

SLAD Minutes

February 15, 2022; 7:00 pm

- **Call to Order / Welcome** – Casey Copp at 7:02 pm – welcomed everyone. Asked for new introductions. Scott Hanton – introduced himself and said they are new to the area.
 - **Speaker** – Karen MacDonald.
 - First time here since the election. She announced that we now have a fully functioning conviction integrity units. No previous prosecutor had done this. Giving prosecutors a lot more discretion to do what they think is right, not just going for the largest sentence.
 - She stated the oxford shooting has become the hardest thing while in office. They are doing the best they can under difficult – we are confident that we can get a conviction – there is precedence of a case for a foreseeable to harm others.
 - She said she wasn't trying to change policy or law, really just thought it was egregious in learning more and more about the case and the negligence to allow him to have the gun. There were a lot of cries for help that were ignored. The nation overwhelmingly agrees we should try to convict.
 - Tia Marie's asked some questions about the case – Karen believes that what she has observed in the schools and her experience in the schools that most are not prepared – needs to be a state wide protocol. The night locks really saved lives in Oxford – devices that get wedged through the
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door. Everyone did what they were trained to do but still 4 kids died. Thinks a lot of the schools aren't doing what they need to. The school officials were taught to treat this as a mental health issue – the processes we have don't take sociopathic behavior into account. If nothing else, we need a statewide recommended approach.

- Linda Gruber – said we are really very proud of Karen and how she handled this. She asked if Karen thinks the gun lawsuit for Sandy Hook changed anything. Karen said she thinks we have a better shot when we try people and hold them accountable and people being sued is even more effective than laws. Surprised by the national conversation on this – for the most part, people on both sides of the gun debate are finding this reasonable.
 - Karen said she'd like to be invited back and won't forget who got her elected.

 - **Billboard** – Val Whalen discussed our billboard efforts. There are some legal issues we are working on to make sure this is plausible. Needs to have a group to know what we want it to say. Linda would like to join a committee for this.

 - **Endorsements** – Shawn Perttunen and Allison Rausch met about the questionnaire and sent it to Elissa Slotkin's campaign.

 - **Youth Activist Scholarship** – Lisa Purvis stated that the application is active and is due April 30 – up on the website. Asked group members to share the information.
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- **Adopt-a-Highway** – Lisa Purvis
 - May 1 -Sunday in the afternoon
 - October 1 – Saturday morning

 - **Break Out Planning Groups** – We broke into groups to outline 2022 priorities – each group discussed the following
 - Think about what we want to be and do
 - Improve membership / Meeting attendance
 - How we want to be seen in the community
 - Billboards / Endorsements / Donations / fundraising
 - Where we should be focusing our energy
 - These ideas and discussions will be captured in another document.

 - **SLAD Executive Board** – Casey stated that we will open nominations for executive board in March / April elections.

 - **Treasurer Report** – Val Whalen gave a quick update on finances

 - **T-Shirts** – Lisa Dilg – the t-shirts have been ordered and will be delivered soon.

 - **Upcoming Speakers** – Val Whalen
 - March: Elissa Slotkin
 - March meeting in person – at the senior center at the high school.
 - We will be doing new member registration and payments.
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- **Senior Caucus** - Linda Gruber gave us an update on the caucus activities. She said that she joined to actively help with voter suppression. She said the members are very active and that she wants to find ways they can work together with SLAD.

 - **Member announcements / comments –**
 - Sheldon Beck introduced himself – he lives in Wixom, learned about us through Danielle Anderson and he is on our FB page. He is very interested in getting active.
 - Jon Cherney thanked SLAD for the flowers we sent to him

 - Casey Copp adjourned the meeting at 8:17 pm.
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