

September 11, 2025 - Wayne County MEA-R (Region 2)

In Attendance:

- Joanne Hoekstra, Donna Sprague, Tom Grove, Mike DeFranscesco, Karen Chichester, Barb Schram, Cheryl Alcorn, Kelly Schoop, dawn Montagano,, Linda Evanko, Kathy Lester, Joanna Porvin, Carolyn Norris-Degell, Gen Biggs, Larry Biggs, Jean Norman

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Lunch

Call to Order: 12:12 p.m. by VP Joanne H.

Moment of Silence for those lost on 9/11 and first responders

Introductions: Members introduced themselves. VP Joanne H. Introduced our speaker Barb Schram, MEA-R President.

Agenda adopted with Flexibility. Donna S. moved, 2nd Cheryl. Passed.

Minutes adopted as amended to change Mike F. to Mike D. Mike D moved, 2nd Cheryl. Passed.

Reports:

- Other officers were not present so their reports were not available.
- Treasurer's Report - Donna S. It was attached to the minutes. She is still exploring an online payment system. Larry moved, 2nd Geri. Adopted as submitted
- VP Report/MEA-Retired Director - Joanne reported on the MEA-R Assembly. She encouraged more members to attend. Barb S. added information about the NEA-R National Assembly held in Portland.

Old Business:

- Meeting Dates
 - November 13, 2025 - Plymouth Uniserv Office - 11:30 a.m.
 - February 12, 2026 - Zoom - 11:30 a.m.
 - April 16, 2026 - Location to be determined - 11:30 a.m.

New Business:

- Meeting Locations
 - Moved by Mike D to move future meetings to Plymouth Uniserv Office, 2nd by Linda E. Discussion: This location is convenient, easy to find, and has everything we need. Food can be brought in. More discussion on this point is needed. Passed unanimously.

Speaker: Barb Schram, MEA-R President

- Barb discussed how MEA-R governance worked. She encouraged us to volunteer for committees. She also discussed her goals which included increased Membership, better communication between chapters, increased political activities, and work to maintain pension and other retirement benefits.

Announcements:

- No More Kings Rally on 10/18
- Petitions for 2026 are available to sign:
 - “Remove Money from Politics”
 - Fair Share Surcharge on Taxable Income (“Invest in MI Kids”)
- Warned not to sign initiatives that suppress the vote.
- Educator event on 9/24 Detroit Cultural Center, Free to current and retired educators.
- Larry has buttons available to help you express your opinion on the current political climate

Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Chichester