

Washington County Democratic Women

May 23, 2023 Minutes

President Ash Lee Hicks called the meeting to order. A motion was made and seconded to approve the April minutes. A vote was called, and the minutes were approved.

Glenda Patterson presented the treasurer's report. All meetings until the end of the year will be at the new location in the library. Current balance is \$3627.93.

Mary Alice Serafina gave the membership report. We now have 53 members. Recruit your friends throughout the county for membership. It is free! Please tell Mary Alice if you wish to help with voter registration. Other interests include legislation and programming.

Ash Lee Hicks presented the programming report as our programming vice president stepped down. For June: Billy Cook with Arkansas Renters United.

Recognition of Elected Officials

Beth Coger, JP with Quorum Court. She has tried to get an ordinance for online posting of ordinances. She is also trying to get an ordinance for nonprofits to be on the agenda for support. Needs our support at the meetings.

Katherine Tipton from Arkansas Rule Caucus. Working to get data together by county that will be voting in the presidential election for informational purposes. Also, they are working on a couple of town hall meetings. Making plans for targeted races.

Ash Lee Hicks introduced Jessica Piper with Missouri's Dirt Roads Democrats. State parties have pulled away from rural areas and giving Republican candidates a free pass. It is then the extremist who win and go to the capital. Some rural areas haven't had a Democratic candidate in decades. They vote against their self interest, because they don't have a choice. We have to give them a choice and educate them. Now working with Blue Missouri to help raise money for those who are down ballot. By contesting races, the rural Republicans have to stay home, spend money, and knock doors. This keeps the money from being used towards chipping towards the blue areas. It is also important to work to teach the new generation how to run a campaign. Remember it is a long difficult road that may take decades, but we have no choice

but to continue it. To raise money, she worked social media. Talked, explained, and worked to tell the truth. Have to do things differently and reach different people. Don't be afraid of the issues; say the quiet part out loud. Be a Democrat and stand for something.

Old Business:

Tshirts: we have a tshirt design. Will start selling when we get tshirts.

Walton Arts Center protest had about 300 people show up. Also had a voter registration there.

New Business:

June 2-4 Wear orange weekend with Mom's Demand Action

June Pride Parade

Call to Action:

Next Tuesday – County Services Subcommittee at Washington County courthouse, 6 pm

Next meeting June 27, 2023 at the library.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Leana Houston