

Washington County Democratic Women

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

1. Call to Order –Gracie Ziegler, President
2. Pledge of Allegiance -
3. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2018; all approved
4. Officers' Reports:
 - a) PRESIDENT: Gracie Zigler: Tonight's meeting is sponsored by Eventfully Yours and Cindy Barson. Thank you!
There are 105 days until the November elections. This is the most important election of our lives. So we need to be volunteering to help the candidates and then we need to help get people to the polls to vote.
 - b) TREASURE: Glenda Patterson:

Beginning Balance:		\$5102.79
Credits:	Memberships	+240.00
	<u>T-Shirt Sales</u>	<u>+560.00</u>
	Credits Total:	+800.00
Debits:	B-Unlimited 50 T-Shirts	-716.67
	Speaker Meals	-32.00
	<u>Mermaid's Activity Fee</u>	<u>-150.00</u>
	Debits Total:	-898.67
	Ending Balance:	\$5004.12
Outstanding Checks		
	AFDW	-114.00
	Democratic Party (Congressional Assistance)	<u>-250.00</u>
	Tentative Balance:	\$4640.12
 - c) MEMBERSHIP: Beth Coger: Before tonight's meeting, we had a record 151 members!! As a reminder, our dues go to help candidates and our programs are always free. Good job, Ladies!
 - d) PROGRAMMING: Peggy Chenault
 1. August 28: We are having the 5 county candidates so you get to know what they plan for the county and how they stand on the issues and get to know them personally. And get your yard signs!
 2. September 25: Dr. Lisa Corrigan will be bringing us up-to-date on the status of reproductive rights in America and Arkansas.
 3. October 23: We are going to have an old-fashioned get out the vote pep rally. Nicole Clowney will lead us in a fun-filled evening.
5. Recognition of Elected Officials and Candidates: Lou Reed Sharp House of Representatives District 80. Denise Garner House of Representatives District 84. Megan Godfrey House of Representatives District 89. Andrea Jenkins JP District 10. Jim Wallace, Senate District 5. Emily Sledge County Clerk. Zane Chenault County Treasurer. Gary Morris House of Representatives District 97. Kati McFarland House of Representatives District 90, Coy Bartlett JP District 7 Nicole Clowney, State Representative District 89. Teresa Turk, Fayetteville City Council in Ward 4. Sue Madison, JP District 12.
6. We encourage you to fill out the "Hear-Me-Vote" postcards on the tables to commend good governmental work and encourage improvement. We will mail them for you, just leave them on the tables. Especially if you want to have your opinion on affordable housing in Fayetteville. This is a hot topic in our city now.
7. **PROGRAM**: Joyce Kennedy introduced her life-long friend, Max Brantley, the liberal voice of Arkansas media.
Max Brantley began by saying how much he loves Fayetteville, and what a special place it is to him, and how he has always enjoyed this town. He is particularly happy to speak with Democratic women. He has written about politics in Arkansas for 45 years, and he says he knows less today than he ever did, and he is less certain about the landscape that lies before us. He can speak to specific races where individual Democrats hope to make some gains on the ballot, but he is a pessimist by nature; he expects the worst and is rarely disappointed. He would like to predict a blue wave, but he would settle for a blue ripple in Arkansas. In the past there have been strong candidates who despite good organizations, money and good ideas couldn't get over the top with the Republicans who have not much to recommend them except the "R" after their names. He is encouraged by the response to the Trump victory being manifest in large turnouts for marches and groups like the WCDW. But he warns us not to be caught in an echo chamber - not everyone thinks like we do. And the Legislature doesn't look like us. The Republicans got where they are today, in a large part, on Southern strategy: racial division and the three G's (God, guns and gays). Which brings him back to his warning on moderation. Common Sense gun laws is an issue that motivates

voters on both sides, and the gun lobby has deep pockets. State spending is the single most important issue facing Arkansans today. Asa is canny political operator; he is not a moderate, but he gives the impression of being one. He is slowly strangling the state budget. For the last three years the legislature has shorted the state in every single way. They have appropriated less for public education than the legislature said was necessary for sufficient funding. Gov. Hutchinson just fired his Probation and Parole Director because she wanted to hire more probation and parole officers as part of a criminal justice reform effort. Asa doesn't want to spend the money because he wants to cut taxes more. So he is cutting every facet of state government so that he can have another tax cut for the wealthy. Higher education is also being shorted.

Other issues that might play well on the campaign trail are ethics in government. We have had 5 state legislators plead guilty or be convicted of public corruption. We could talk about open government and televising or webcasting all government meetings. We could talk about campaign financing and knowing the source of the contributions. The environment should be an obvious issue. Arkansas is made up of hunters and fishers, but we are the only state that has not complied with the Clean Water Law, and for 40 years it hasn't been an issue. Criminal justice reform is a hard issue to broach. Longer prison sentences are not cheap, but restorative, rehabilitative criminal justice is not cheap either. Which brings up another issue: the voters clearly want medical marijuana, but two years after the election the state is still bobbling around with distribution - someone should be held accountable. Finally potential voter issues that are worth considering this year are the ballot issues. Issue I is an abomination. Nursing home care in Texas has been ruined by similar initiatives, because they know that can't be sued. And worse it puts the courts under the rule of the legislature. Then there is voter suppression and voter registration which is probably the reason why Donald Trump won in 2016. In Milwaukee alone tens of thousands of poor black folks were denied the vote because they didn't have id. The minimum wage increase from \$8.50 to \$11.00 over 3 years should be a winning issue, but we will see. Then there is the term-limits issue which has pros and cons on both sides. And finally there is the casino gambling issue which has big backing. Mr. Brantley concluded that he doesn't feel that a candidate can win on the issue of guns alone, but he doesn't know where the candidates should turn to find winning issues. Even on abortion the state is polling about even for pros and cons. 40% of the people still say they are happy with the President. We must resist and we must get people out to vote. Women are the answer. In 2020 the Democratic party needs to reduce the filing fees and get a candidate in every single race.

8. Announcements:

- a) October 7 is the last day to register to vote. Early voting starts on October 22, and Election day is November 6th.
- b) Please get to know the candidates so that we can talk on their behalf. ABC: Always Be Campaigning!
- c) Resist often, Vote Often and Be Nice. Make it personal.
- d) Volunteers are needed every Saturday morning at the Farmer's Market. We are all in this together.
- e) The public forum of 287G will be in August and we will let you know once it is made public.
- f) Mermaids gives us a great deal on this venue and we thank them. If you would like to sponsor a meeting, please let us know.
- g) The meeting was adjourned.

Additions or corrections to these minutes may be submitted to Annie Langston, WCDW Secretary, at annie.langston09@gmail.com or demwomwashcoar@gmail.com

Sincerely submitted,
Annie Langston, Secretary
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