

**Cass County Democrats
Officers Meeting Minutes – February 20, 2025
6 p.m. via Zoom**

1. Call Meeting to Order - Meeting called to order at 6:04 by Sarah
2. Roll Call - Sarah Slattery (Chair), Jayden Speed (Vice Chair), Wendy Callahan (Secretary), and Melinda Mead (Treasurer) present
3. Motion to Excuse Absences - None to be excused
4. Land/Labor/Holiday/Season Acknowledgment

Acknowledgment of Black Labor

We acknowledge that the United States was built at the often fatal expense of forcefully enslaved Black people. We acknowledge those who still cannot safely walk down the street or sleep in their own homes and those who are still dying while fighting for their liberation. We acknowledge that Omaha remains one of the most segregated and inequitable cities in our country, and we pledge to infuse our work with true values of anti-racism.

We offer these acknowledgments with respect and gratitude, along with the intention to spark more awareness, compassion, and empathy for every life in our community.

5. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Discuss, consider, and vote to approve minutes of January 23, 2025 Officer Meeting. - Motion to approve, seconded, and carried.
 - b. Discuss, consider and approve update to by-laws for procedure to change previously voted-upon business (tabled from December 19, 2024 meeting). - Motion to approve, seconded, and carried..
 - i. Proposed wording to be discussed: “Executive committee communication channel has authority to override prior meeting decisions between meetings in cases of fiscal responsibility. Overrides and explanations will be included in the next month’s minutes” Discussed the importance of having a way to override a vote if we get new information that allows us to make a better choice. Agreed to table until the next meeting.
6. Treasurer’s Report - Melinda still to be added to bank account. Sarah will hand off files to Melinda on Sunday at the February 23, 2025 central committee meeting and discuss logistics of adding Melinda to the bank account. No spending since the last meeting. Received grant funds and Sarah deposited the \$600 check for Maggie’s table for the Rural Victory Dinner. She does not have a current balance at this time but will provide one at the next meeting. Not receiving statements, even though Sarah changed the address to her home address. Nor have statements been mailed to the P.O. Box, so she and Melinda will look into that, as well as getting online banking set up.
7. Old Business

a. Rural Victory Dinner

- i. Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to approve swag shop (t-shirt and sweatshirt) order to make merchandise available at event. - Sarah has placed an order for one of every size of the sweatshirt to sell. Melinda suggested we provide printed postcards for the SWAG shop as a way for folks to contact their representatives. Sarah thinks it would be good to provide them for free. Melinda likes the idea of them as a small fundraiser. They give people a simple action they can take that will be impactful. She provided an example from an organization in Oregon. Sarah said maybe a series of 4 different postcards with "Greetings from Cass County." Melinda suggested one that's good for anyone from Nebraska, for anyone outside the county, perhaps with a quote "The salvation of a nation is the watchfulness of its citizens" on one side. Jayden is willing to draft some designs for review. Sarah would like to bring it up on Sunday at the Central Committee meeting. - Motion to approve, seconded, and carried.
- ii. Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to approve the creation and purchase of programs, placards, and other printed materials for the event. - Sarah recommends \$200 for printed materials for the event. Jayden planned to order from Goldenrod, so he can get an exact price. He'll do postcards. Programs will be front and back printed, similar to the Ben Nelson gala programs, hoping on "fancy" paper. Melinda asked if there will be SWAG bags, as well. We do have stickers and pens, and Melinda has the resist spice packets, and clip everything together to the program. - Motion to approve, seconded, and carried.

b. Central Committee meeting

- i. Discuss, consider, and take all action to finalize the Central Committee meeting agenda - Substantial discussion regarding the agenda and running the meeting. Motion to approve, seconded, and carried.
- ii. Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to approve the Central Committee Member Manual. Reviewed and formatting edits made. Motion to approve, seconded, and carried.

8. New Business

- a. Discuss, consider and take all action to approve use of grant money received from NDP to purchase items listed in original grant application. - This was previously voted on but since we have the money in hand, grant application was revisited to ensure we follow it to the letter. Discussion followed. Some items are expected to cost less than anticipated. Motion to approve, seconded, and carried.
- b. Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to amend the Constitution and Bylaws to create a subcommittee on community development. - Motion to table discussion to next meeting, seconded, and carried pending outcome of first Central Committee meeting.

- c. Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to close current post office box at the Weeping Water Post Office.
 - i. Discuss, consider and take all action to determine mailing address to be used moving forward. - Item to be discussed when Sarah and Melinda meet, and tabled to a future meeting before the box renews. In the meantime, have donations/money, etc. sent to Sarah's address. Motion to table, seconded, and carried.
 - d. Kiss the Ground: Melinda added discussion regarding Kiss the Ground viewing. Recommends scheduling for April 25 - Arbor Day and proposes holding it at the Loft. We would need sponsors (Loft will not, as we are a political group, but they would rent to us). Melinda recommends getting groups like farmers, etc. to sponsor. This would be a free community event and the Loft has concessions, so they could also make money, and we could set up a table to sell our SWAG. Melinda is willing to organize the entire event. We will add this to the next meeting as an agenda item to approve who we're partnering with, expenses, etc. Will also work on outreach via Cassgram, community newsletters, etc.
9. Announcements
10. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.