**Meeting Minutes: Democratic Women’s Coalition for Northern Platte County (DWC) 09/12/2023 7:00 p.m.**

Email: dwc4npc@gmail.com and Website: <https://dwc4npc.org>

**Mission Statement:** *DWC is a grassroots organization that supports political awareness by promoting acceptance and equality through education.*

**AGENDA**

* Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance: Mary Dunn started the meeting promptly at 7:00 pm
* Introduction of visitors and guests: Eva Baker from De Soto, KS was welcomed; sign-in sheet was passed through the group
* Correspondence from Melissa Hickman, President:
	+ Melissa Hickman’s reading was presented by Mary Dunn and points included were:
		- DWC is a quickly developing org, and we are growing which shows interest + need
		- There are legal/financial responsibilities and we’ve only been meeting once a month for six months
		- We’ve accomplished a lot in those six months, included setting a location/time/date; agenda, statement, dues, etc. candidate has been secured, we’re participating in local activities and networking
		- We’ve procured branded swags and have developed a website
		- Pending - EIN, legal items

**Minutes** of 08/08/2023 Action - edits brought forth by Marie Stutterheim; Katelyn Chapin updated August meeting minutes; motion was made to accept by Mary Dunn.

**Treasurer’s Report:** (Reminder that dues are $20.00 and given to Helen Weigman)

* Helen Weigman shared that checks are being held and still pending cashing - we don’t yet have an active EIN

**Old Business:**

**Voter Registration Update and Report:** Sonjia Wilson

**September 14 Senior Health Fair Platte City YMCA**—Terry Chapin & Sandy Cox

* A donation of a plant is needed for a door prize. Reiterated that we just give information and we are NOT registering to vote
	+ If we register more than ten people in Jeff City, they have to be registered as a voter solicitor
* We are set for the Senior Fair this Thursday, 9/14 - Sandy Cox and Terry Chapin to show up a quarter till 8 at the gym in PC (8:30 - 11:30 - flu shots, blood pressure, etc.; there is a plant to present
	+ Gifts have to be less than a $25 value
* Should the door prizes should come out of the Treasury? Mary Dunn agreed to take care of one plant; the other door prize is pending

**September 21 Senior Health Fair Riverside Community Center**—Christy Shafer & Julie ~~Stutterheim~~ - will need to confirm with both; 8:30 to 11:30

**Items for the table:** Signage for our organization (Terry Chapin is working to create signage with Goin Postal in Platte City, MO)

* Melissa will provide the following:

□ DWC pens

□ DWC business cards

□ Bowl of Candy

□ Flyer on how to register to vote and what is needed to vote

□ Information on the latest bills past in the Missouri House and Senate

□ Signup sheet to join our organization

No other suggested items were mentioned by the group.

**Website -** WDC4npc.org—-Katelyn Chapin

* This will be a great way to find all agendas, minutes, events, etc.
* The website is live
* Suggestions were made to create a Facebook account - this is a great idea, and Katelyn Chapin would manage but made the comment that this would likely come at a later date.

**New Business**

**Report from members on any political events/activities**

Help with the **Applefest Float** (October 7th) and Signup for Walkers—Marie Stutterheim

Please sign up to be a walker, hand out candy and promote our candidates.

* Marie Stutterheim stated that no one is riding on the truck, and all are walkers, including Andrea Denning
* Children, grandchildren, and family members are all welcome
* Marie Stutterheim posed a question to the group asking whether men were allowed to walk with DWC volunteers and none opposed

**Lucas Kunce** is running for Senate against Josh Hawley

* Mary Dunn went to the St. Joseph rally and shared some of Kunce’s talking points with the group
	+ Kunce read Hawley’s book; the group agreed this was a strategic move on Kunce’s part
	+ Mary Dunn summed up Kunce’s main point by paraphrasing that “he [Kunce] represents the people and [Josh] Hawley rules the people.” Kunce repeated that many times
	+ About 60 people attended
	+ Mary Dunn stated that he [Kunce] really wants it
* Could the DWC invite /sponsor him?
	+ The group conversed and agreed that constituents do appreciate a meet and greet and that these smaller events are a good place to donate
	+ There was a suggestion made to combine groups to get a bigger audience (Southern Platte County + Northern Platte County + groups from Buchanan county)
	+ The conversation ended when one member pointed out that Kunce is likely booked solid and we, including Andrea Denning, don’t have an in to schedule him at this point keeping in mind we are a very new organization.

**Vote Forward-** - June Kisker (not in attendance)  - check out Vote Forward - does not tell you who to vote for but just to vote

* From Vote Forward’s website - “Volunteers send heartfelt handwritten letters to unregistered and low-propensity voters encouraging them to participate in our democracy.”
* Mary Dunn shared her positive experience with this organization.

\* **Aldridge Farm**—September 16, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. 10455 N Highway, Platte City, MO

* Meet elected officials and candidates
* Melissa Hickman & Andrea Denning will be there to speak
* Lucas Kunce is not attending

**Program:** Marie Stutterheim (re)introduces Andrea Denning who is a candidate for our District 13:

Andrea Denning presented in front of the group and noted that agenda needs to be worked on a bit, but some of the issues she wishes to address are school issues, women's healthcare, and that she needs to hear from the constituents

A DWC member asked her to elaborate on school issues and Andrea elaborated that she was concerned with funding - public school districts are having funding stripped away by charter schools and that all books should be accessible. Andrea also said that teachers needed higher education to benefit children so that they are experts in the field in which they are teaching.

Andrea then asked what was most important to us [DWC Members]. Some of issues included:

* Social Issues:
	+ Accessibility in healthcare
	+ Livable minimum wage
	+ Sex education
	+ Climate change
* Voting Issues:
	+ Redistricting/gerrymandering
		- The way the district is being split up
	+ Republicans making voter registration more difficult
		- One member stated “Republicans are working to take away the the right to count votes by population and not per county”
		- Republicans are working to take away the right to count votes by a simple majority. \*
	+ Local Issues
	+ One member stated that “Missouri is focused on things that are none of the business”
	+ There is a need to focus roads, schools, water systems, and stay out of the “cultural politics”
	+ The local government should have few goals (small government) and take care of the local people
	+ There was a lengthy discussion on water reports lead by Marie Stutterheim
		- When her family first moved to Weston there transparency w/ road, water, etc. and this [2023] was the first year the water reports did not go out. Marie Stutterheim stated that “you have to go down to the city to pick up the water report”
	+ Transparency is always an important issue especially in small communities
	+ There was talk of “forever chemicals” that end up in our water supply that we are not privy to if we don’t have easy access to the water reports.
	+ Transparency is important

Marie Stutterhiem and Andrea Denning said the strategy of Andrea’s campaign is to do “a soft-launch and be a listening ear to small communities.”

Mary closed out to brainstorm committees:

1. Program - Events Coordinator >
2. Young people's civic awareness
3. Candidate recruitment and support
4. Voter registration
5. Membership
6. Community Outreach
7. Membership and networking
8. Ways and means (fundraising)
	1. Comments from the group included “Let’s not just raise money; we need to designate funds by projects with focus”
	2. We need to have an operating and programmatic budget

Action Items for the next meeting to the group - bring committee ideas and brainstorm for the next meeting

Marie Stutterheim stated, “We do not want to focus on fundraising events - our support is action” (i.e. walking in the parade, making calls, etc.)

**Note:** If you are new, please fill out contact information on the sign-in sheet, including email, and list your current cell phone number to receive text reminders about the monthly meeting.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, October 10, 2023. Please be prepared to share thoughts on potential Candidates for any regional or local offices.

Motion to adjourn - 8:06 pm

Attendees who signed in:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Mary Dunn
* Helen Weigman
* Mary Esther
* Terry Chapin
* Katelyn Chapin
* Sonjia Wilson
* Eva Baker (guest)
* Sandra Cox
 | * Andrea Denning
* Trista Davies
* Kate Parsons
* Sandra Taylor
* Ciara Blakely
* Marie Stutterheim
* Beckie Edwards
 |

\*SCS/SJR 31 - Under current law, initiative petitions proposing constitutional amendments must be signed by 8% of the legal voters in each of two-thirds of the congressional districts. This constitutional amendment, if approved by the voters, requires such petitions to be signed by 15% of the legal voters in each of the congressional districts. Only persons who are registered to vote in Missouri and are citizens of the United States are permitted to sign an initiative petition.

This provision is similar to provisions in SJR 37 (2022), SJR 2(2021), HCS/HJR 65 (2022), HJR 68 (2022), HJR 71 (2022), HJR 76 (2022), SCS/HCS/HJR 79 (2022), HCS/HJR 85 (2022), HCS/HJR 88 (2022), HCS/HJR 91 (2022), HJR 102 (2022), and SJR 31 (2020).

Current law additionally provides that initiative petitions proposing constitutional amendments shall take effect when approved by a simple majority of the votes cast thereon prior to taking effect. This constitutional amendment requires such initiatives to be approved by at least two-thirds of the votes cast thereon.”

This article in the MO Independent gives a better explanation. <https://missouriindependent.com/2023/04/19/missouris-initiative-petition-process-is-at-risk/>