

Notes from Sept 7, 2025 meeting

Choose a moderator (thanks Deb!) 1 minute

Announcements: if any, 1 minute each

UCare is leaving Medicare Advantage, having lost \$500 million last year. Supplemental is staying, Advantage is going. 155,000 in Minnesota will lose coverage. We are now down to 5 insurers in MN. All premiums are going up in 2026. On the positive side, the Part D “doughnut hole” is gone.

Ally Wolf has been officially nominated for MN House 26 B. Can put your signs out.

Meg knows Blaise Sass and will talk to him about Lanesboro protest. His goal is to keep us safe.

Meg is trained as a “street medic” through 50501 and can bring a med kit.

Action Reports: ~1/2 hour

- Meet with directors of local food banks. 30 minutes. Food shelf directors were unable to join us, but: Rich talked to Houston. What helps most is money that they can spend for whatever they need. Make checks to Houston Food Shelf, Ask Deb H for mailing address. Meg talked to Preston, which is managed by Rochester. Again, money is what is most needed, but they also need care packages: feminine hygiene (no one can afford sanitary supplies!), personal care, wipes, baby items, and for this month only, back-to-school stuff. Worry is that people stepping up to support our neighbors will be used to permanently slash federal funding.
- Houston and Hokah protest report: Donna, others. 5 minutes Donna reported about 2 dozen folks in Hokah, very positive response. Today in Houston, we had 10 protesters, just a couple of thumbs down, no coal-rollers, most staring ahead or positive. Someone got shoved in Chatfield – negative responses seem to be getting more aggressive. 50501 and NAACP hosted the street medic training, funded by the state – you need several prior certifications to qualify for this training. Contact 585streetmediccollective@gmail.com for more info.
- Protest schedule: Lanesboro is next, Sept. 13, noon-1 pm. Intersection of Hwys 16 and 250. We'll be in Spring Grove on Sept. 27, noon - 1 pm, Viking Park, along Hwy 44. We will participate in the national No Kings event on Oct 18 in Rushford, 12-2! Hoping for another HUGE turnout! Mary will contact the Spring Grove police as a courtesy.
- ICEbreakers: Rich, Meg Update. 5 minutes Orchards are the logical targets. ICEbreakers wants a contact with the employers/employees at each possible site, so they can train both staff and management. Rich will provide that info through Meg. Then need to train constitutional observers and quick responders, and distribute information flyers in both English and Spanish.
- Libraries update: Diane/Bets report on Houston. This report may inform how we participate in One Million Rising/Strategic Noncompliance (time allocated below). 5 minutes: Houston is working on a governing board and is ok Diane and Lee will both stay in touch with them. Happy to have the kids, parents don't use them as baby-sitters. Best way to support them is by USING the library. Lanesboro's library is now in the control of the city. SELCO will be in touch with them (their contract requires that libraries have independent boards (“governing” as opposed to “advisory”)). Harmony: library

board meeting date was on the day after Labor Day which was also the first day of school, so poorly attended. They approved installing cameras with audio in the library, with city officials having access to those recordings, fully compromising privacy. Other shenanigans occurred, including a code of conduct that will trespass you out of the library for saying “vagina” or “penis.” A suggestion was to make a video of all the things that will get you trespassed and make it public. Their SELCO “pull-lists” number has declined by quite a bit – requests from other libraries for Harmony materials. Fear is that this is just the beginning.

- Town Hall planners: MA, Mary, Ben Any updates? 2 minutes The federal event will be scheduled once the ag season has ended, likely in late October, so stay tuned. MA needs someone to replace her on this working group – Mary suggested Delia and will talk to her about it. MA can provide contact info for Ally, Davids’ is on the website.
- Individual writers/callers: what are the issues now? getting any responses? 2 minutes each Same old, same old, including responses from Smith and Klobuchar. Suggestion was to call and talk to their schedulers. Another suggestion: write to the newspapers. We have, they don’t print our letters. So we created a new working group: 5 people per week writing on different topics. Deb M will organize this group. Deb, Deb, Delia?, MA, Meg, and Lisa are in. Meet once a month for now, 1 hour, first meeting is Oct. 4 at 10 AM at Baristas in Houston. MA chose guns as her topic.
- Check-in on Winona, Rochester? 2 minutes, 1 reporter each Winona folk have been gone, so don’t know what’s new there. Rochester Invisible appears to be splitting, some to the liberal version of Sons of Liberty, others to 50501. Indivisible’s focus appears to be protests, 3 every week. 50501’s focus appears to be on safety and training.
- Any new issues with local impact? 5 minutes

Next national actions:

- Strategic Noncompliance movement: You can watch all three sessions they have done online here: <https://www.youtube.com/@onemillionrising> Here are the handouts we examined at our last meeting: [What is strategic noncooperation?](#) [What is noncooperation?](#) **Issues we’re already pondering: libraries, food banks – let’s begin with these two and consider others at a later meeting.** 15 minutes Discussed above.
- Next national protest: No Kings Day II, Oct. 18th. We will be in Rushford. Deb will post to our website and to Mobilize. Noon to 2 for this one. Bring a chair if you wish. Please leave close parking for those with mobility issues. Bring your signs and your best crown! Meg will get a safety kit.

Other issues:

Houston County Protectors is monitoring the sand mining issue. The county changed the ordinance related to mining density. People are learning about frac sand on properties. Application for mining sand say it’s for construction sand, but folk are dubious. We will add this issue to regular agendas and monitor for when we may need to act.

Harmony is planning a data center (these affect water, electricity, and internet service). The next city council meeting is Sept. 7, 7 pm, at the Council Chambers. The agenda is [here](#), and includes the minutes of the last meeting with an annexation proposal aimed at a data center.

Mary will contact Keith Ellison. What we need is a regional protection designation.

Admin Update:

- Treasurer's report: Bruce. 1 minute \$190. Donna will pay \$50 to the Nature Center for our next meeting.

When is our next meeting? Sept. 21st. Protest in Houston from 11:30-12:30 as usual, business meeting at 1:00 as usual.

Social time