**Democratic Club of Willow Valley**

**General Meeting February 25, 2025**

Attendance: 61

President Jen Porter opened the meeting at 1p.m. and introduced guest speaker John Heinly, Director of Donor Advising for the Lancaster Public Library. (Scheduled speaker Lissa Holland, Executive Director, was unable to attend due to flooding at the downtown library.)

**Guest Speaker John Heinly**

* Mr. Heinly began with a brief history of the Lancaster Public Library, existing since 1759 with different locations and names, as the oldest public library in the Commonwealth. He presented the library’s Mission and Vision statements and a list of the 14 independent libraries in Lancaster County that are members of the Library System of Lancaster County. More information can be found at **lancasterpubliclibrary.org.**
* Each public library must meet state requirements set out by the Library Code. Requirements include number of hours open, percent of new collections added each year, and equitable access, among others.
* The Library operates under a Statement of Welcome and Respect, welcoming all who wish to use the services. This statement may be found at the address above.
* Book banning and censorship is a current issue among all libraries. He announced the upcoming documentary *Banned Together: the Fight Against Censorship* to be presented on Tuesday, March 4, 5:30-8p.m. at Zoetropolis Cinema, 112 North Water Street.
* Funding for the library comes from two major sources: 62% from various donations, fundraising, and use of library services and resources. The remaining 38% comes from government funding from state, county, and municipal – the largest. Recent county funding cuts have affected programs such as summer reading programs.
* In comparison to other libraries nationally, Lancaster Public Library ranks low in per capita financial support. Mr. Heinly encouraged attendees to contact their elected representatives to advocate for increased funding.
* Ways to support the Library include donations, volunteering, bequests in wills, and Qualified Charitable Donations (QCD) from IRA accounts. (70+)
* Demand for electronic resources has skyrocketed. Millennials (born 1981-1996) make up the largest percent of the 62,000 cardholders.
* Mr. Heinly closed with current enhanced services and hopes for future developments. A Q&A followed.

**Business Meeting**

 President Porter announced petition signing for candidates will take place on Thursday, March 6, on both campuses 9-11a.m.

**Advocacy:** President Porter and Barbara Bonanno

* In March, the Club will begin *Jimmy Carter 2025*, a monthly campaign to honor the former President’s service to our country during and after his term. Each month members will be given information on how to advocate for issues dear to Mr. Carter. Recommendations include Jessica Craven’s website *Chop Wood, Carry Water* where each day a specific advocacy action is posted.
* Members may record their contacts to our elected representatives and report the number at subsequent meetings. Barbara provided a list of all contact info and Jen a chart that members may use if they wish to record. To avoid the main menu, click on *contact/email*.
* Barbara reported two downtown rallies this past weekend – a Saturday town hall for Lloyd Smucker (who did not appear) and a Sunday rally for support of those affected by the cuts to Church World Services.
* Two signup sheets were provided: one for office visitations to elected officials, and one for letter writing to Senators and Congressmen. Sample letters will be available.
* Friday, February 28, is National Boycott Day urging citizens to boycott any spending to large corporations either online or in person. Local small businesses are exempt.

**Website:** Vice President Fairweather met with GoDaddy on February 18th to start the re-development process. New code must support existing screens and support online membership and donation processes. The expected duration is four weeks.

**Voting for officers:**

Two positions, Treasurer and Vice President are up for election.

President Porter asked for any nominations from the floor. There were none.

 **Motion:** Steve Wright be elected as Club Treasurer (Jerry Henige, 2nd Barbara Bonanno) **Carried.**

 **Motion:** Ross Fairweather be elected as Vice President (Gary Rosecrans, 2nd Jerry Henige).**Carried.**

**Bylaws Revision:**

Up for second vote were four changes to the current Bylaws:

* name change from “Lampeter-Strasburg Democratic Club” to “Democratic Club of Willow Valley
* rewording of Mission Statement
* clarification of Membership
* election of officers

**Motion:** Bylaw revisions be accepted as written (Sharron Nelson, 2nd Clydene Edmonds). **Carried.**

**A copy of amended Bylaws is attached.**

**Upcoming Events**

**Thursday, March 13, 6-8p.m**., a meet and greet with Jaime Arroyo, Democratic candidate for Mayor of Lancaster, at the home of Pamela Haver, 2840 Butter Road, Lititz

**Tuesday, March 18, 10 a.m**. Cultural Center Education Room *Understanding Our Democracy: Minority Rules: How Our Constitution Imperils Our Democracy*

**Tuesday, March 25, 1 p.m**. Cultural Center Education Room, General Meeting. Speaker will be Jaime Arroyo.

Lucy Painter

Secretary

