

Democratic Party of Vilas County

PO Box 1013, Woodruff, Wisconsin 54568

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting held on 22 Oct 2013 in Saint Germain

Meeting called to Order by Chairman Bill Schweisheimer

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance: (12) Bill & Barb Schweisheimer, Elisa Farmilant, Sharon Carlson, A.Jane Schrameyer, Dean Wurtzel, Roberta Retrum, Bruce Liddell, Beth Lindemann, Kay Hoff, Dave & Judy Groh.

Minutes of the June meeting written by Judy Groh were read by Elisa Farmilant. Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer Report: Roberta Retrum reported credits in the amount of \$368.09, debits \$318.43 with a check book balance of \$3609.81. Savings account balance \$896.81. On a motion by Judy Groh, seconded by Barb Schweisheimer the report was accepted. There was some discussion on why we joined the Eagle River Chamber of Commerce and the Minocqua Chamber of Commerce and the pros and cons of that action. Roberta announced that she would not be seeking re-election as treasurer

Membership Report: Kay Hoff reported that we have 58 current members; 4 members were due for renewal in October and I reminded them so renewals may have crossed in the mail or not yet recorded at DPW because of staff change in Membership department. November renewals due (1) December renewals due (4) she plans to call/e-mail lapsed members before holiday rush to see if they would consider renewing in January 2014 so that 12 month membership also matches the calendar year.

Oneida & Price County Report: Kay Hoff distributed a report & update on events in those two counties.

- On Nov 16th the 72 County Strategy from DPW along with Progressive Wisconsin will do a training at Northern Tier Uniserv at 10am for people interested in running for office in the spring elections and any others who want to help them. Potential candidates may also access DPW online for assistance and training with new DPE Political director Jeff Smith <http://wisdoms.org/localcandidatetrainings/>
- Oneida County Dems will hold a Pizza Christmas Party at Pizza Haven on Dec. 3 at 6pm. Cost \$15 per person with funds going to School Food Back Pack Program which Jackie helps organize.
- Price County Dems are putting up Burma Shave style signs on Hwy 13 from Prentice to Park Falls. All signs end with "I Am A Democrat."

Annual Picnic: Elisa reported that Pat Brickner had coordinated this event. Sarah Kemp contacted speakers. The attendance was about 40. The four speakers, Erv Teichmiller, Paul Knuth, Janet Bewely and Tanya Lohr each provided us with a wealth of information and ideas for our group. Jim & Janet Zamrazil brought & cooked the brats. Attendees supplied an assortment of salads and desserts. Extra brats were sold at the end of the picnic.

Vilas County Fair Booth: Judy Groh reported that there were ample volunteers to man the booth. The purpose this year was to distribute information on "What Wisconsin Democrats Stand For", Membership in the Wisconsin Democrats, the AFC, Emerge, School Vouchers and to answer questions from the fair goers who stopped by the booth. The location of Vilas Democrats Fair booth was highly visible to fair attendees and let people know there are Democrats in the Northwoods. Judy has agree to organize the booth again next year.

Community Service Project: On Oct 12 thirteen members of the Vilas Democrats participated in the clean-up project at the Lakeland Senior Center in Woodruff. Elisa took before and after photos which she has posted to Facebook and Google Albums. We received a thank you letter from the center.

Vilas Dems T-Shirt Slogan Contest: Elisa reported that only one submission was received. Janon Zordan's suggestion was "Vilas County Democrats; Caring for Our Country By Caring For Our Neighbors." Elisa had asked her brother for suggestions and read his list, some of which will be included in a future newsletter.

Elections Report: by Kay Hoff

- Non-Partisans elections- school boards and county board positions will be held in April; a primary will be in February if needed. Sarah Kemp to run for the Lakeland School board.
- 2014 Partisan elections in November; Mary Burke has announced her run governor. Bob Jauch choosing not to run again.

VAN/Vote Builder Report: Bill Schweisheimer reported that the VAN has been improved. We can now target strong democrats with greater validity and reliability for voter outreach, to recruit new members, to recruit poll workers, and recruit people to run for partisan and non-partisans positions.

Poll Workers Report: Dave Groh has been obtaining lists of poll workers along with their declared political party from the town clerks of each town in Vilas county. Democrats are entitled to a specific of poll workers depending on the past presidential elections results. Bill Schweisheimer will send a letter to each town with suggestions for poll workers. The Town clerks trains poll workers.

2014 Vilas Democrats Slate of Officers: A new slate of officers is needed prior to the next meeting when elections will be held. The current officers who have declared that they **will not run** for office again include Chairman Bill Schweisheimer, Secretary Barb Neddo, and Treasurer Roberta Retrum. Bill will remain on the Executive Committee as past chairman. Committee/events coordinators: Elisa Farnilant agreed to remain as Information Services & Publicity coordinator, Kay Hoff membership and Judy Groh to coordinate the 2014 Vilas Democrats Fair Booth.

Next Meeting: On Saturday, 7 December 2013 at 1:00pm there will be our annual feast, pot luck, & meeting in the Multi-Purpose Building in Lac du Flambeau. A food and volunteer sign-up list will be posted on the Vilas Democrats website. <http://www.vilasdems.com/>

On a motion by Dave Groh, seconded by Roberta Retrum the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Judy Groh sec pro-tem