handed out paper copies of three iterations of mission statements submitted to the group. Individually, each member reviewed and highlighted keywords that stood out to us. As a group, we discussed what those words were and why they were impactful/important to our mission statement.
* Those words included grassroots, political awareness, active support, acceptance, equality, and education.
* From the group discussion, we white boarded the mission statement making many changes but landed on the following: **DWC is a grassroots organization that actively supports political awareness by promoting acceptance and equality through education.**
* Katelyn Chapin made the motion to approve – Sonjia seconded the motion – all voted in favor, none opposed.

1. **Topic: What’s Next**

* President Melissa Hickman reflected on the accomplishments of the organization in such a short time.
* Action Items:
* Think about where do we go from here?
* What are the types of things you’d like to see this org participate in, and in what degree?
* President Hickman’s ideas – sees this org moving beyond political issues – issues in our community with food, folks that need help, the path to equality for all is that all voices are listened to, and individuals act.
* How can we better the Weston community?
  + Lindsey Hallgenbach and Marie Stutterheim have programmatic ideas – brainstormed at least ten different ideas that they are excited to put into action.
* Fall Opportunities:
  + Keith Stutterheim will be driving a truck in AppleFest
    - Are there any of us who want to participate in handing out information?
  + Melissa will continue to keep the group apprised of any opportunities for participation.
* Self-promotion:
  + Newspaper articles/ads, Instagram, Facebook, e-letters – think about these items as our organization matures.

1. **Closing Out:**

* Robust discussion around the goal of unopposed Republican candidates – this is a lofty goal for us at this time – we are still a very young organization and need to focus on what we can do at a local level however, this can be something we aspire to as we gain our footing.
* Marie Stutterheim hinted at someone in our group running, and Andrea Denning announced she was running to represent District 13.
* Main Takeaway – prepare supplies for two tabling events at the senior citizen (9/14 and 9/21).
* We have over 50 interested people who have signed up – let’s try to reengage them.
* Motion made to adjourn at 8:12 pm

**Democratic Women’s Organization 08/08/2023 at 7:00 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

1. **Welcome and Opening of the Meeting**

Welcome and introduction any visitors or guests.

(Anyone who is interested in attending our meetings or anyone needing to update their information please leave contact information ( email and phone number) on the pad provided by the door.)

1. **Old Business**

Minutes of the last meeting 07/11/2023 - Katelyn Chapin

**Title of Organization**

*Democratic Women’s Coalition for Northern Platte County will be commonly referred to as DWC email-* [*dwc4npc@gmail.com*](mailto:dwc4npc@gmail.com) *and website is in process.*

**Voter Registration - Update**

August 3rd Platte County Back to School Fair at the Health Department cancelled September 14 Senior Health Fair Platte City YMCA September 21 Senior Health Fair Riverside Community Center

**New Business**

1. **Mission Statement** *See examples*
2. **Dues** $20.00 given to Helen Weigman
3. **Elected Officers**

**President** Melissa Hickman

**First Vice President** Mary Dunn *Back up to President/ Head of Membership*

**Secretary** June Kisker/ Katelyn Chapin *June weekly minutes/ Katelyn media specialist*

**Treasurer**  Helen Weigman *Financial Responsibilities of the Organization*

**Chairperson/**P**rograms** Lyndsey Halbgewach Marie Stutterheim

**Chairperson**/**Fundraising TBA**

1. **Upcoming Projects** Support of Candidates at local Fall Festivals

09/16 Parkville Fall Festival and 10/7 Applefest

Ashley Aune, Jamie Johnson, Andrea Denning,

1. **Announcements/Closing** Next meeting August September 12 Lead by Mary Dunn