

WILLOW VALLEY DEMOCRATS PLUS NEWSLETTER

July 2024

**Paid for by Willow Valley Democrats Plus Club
Treasurer, Julia Powers
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Addressing the Issues

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If you are not already on our mailing list, contact Jen Porter at jenporter@comcast.net.

Why I Stand Firmly with Biden



Why I Stand Firmly with Biden

The debate on Thursday made me fall deeper in love with our candidate and here is why.

Laurie Woodward Garcia

June 30, 2024

As a grassroots leader of a progressive group, I am happy to announce that I will support Joe Biden's campaign for President of the United States. The debate on Thursday made me fall deeper in love with our candidate and here is why:

Here's how I felt before the Presidential debate:

I am here because of Bernie. I'm a fangirl. I found my way into activism because of Bernie. I would not have left Suburbia if Bernie had not inspired me to find my voice and speak out against the injustices in our community.

I, too, was surprised when Bernie immediately announced his support for Biden in 2024. What about the war in GAZA, healthcare disparities, better conditions for working folks, immigration reform, environmental stewardship, and more? How could Bernie or MoveOn be for Biden again when there is so much more progress to be had?

Because we don't have another candidate. In the 2020 presidential election, 81 million people voted for Biden. Do you know how hard it is to get people to take action? Especially in a politically divided environment filled with crazed conservatives, radical republicans, MAGA cultists, and Russia filling our social media and news feeds with misinformation?

And big NO to a third-party candidate at this moment in time. For any chance, a third-party candidate would have needed to poll at least 20-30 percent a year ago. It's a pipe dream to have someone who polls at 5% achieve the Presidency, especially four months out. So far, America has yet to be inspired (and in some cases fooled) by third-party candidates (and, in some instances, grifters). At this point in history, only a fool would believe that a third-party candidate has a chance of winning the Presidency.

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I'm Still With President Biden (cont'd)

Elections are not a year of work; they are years of building grassroots and coalitions.

Bernie knows we are progressing inch by inch, and our best chance for progress at this point in history with Joe Biden. Progressives like MoveOn, Center for Popular Democracy, Working Families Party, People for the American Way, Bernie, Warren, and AOC are all pressuring Biden while supporting him for President. We still need to build more progressive power, but we must do so *while pushing for Biden's reelection*.

Here's how I felt 5 minutes after the Presidential debate:

I felt disappointed because Biden could have delivered a straightforward message over and over again. "My administration has made monumental progress on (insert issue), and with four more years, we will do more (such as). FREEDOM IS ALWAYS BETTER THAN THE FASCISM of 91 times indicted, 34 times convicted criminal felon, insurrectionist and traitor, 30000 + lies, sexual assaulter, wife cheater, business failure and fraudster, slanderer, and gas lighter."

Here's how I felt the day after the Presidential debate:

I need a President who inspires action for everyone to thrive, never stops fighting for our rights and freedoms, unites coalitions with purpose, builds a strong leadership team and delegates effectively, takes responsibility for their actions, solves problems with creative solutions, tackles global challenges like COVID and Putin, never claims to "be the best and greatest at everything", and admits to having bad days but always picks themselves up the next day. And then this [video](#) pops up on my feed:



I'm Still With President Biden (cont'd)

Words are meaningless without the actions and truth to support them. Morals matter. Values matter. Leading by example matters. Building coalitions matter. **And the ability to get back up and fight for our rights and freedoms while the rest of the nation is calling for your head says to me, this is someone I will follow.**

Leading our great nation must be exhausting, especially when constantly under attack by Republicans who gaslight and refuse to take meaningful action in Congress to improve American lives. After years of fighting back against the MAGA cultists, I can't fathom the relentless challenge Joe Biden faces daily, trying to navigate this chaos.

I, too, have experienced moments of being tongue-tied while trying to articulate my thoughts, wishing my words came out perfectly. It's tough to imagine the added difficulty of being judged on your communication while struggling with a speech impediment.

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

I am a firm believer that actions speak louder than words. Debates (and polls) will come and go, but actions prove who someone is. Joe Biden is a public servant. He has spent his career championing America to do better and to be better. Trump has spent his lifetime as an opportunist who seeks to enrich himself while feeding his MAGA ego. He lies, spreads misinformation, fails at everything he touches, and revels in transactional moments of hatred and bigotry.

I look at the actions of the two men on that stage, not just on that night of the debate but throughout their lives, and see a stark difference.

In Biden, I know that he has made a real difference in people's lives:

- **Jobs Created:** 15 million (more than the past two Republican Presidents)
- **Lowest Unemployment:** Unemployment has been below 4 percent for the longest stretch in over 50 years
- **American Rescue Plan:** Funded vaccination campaigns and reopened schools.
- **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law:** Rebuilt roads, bridges, and expanded high-speed internet.
- **Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson:** Appointed first Black woman on the Supreme Court.
- **Bipartisan Safer Communities Act:** Significant gun violence prevention legislation.
- **CHIPS Act:** Boosted American manufacturing and created jobs.
- **PACT Act:** Expanded health care for veterans.
- **Respect for Marriage Act:** Enshrined marriage equality.
- **Inflation Reduction Act:** Lowered costs for families, promoted clean energy.

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I'm Still With President Biden (cont'd)

- **Marijuana Pardons:** Removed barriers for simple possession offenses.
- **Protecting Reproductive Rights:** Ensured access to reproductive care.
- **Climate Action:** Rejoined Paris Climate Accords.
- **Support for Ukraine:** Rallied international support against Putin.
- **Affordable Care Act:** Strengthened and expanded coverage.
- **Criminal Justice Reform:** Promoted accountable policing.
- **Student Debt Relief:** Approved billions in loan forgiveness.
- **Diversity:** In white house staff, cabinet, administration, and appointments

Besides what a leader has accomplished, I want to know if they have a vision that I agree with, and for me, that candidate is Joe Biden. I believe if we can take the House and Senate, and re-elect Joe Biden, he will sign into law policies that will take our country forward:

- Women's Health Protection Act (enshrines abortion rights into law)
- Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)
- Environmental safeguard bills
- Student debt relief bills
- Supreme Court reforms like ethics, expansion, and term limits
- Equality Act
- John Lewis Voting Rights Act
- Freedom to Vote Act
- Immigration reform bills
- Gun violence prevention bills
- Affordable Housing bills
- and make significant improvements to Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, and our healthcare system.

I have zero confidence that Trump would do anything for anyone but himself. Putin owns him, so our safety would be in danger. I will give Trump credit; he is a master at manipulation and gaslighting. But I am smart enough to know that actions speak louder than words, and Trump's actions have harmed our nation, and if given another four years, he will destroy our country.

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I'm Still With President Biden (cont'd)

The next President is likely to appoint 2-4 new Supreme Court justices and so far Trump's appointees on the Supreme Court have significantly harmed families by overturning Roe v. Wade, eliminating a precedent of 50 years and restricting freedom of choice. They have also damaged America's environmental protections by overturning Chevron, a 40-year precedent that safeguarded the EPA's authority. Additionally, the reversal of affirmative action has undermined over 60 years of progress, while allowing cities to criminalize unhoused community members exacerbates social inequities. Furthermore, permitting disguised bribes and giving January 6th insurrectionists leniency endangers our democratic principles and national safety.

Additionally, former President Trump caged children and families, separated babies from their mamas, bragged about it, and used words like "animals" and "poisoning our blood." He promises to "drill baby drill," deport millions of our friends, families, and neighbors, and he is adamant about cutting Social Security and Medicare while handing millions in tax breaks to his cronies. And if that is not bad enough, he has promised to let states possibly incarcerate women seeking abortions, regulate birth control, and criminalize families seeking in vitro fertility treatments.

Let's also be clear that not voting is a vote for Donald Trump, period. By not voting, you are doing exactly what Donald Trump, radical Republicans, and Maga extremists want you to do. A no-vote is more dangerous because it is a refusal of responsibility. People Power is not about our individual needs; it is about all of us living lives where everyone can thrive, and that requires all of us to commit to carrying out our civic duty.

You are the hero of our American story

I will double down to do the work to build progressive power and push our leaders to do better, *and* I will support Biden in this election. Why? Americans and Progressives don't quit. People who want world peace and better for our community (with healthcare, education, housing, civil rights, gun safety reforms, environmental justice, and more) don't quit. We roll up our sleeves and do the work to make change happen. And what if Biden steps aside? Kamala Harris will also be a great candidate for President. And you better believe that whoever wins in November, I will be there pushing them for progress. Why?

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I'm Still With President Biden (cont'd)

You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas. -Shirley Chisholm

Keep your head down, let's do the work, and let's get rid of these demagogues.

A hero does what must be done and seeks no other validation. Heroes don't complain; they do something! They are selfless, seeking no glory or limelight. They see a problem and jump in to fix it. They make our lives better just by doing.

That is you. You are the hero of our American story. Will you join me to keep making good trouble?

Everyone deserves to vote and thrive,



Laurie Woodward Garcia (paid with hugs and kisses, not bought by special interests)

I am a social justice activist #DoingMyJob to stand up against fascism. Best part of my day is being a mommy and wife!

I Study Homelessness

I Wish More Places Looked Like This Shelter.

June 26, 2024

By Matthew Desmond, for New York Times

Produced by [Jillian Weinberger](#), for New York Times

In this audio essay, the sociologist Matthew Desmond interviews a resident of the Water Street Mission shelter in Lancaster, Pa., about what makes it so unique.

“Here’s a place that is treating people in their full humanity,” Mr. Desmond says. “It’s looking past their hardships, past their addictions, past their homelessness to see people’s promise, to see people’s beauty. And wouldn’t it be amazing if that was the norm instead of the exception.”

Below is a lightly-edited transcript of the interview.

Matthew Desmond: My name is Matthew Desmond. I’m a writer and a sociologist at Princeton University.

I research and report on poverty in America. That work has taken me to a number of homeless shelters across the United States. Shelters housed in decommissioned military bases, old hotels, church basements, you name it.

Homeless shelters are a vital part of the safety net. But they have a mixed reputation, I think it’s fair to say. Some are thought to be too strict, others too lenient. I wanted to hear from shelter residents themselves. So last year I visited Water Street Mission in Lancaster, Pa.

Water Street Mission is housed in an old cotton mill. It’s this kind of giant brick complex. There are places to sleep. But they also have family rooms. They have kids’ play spaces. And importantly, there’s a medical wing where people can receive medical care, psychological care and even dental care during their stay at Water Street.

What I heard there surprised me. I think **Water Street can be seen as a model, not only for what homeless shelters can aspire to but also for how we can rethink anti-poverty programs in general, making sure those programs are delivered in such a way that people feel affirmed, feel valued.**

I want to introduce you to one of the people I met at Water Street. His name is James Costello.

Audio clip of James Costello: OK

Clip of Matthew Desmond: So if it’s all right with you, I’d love to ask you a few questions and record those questions.

Desmond: So James was born in Lancaster. He was 58 when I met him. He’s a broad-shouldered man with a graying goatee. He uses a cane and a prosthetic leg to walk. He’s nicknamed his prosthetic leg Peggy.

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I Study Homelessness (cont'd)

James worked as a cook for decades. Before coming to Water Street, he lived with friends and was saving up to buy a home from a co-worker. But —

Clip of Costello: *My health went, and so did the hours of work, and money got real tight, real fast.*

Clip of Desmond: *And so you were cooking, and then you started to experience health problems. Can you tell me about that?*

Clip of Costello: *Basically diabetes.*

Clip of Desmond: *Did you lose your leg before or after you came here?*

Clip of Costello: *It was before I came here.*

Clip of Desmond: *Did you reach out to family during that time?*

Clip of Costello: *My family's reaching out to me all the time. OK. I was the fix-it guy. I was the guy they came to. So there was really no family to go to.*

Clip of Desmond: *You couldn't stay with your kids?*

Clip of Costello: *I had one son, and he doesn't want anything to do with me.*

Clip of Desmond: *OK.*

Clip of Costello: *For his reasons, I had to respect him, though, on that and not push it. But I found a new family here.*

Clip of Desmond: *When you first arrived here, what was that experience like for you psychologically? I mean, how were you processing that?*

Clip of Costello: *I was scared to death.*

Clip of Desmond: *You were scared?*

Clip of Costello: *Yeah, I mean, I never was in a situation like this. Some of the guys that had been here a while took me under their wing. Showed me the ropes, what needs to happen, what you need to do, what they're expecting of you. When I first got here, it amazed me. There was a gentleman that got a job. He started the next day. And all he needed was a pair of boots. Steel-toed boots. Within an hour he had two pair of boots, four pair of pants and three work shirts. From guys pulling it out of their own bags. The brotherhood here is unheard-of.*

Desmond: The idea at Water Street is to address not just people's material needs, like housing and employment, but the whole person, including their emotional, even their spiritual needs. Water Street used to accommodate guests with pretty rough sleeping arrangements. They were these, like, wooden pallets the guests nicknamed boats. So this shelter switched locations to one where they had more room. The boats are now gone, replaced with single beds with full bedding.

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I Study Homelessness (cont'd)

Clip of Costello: *That is like a hotel, and you know, you have so much dignity just being there. Yeah, you're in a room with 45 other guys, but you still feel like a person. You don't feel like cattle being shoved in and shoved out of a room. The meal is the same way. You figure there's probably between a hundred and three hundred people going in and out of that dining hall three times a day. The meals are always hot. And good.*

Desmond: We desperately need more shelters like Water Street, and we certainly have the resources. A recent economic study estimated that if the top 1 percent of income earners in America just paid all the federal income taxes they owed, we could raise an additional \$175 billion a year. That's 38 times what it would cost to provide a bed to every person experiencing unsheltered homelessness in America.

When it comes to abolishing poverty or solving the homelessness crisis, America's problem has never been a lack of resources. Our problem has been a lack of moral clarity, moral urgency. Some might call it a lack of heart. But at Water Street, people experiencing homelessness are not just provided for. They're also listened to. They're believed in. Some might call that love.

When I left Water Street, I just couldn't help feeling how much of a contrast it was to all these other places poor people find themselves. You know, eviction court, parole office, even other homeless shelters often treat people experiencing hardship as numbers, as cases, as burdens. And here's a place that is treating people in their full humanity. It's looking past their hardships, past their addictions, past their homelessness to see people's promise, to see people's beauty. And wouldn't it be amazing if that was the norm instead of the exception.



A sign outside of the Water Street Mission shelter in Lancaster, Pa. Credit...Illustration by The New York Times; photographs by Adam Pape for The New York Times

Field Trip Flier

WVC Democrats Plus Club Water Street Mission Field Trip July 31, 2024 10 AM departure

The WV Dems Plus Club is planning a field trip to visit Water Street Mission on Wednesday, July 31st. This is a wonderful opportunity to see how they have developed the tools to overcome homelessness and create a hope-filled future for their residents.

Providence Shelter is Water Street's first step in supporting someone experiencing homelessness. Their trauma-informed services are designed to invite guests into deeper engagement, helping each guest develop a feeling of safety and love that will guide them into further internal work and life change. In many cases, guests identify areas of growth and choose to move forward into their Residential Programs after 90 days while others transition out at this stage and back into life outside Water Street, but better equipped and supported than before.



Emergency Shelter – the journey out of homelessness often begins with a hot meal and a safe place to sleep.

Guests who choose to enter **Water Street's Residential Program** are first connected to a Case Manager and Life Coach in their Residential ministry. They help each person take a self-assessment, discover areas of growth and learn how our services can best help. But one of the most important jobs of their staff is to create an atmosphere of support and love.

They want each guest to know they are in a safe environment, and one where they can open up, experience grace, and begin to prepare for a fuller life ahead of them.

All Providence Shelter guests get access to their dining hall for all of their meals. They designed the space to feel as inviting and warm as possible because we know that for many, a healing journey can simply begin with a hot meal. This location is also a spot where supportive relationships start that can last a lifetime.



Field Trip Flier (cont'd)



Water Street Health Services **offers uninsured, underinsured, and people experiencing homelessness in Lancaster County free medical, dental, and behavioral health services.** Each day their team works to create individualized solutions that will have a lasting impact on our patients health, ultimately giving patients the tools they need to pursue their life goals.

To ensure those who are most at need are able to get critical care, we serve those with an income up to 250% of poverty level. They want those who are most vulnerable to find hope for a healthy future and support in conquering each health battle,

no matter how large or small.

They have [individual](#), [group](#), [seasonal](#) and [healthcare opportunities](#) available. Full-time and volunteer dentists are currently greatly needed. Join us in our efforts by [partnering your time as a volunteer](#).

Many in the Lancaster community face difficult decisions between paying rent and buying groceries. At the Outreach Center they provide nutritious food to help combat this issue, but also take the opportunity to pray or build community with every individual who comes through their doors. It's more than a food bank, but a point of connection and encouragement too.



Early intervention through Pre-K and Kindergarten classes meet kids at a critical time when students' first interact with education and, in many cases, first learn of Jesus's love for them. They invest in early childhood education, particularly for low-income families, to give kids the best start in life.

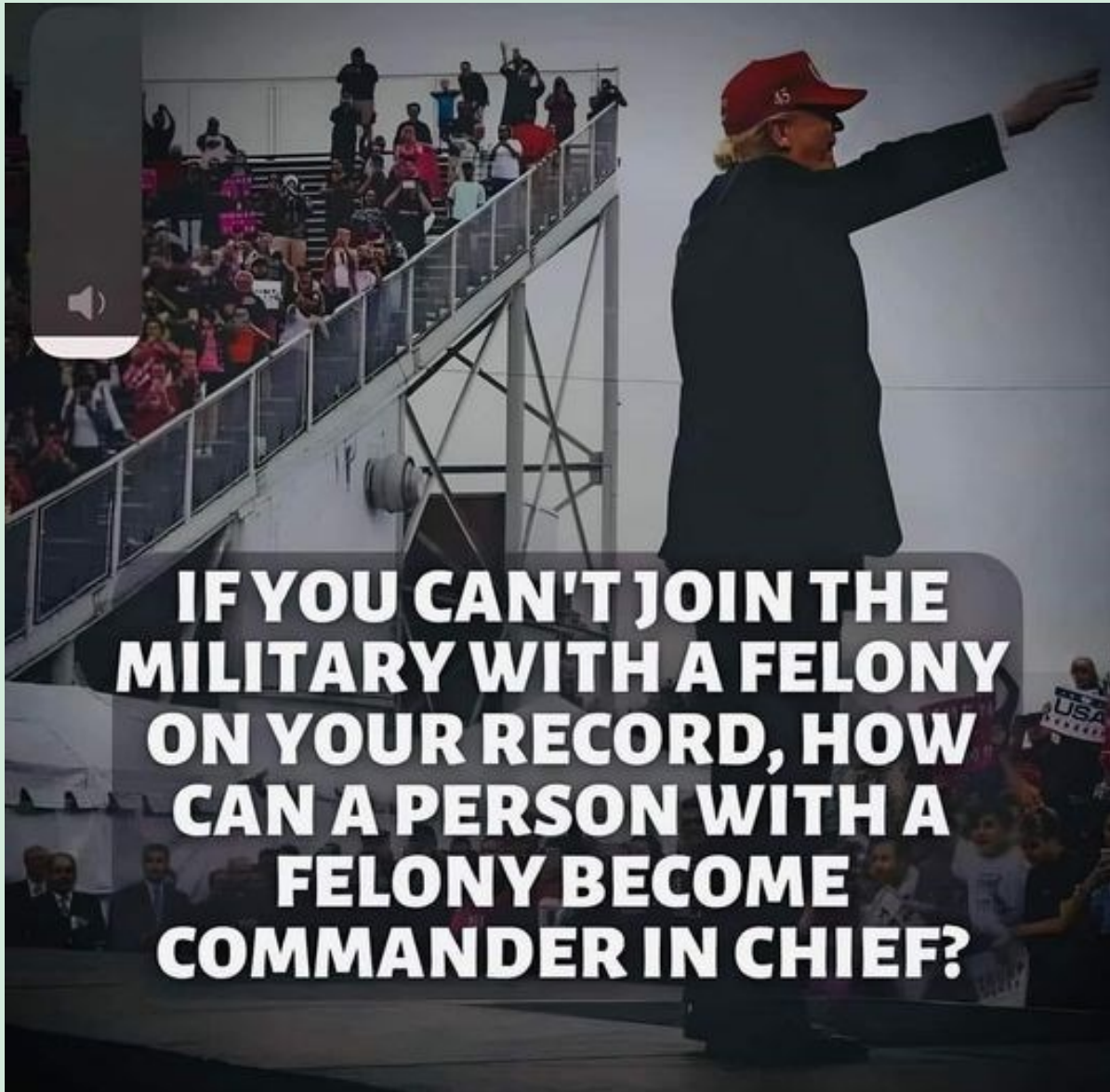
Wonder Academy is made possible by a partnership with Water Street Mission, donors, and many generous businesses that give through EITC gifts.

They are launching teens from Lancaster City into a life of leadership and purpose. By providing a healthy community to thrive in, and mentoring them to become leaders in their city, churches, and schools, Teen Haven is building a better foundation for a brighter future.

This work not only happens weekly through events at their Teen Haven building, they also go to campuses around the city interacting with teens through lunch and afterschool programs.

If you are interested in attending this field trip, please contact Ross Fairweather at rossfair63@gmail.com or 717-405-8447. Let her know you want to attend this event and indicate if you are willing to be a driver. Car pools will be arranged by campus.

A CARTOON



Coming Events

Join our Understanding Democracy series on Tue., July 16

10 AM Cultural Center Education Room

Childcare in America: A System in Crisis

Children's experiences in the first five years of life establish the foundation for ongoing learning and progress. The importance of these years cannot be overstated. Consequently, high-quality early care and education for all children is critical. Yet the American system for early care & education is deeply fragmented and severely under-resourced, which results in vastly uneven quality and access to services. Our childcare system fails our children, our families and our economy. We hope you can join us as we discuss the challenges of our current childcare system and what are some of the important improvements that we should be making.

Join our General Meeting Outing on Wednesday, July 31

10 AM Departure from selected WVC locations

Remember what a great speaker Keith Shetter was from Water Street Mission? Keith has invited us back for a tour of their space on Wednesday, July 31. You'll see their gorgeous kitchen facilities, their impressive medical clinic and their assorted living spaces.

You must make reservations so that we can ensure appropriate tour-group sizes. Be advised that parking is very limited at the Water Street Mission site.

We are offering rides for this event, and we're also looking for a few drivers. Please call Ross Fairweather at 717-405-8447 or email her at rossfair63@gmail.com.

Join our General Meeting on Wednesday, August 28

10 AM Cultural Center Education Room

Guest speaker is **Izzy Smith Wade-El**, Democratic State Representative for Pennsylvania House!

Don't miss this stimulating speaker!

Meeting Minutes

Willow Valley Dems Plus General Meeting June 26, 2024

President Jen Porter called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Lancaster County Commissioner Alice Yoder

Commissioner Yoder described her first 6 months in the position with focus on specific areas

2024 Elections

- The April Primary elections ran smoothly with the dedication and competence of volunteers who worked the polls. No major issues were reported.
- Commissioner Yoder has proposed a training session for volunteers in handling conflicts at the polling places on election days.
- She explained in detail the mail-in ballot process of checks and balances and spoke in favor of ballot curing.

The new Lancaster County Correctional Facility

- The focus of the new facility is on rehabilitation, including job training and recovery from substance abuse.
- Her hope is to work collaboratively with the courts in finding alternatives to incarceration to reduce the prison population.

Homelessness and lack of affordable housing

- Both problems have worsened since the pandemic.
- A strategic plan is underway to address both issues countywide.
- Any solution to the problem will require participation of the local planning commissions.

Commissioner Yoder also spoke briefly of the need for community involvement and collaboration in the Criminal Justice System and establishment of a Public Health Department that is modernized and efficient. Both Republican Commissioners oppose establishment of a Public Health Department.

President Porter thanked Commissioner Yoder who made herself available after the business meeting to speak individually with members.

Business Meeting:

- President Porter reported the Treasury balance of \$7,977.01 and current membership at 233 with 59 new members.
- President Porter, Jerry Henige and Barbara Bonanno attended Dr. Jill Biden's talk at Millerville University June 23 on the issue of reproductive rights.

Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Advocacy: Chair Bonanno outlined upcoming advocacy events

- 38 volunteers have been recruited to make phone calls to Willow Valley residents who are not members of WV Dems + to invite them to join and to stress the need to vote in November. Calls will be made in July and August.
- Post cards to swing states such as Pennsylvania will be sent to registered Democrats across the state starting October 24 reminding them to vote.
- A separate post-card-mailing effort will target L-S voters specifically, with The Lancaster County Democratic Committee supplying the list of addresses.
- At the June 10, 2024, Board members recommended that the Club make a \$1,000 donation to the Janelle Stelson campaign, candidate for U.S. House of Representatives 10th District, running against Scott Perry. **Motion:** WV Dems + to donate \$1,000 to the campaign of Janelle Stelson (Michael Pancione, seconded Byron Babcock). **Motion passed.**

Survey Results:

- Received were many good suggestions for topics with the importance of the 2024 Presidential Election foremost.
- The responses to the survey suggested that we try to find a more convenient day and time for our monthly meetings. As we have already scheduled future speakers for later this year, the 2024 meetings will continue to be held on the last Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. However, beginning in January 2025, the monthly meeting will be moved to the last **Tuesday** of the month at **1 p.m.** Other suggestions and ideas will be reviewed as we move on.
- **Detailed results of the recent questionnaire sent to WV Dems + members are included next page.**

Other Business:

- The Pennsylvanians for Fair Funding is advocating for Adequate and Fair Funding for public education to ensure economic stability for the future of Pennsylvania's public school students. Jerry Henige encouraged members to contact Senator Scott Martin by email or phone in support.
- A field trip to Water Street Mission is scheduled for July 31 to view their shelters, health services, food bank and education programs. Ross will organize and arrange transportation. Those interested may contact Ross to sign up.

Upcoming Events:

- July 31: field trip to Water Street Mission
- August 28: Izzy Smith Wade-El, State House Representative District 49
- September 25: Trex Proffitt, Democratic candidate for PA Senate

Lucy Painter, Secretary

Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

General Meeting Survey Results

95 questionnaires submitted as of May 30th.

Answers to question 1:

Meeting too early: 10
Attending other program: 45
Not interested topic/speaker: 22
Too early: 10
Out-of-town: 11
Not interested in meetings: 5
Health Issues: 3
Outside appointments: 14
Lazy/forgot: 2
Unable to stay for business mtg: 1

Answers to question 2:

Question 2 - Best Day: *[many did not make any marks]*

| | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|-------------|----------|--------|
| 1st Pick: | Tue. 23 | Mon: 11 | Wed: 13 | Thurs: 8 | Fri: 3 |
| 2nd Pick: | Thur: 13 | Wed: 12 | Tue: 8 | Mon: 7 | Fri: 2 |
| 3rd Pick: | Wed: 9 | Thurs: 8 | Tue: 7 | Fri: 5 | Mon: 2 |
| 4th Pick: | Fri: 11 | Mon: 9 | Thur: 6 | Wed: 3 | |
| 5th Pick: | Fri: 12 | Mon: 7 | Tue/Thur: 5 | — | Wed: 4 |

Question 3 - Time best to attend:

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Morning: 11 | Afternoon: 1 |
| 10:00 AM: 35 | 1:00 AM : 21 |
| 10:15 AM : 01 | 1:30 AM : 05 |
| 10:30 AM : 03 | 2:00 AM : 10 |
| 11:00 AM : 10 | 3:00 AM : 03 |

*** 54 of the responses for above noted Attend-Other-Programs scheduled at the same time.

Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

General Meeting Survey Results (cont'd)

TOPICS/SPEAKERS

National Issues // National Election Issues /
2024 election issues for PA & Nation
Background & view points on State & Local candidates
Candidates View – building a stronger Democracy // ideologies
Candidates running for office (3). // Local Candidates (9)
State Elected & Candidates (5)
City & County Candidates (3)
Presidential Election matters (2)
Listing of accomplishment of National, State & Local Democrats
Lancaster County Government - [Responsibilities / Elected Officials /
Candidates]
State Issues (2)
Understanding the positions in PA / County/ City
Local politics (2)
Local issues (3) What ways can we help secure election wins?
Regulations on/for PA voters
Independent voters in primaries – Good or Bad?
Representative from National Democratic Party
Public Library
School Board issues
Future for Democrats in Lancaster County
General political topics
LNP – WGAL News
Discussion on “Electoral College” (2)
Supreme Court abuse
Role of Congress in governing
Role of Senate verses Executive Branch
Democratic Policies & Strategies // How to Strengthen our Democracy
Official speaking on bills and current issues; especially crime
Local Non-Profits, community based
Local Organization that benefits our community
What Biden campaign is doing in PA
Climate Change
Demographic analysis of local & State registered voters – Dems/Rep/Ind.
Preparation for Nov. Election

Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

General Meeting Survey Results (cont'd)

TOPICS/SPEAKERS (cont'd)

How to improve our State Government
Session on Biden Administration accomplishments & Republican counterpoints
Republican elected official – if brave enough to face us.
Opportunities to be involved in Nov. election
Women's reproductive health
How to have conversations with people who believe differently.
What is "Democracy?" How do we not lose it?
What happens if Trump wins? Losses? Civil War?
How to be peacemakers?
Non-compete agreements
How can constituents work to bring idea to fruition in a practical way.

OTHER COMMENTS

More discussion on candidate positions
Enjoyed on "problems of Christian Nationalism" (2)
Good job (5) // Great topics & Speakers (5) // Thanks for all your hard work
Ability to attend meetings by Zoom
Appreciate hearing from elected officials & democratic candidates
Many morning activities compete with one another – afternoon meeting may be better.
Meetings are well organized
Topics are timely
Programs have been awesome – great information (3)
Thank you for surveying members
I would prefer to have business meeting first
Jerry's programs are terrific – Lucky to have him (2)
Dems Plus is a fine organization. I am burned out politically.
Many interesting programs are offered on Wednesday morning.
Good idea to partner some programs with Race, Awareness & LGBTQ group.