

Present (please check)				<u>Wexford County Democratic Party Meeting</u>  <b>Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025</b> <b>5:30pm</b>  <b>Forward Together</b>	Page # 1 of 6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bill A.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paula M.		
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Guests:  Ryan Grinnell, MEA 15-B Uniserve Director					
Agenda Item				Discussion/Decisions	Action/Responsible Party
<b>Call to Order</b>				Establish Quorum Pledge of Allegiance	<b>Chair</b> established that a quorum was present, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and led the party in the Pledge of Allegiance.
<b>Introductions</b>				Welcome to many new and returning Democratic Party members, friends and supporters!	
<b>Review and Approval of November Minutes</b>				February meeting minutes reviewed.	Upon motion duly made and seconded, the party unanimously accepted the February minutes as presented.
<b>Reports from Officers</b>				<u>Chair, Bill Allen:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Michigan Democratic Party Convention update</li> <li>Encouraged convention attendance and discussed registration requirements for attendance.</li> </ul> <u>Vice Chair, Paula Meyers:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of the WCDP increasing visibility through service strategic goal, PJ has volunteer applications for The Salvation Army.</li> <li>Encouraged action – do what you can!</li> </ul> <u>Treasurer Amanda Moore:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All reporting is up to date</li> <li>Administrative Fund (organizational costs): \$6,110.21</li> <li>State Fund (candidate support): \$662.59</li> </ul> <u>Secretary, Erin Barbus:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All resources and contacts discussed at each meeting will be linked in meeting minutes, archived on the website.</li> </ul>	Information sharing.

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<b>Program: Ryan Grinnell, MEA 15-B Uniserve Director</b>				<p>Ryan provided an overview on the structure, function and supports provided by the Michigan Education Association (MEA) union.</p> <p>Regionally, Ryan supports 13 school districts, 26 bargaining units (roughly 1,000 members), negotiating 10-12 contracts per year in addition to organizing.</p> <p>Ryan clarified that MEA's membership is roughly 50% Republican/ 50% Democrat. The MEA itself is not a partisan political group, rather maintains a focus as pro teacher and pro public education.</p> <p>Brief Q&amp;A session and group discussion followed presentation.</p>	Information sharing.
<b>Committee Reports</b>				<p><u>County Committee</u> (Chair Mark Yonkman):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No updates this meeting</li> </ul> <p><u>Candidate Recruitment Committee</u> (Chair Chris Crain)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reminder that the new election cycle began Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024.</li> <li>Focus of committee is to recruit, support and train local Democratic candidates.</li> <li>Interested in participating on the committee? Running for office or seeking appointment positions? Contact <b>Chris!</b></li> </ul> <p><u>Communications</u> (Chair Janet Neyer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facebook Page (public): <a href="#">Wexford Dems</a></li> <li>Facebook Group (private): <a href="#">Wexford Dems</a></li> <li>Website: <a href="https://www.wexforddems.org">https://www.wexforddems.org</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shout out to <b>Will McConnell</b>/Bit Social Media</li> <li>Worked on transitioning the WCDP site from Jackpine as an in-kind donation; also donated payment of the hosting fee.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Have a passion for/skills around social media and graphic design? Contact <b>Janet!</b></li> <li>Encourages joy and hope as active resistance.</li> </ul>	<p>Contact Chris Crain:  <a href="mailto:chrisformi101@gmail.com">chrisformi101@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Contact Janet Neyer:  <a href="mailto:j.neyer19@gmail.com">j.neyer19@gmail.com</a></p>

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<b>Agenda Item</b>		<b>Discussion/Decisions</b>	<b>Action/Responsible Party</b>
		<p><u>Social and Community Development</u> (Chair Meg Santangelo)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 20<sup>th</sup> 6pm: Film and Fellowship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Screening <i>I am Greta</i>.</li> <li>○ Venue: Santangelo Home (<a href="#">207 Petrie Road, Cadillac</a>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• April 27<sup>th</sup>: Earth Day Event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Partnering with the Cadillac Earth Day Event Group</li> <li>○ Set up at 12, event 1-3pm, tear down 3-3:30</li> </ul> </li> <li>• May: Cadillac City Parks Clean Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Partnering with the City; date is TBD (usually a Saturday mid-month).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Every Friday: Coffee Hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">After 26 Depot</a></li> <li>○ 10am</li> <li>○ All are welcome for fellowship and discussion</li> </ul> </li> <li>• WCDP T-Shirts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Research on pricing shared</li> <li>○ Group discussion; decision to use Kel Graphics</li> <li>○ Meg will order 100 T-shirts to start; will be available for purchase on website.</li> <li>○ Wear the shirts when at community service events, in parades – be visible Dems!</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussed possible swag button on website to sell T-shirts, WCDP tumblers. Suggestion shared to consider using local coffee roaster to develop a WCDP blend to sell.</li> <li>• Interested in being a part of planning social and community development events? Contact <b>Meg</b>.</li> </ul> <p><u>Ad Hoc – Fundraiser Dinner</u> (Bill Allen)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Save the Date! The Ephraim Shay Gala Fundraiser will be Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 5:30-9:00pm at Evergreen Resort.</li> <li>• Tickets and sponsorships available for purchase on website soon.</li> </ul>	Contact Meg Santangelo: <a href="mailto:Megsantangelo5@gmail.com">Megsantangelo5@gmail.com</a>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Live auction will focus on items that are service and experience oriented. If you have something you would like to donate for auction, contact <b>Erin</b>.</li> </ul>	Contact Erin Barbus: <a href="mailto:ebarbus@hotmail.com">ebarbus@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Action Items*</b>				Chair requested \$250 to support WCDDP delegate attendance at the <a href="#">Michigan Democratic Party Rural Caucus Summit</a> April 10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> .  Chair requested \$430.95 to make final payment to former website designer/domain host Jackpine following transition to Bit Social.	Upon motion duly made and seconded, the party unanimously approved the \$250 funding request to support WCDDP delegate attendance at the MDPRC Summit.  Upon motion duly made and seconded, the party unanimously approved the \$430.95 funding request to make final payment to former website designer/domain host Jackpine.
<b>Discussion and New Business</b>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget process for committees               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion around setting specific committee budgets versus requesting as needed.</li> <li>Consensus to request as needed.</li> </ul> </li> <li><u>Contest Every Race (CER)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion around keeping Evergreen grant structure or apply for a separate grant with more requirements/reporting.</li> <li>Board Chair plans to continue Evergreen contract.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Opportunities for Action               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>March 15<sup>th</sup> – Post Card Campaign.</b> Flood the White House and the offices of our elected officials expressing our opposition to Trump and his administration.                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Write a post card or write a dozen!</li> <li>President Donald J. Trump The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20500</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ John Moolenaar U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515</li> <li>▪ Senator Gary Peters 724 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510 (202) 224-6221</li> <li>▪ Senator Elissa Slotkin 825B Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510 (202) 224-4822</li> <li>○ <b>Download</b> the <a href="#">5 Calls App</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Make calls each day on a variety of issues. Phone numbers and scripts provided in the app.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Subscribe and/or donate</b> to the <a href="#">Chop Wood, Carry Water</a> Newsletter           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Offers substantive action you can take each day including scripts and contact information.</li> <li>▪ Shares good news every week.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Attend</b> the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District Committee monthly meeting on Saturday, March 15 at 10am.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Register via <a href="#">Zoom</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Attend</b> the Telephone Town Hall with Elissa Slotkin March 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Register <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>																																																																
<b>For the Good of the Cause</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns shared around recent 50501 rally event in Lansing that was reported to have focused on identity politics. Reflects that this messaging led to the loss of voters in the 2024 election. Calls for the Democratic Party to reconnect with its base union and "middle of the road" folks. Responses that people impacted by identity politics must have a voice and need to feel safe and included in the Democratic Party. Consensus around the idea of taking back our identity as Democrats, as patriots</li> </ul>	Information sharing.																																																															

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				– “get our seat back at the kitchen table” related to issues. • Chris invited interested members to attend the March 15 <sup>th</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Congressional District meeting in Remus at 10am. Contact Chris if interested; a Zoom link will also be distributed by email.	
<b>Adjourn</b>				7:23 p.m.	
<b>Next Meeting</b>				<b>Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 5:30 pm</b> <b>MEA Office</b>	

Notes Provided by: Erin Barbus

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