



Meeting Minutes—October 19, 2023 @ TCEC, Ferndale

I. **Welcome:** Our Chair, **Glenda Stainback**, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed everyone and especially new members.

II. **Approval of Agenda**—by acclamation

III. **Approval of September Meeting Minutes**—by acclamation

IV. Guest Speakers

A. State of our Unions - David Hecker, former president of American Federation of Teachers Michigan (AFT Michigan)

Barry Lepler introduced David Hecker as a highly influential Democrat who has been a leader in the labor movement for decades. With a family background of labor activists, David served the AFT for 27 years—22 years as president—and 40 years in the labor movement until he retired. Trade unionism is in his DNA. This is an exciting time for the labor movement as it has 71% popularity and organizing is more visible than ever. There are two reasons for this: corporate greed both in the public and private sector and increasing attacks on working people. The movement strives to be transformational—proactive, not just reactive—and self-reflective. The goal is to build an active, powerful membership that works for the common good and to create a better society and world. Working with other organizations to build relationships is key. Organized labor has accomplished a lot to date but must continue to work on becoming more transformational in the future.

MI State Representatives Regina Weiss, Natalie Price, and Jason Hoskins presented David Hecker with two tributes/plaques from the state of MI to honor his lifetime achievements and to celebrate his retirement.

B. Mary Kovari, OCDP Education Committee

Mary Kovari is an educational consultant and coach. Her focus is on school board elections (on behalf of the OCDP Education Committee). Dem clubs should network with each other to work toward achievement and improvement in the schools. Mary's ask: that each Dem club in OC send a liaison to the OCDP Education Committee to evaluate candidates for school boards and be part of that election process. Contact Glenda with suggestions for a liaison from DSOC.

V. Treasurer's Report (Nina Abrams)

Report on OPHWROT Democratic Club Treasury for Sept 30, 2023, as of Oct. 19, 2023

As of September 30, 2023

Checking Account Balance - \$1,651,83

Savings Account Balance - \$1,101.38

Includes interest of \$.09

As of October 19, 2023

Checking Account Balance - \$1,435.01

This includes Act Blue deposits and withdrawals to date.

In November, Nina will let us know how much money we brought in during 2023. We need money for 2024 for expenses that we will have for the elections.

VI. Updates from Chair & Vice Chair

A. Delegates for DNC 2024 Convention

Delegate training sessions are ongoing both in person and online. Pay attention to emails regarding these sessions and go to the website to find out more information.

B. "Let's Score in '24"

Mary Ann Fontana, our Vice Chair, is the Chair of this November 12, 1-3 pm, event at the new OCDP headquarters (17100 W. 12 Mile Road, Southfield). The goal is to create strategies for the 2024 elections: "360 Days of Action!"

VII. Committee Reports (Committee Chairs) - Volunteers needed!

Laurie Lisi, Communications: We have merch! T-shirts, hoodies. Also new business cards. There is an ad for DSOC in the Huntington Woods/Berkley City Guide.

Barry Lepler, Programming: At our November meeting, we will have three election clerks as speakers to give us a post-election report. In December, we will have our holiday party.

Aarolyn McCullough, Community Service: Volunteers are need for the blood drive and also to work the day of. And volunteers are needed for the committee.

Nynier Brown, Voter Mobilization: OC needs to get out the vote. October 28, there will be a door knocking event to educate voters about new voting laws and changes in the voting laws, including early voting.

VIII. Elected Officials' reports

Rep. Regina Weiss, 6th District: A great deal has been going on in Lansing both with regard to bills passed and ongoing work: revision/reform of auto no-fault insurance re: catastrophic auto claims; reproductive health act; teacher evaluation reform; and more. In addition, other issues are being discussed: school supplemental debt relief; charter school transparency.

Rep. Natalie Price, 5th District: in addition to issues mentioned by Rep. Weiss, telemedicine parity is a major issue gaining traction.

Rep. Jason Hoskins, 18th District: "Make It in Michigan Fund" is intended to attract and support new businesses. Other issues being discussed: energy package and pop-up tax (when buying a new home).

IX. Unfinished business—N/A

X. New business

Charlie Cavell has been very supportive of medical debt relief in OC; Rep. Price explained some details. Passage of \$4.5 million will relieve \$450 million in debt.

Mary Ann Fontana announced that there will be a gun buy back on December 9 at St. David's Episcopal Church in Southfield.

XI. Good and Welfare

Glenda adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roz Schindler, Secretary