

**Democratic Club of Willow Valley
General Meeting
September 30, 2025**

Jerry Henige opened the meeting at 1 p.m. and introduced a TedX video with David LaMotte speaking on “Why Heroes Don’t Change the World.” Mr. LaMotte is an author, speaker and consultant on issues of peace and justice.

David LaMotte:

When large scale problems occur in society, the common belief is that a hero will come to the rescue while we wait, a belief known as the “hero narrative.” This myth pervades in movies, documentaries, and history books even though it has never been shown to work.

Social movements from citizens effect change, not heroes. Mr. LaMotte gave the example of Rosa Parks, presented in history as a hero, who actually worked for over 20 years as a social activist in Montgomery, Alabama, before her arrest. It was her work, along with hundreds of others, who organized the bus boycott that brought about lasting national social change. He encouraged listeners to unite in grass roots efforts to make the changes needed in society.

Business Meeting

Treasury/Membership:

Balance: \$5,880.95
Scholarship: \$1,657.00
Membership: 180

November 4 Ballot: Jerry Henige gave information about the upcoming elections: Democratic candidates in state judicial races (Brandon Neuman, Stella Tsai), local races for Lampeter-Strasburg School Board (Sarah Cook, Kirk Williard) and West Lampeter Township Supervisor Board (Tracy Arnold), and election officials for Locust precinct (Susan Highfield) and Lakes precinct (Elaine Austin).

He also spoke of the importance of voting for retention of three Supreme Court judges and of the concerted Republican effort to oust these judges. Information about the two Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas judges is not available.

Jerry also explained to attendees the rules for mail-in ballots which should be available soon.

Advocacy

- **Motion:** The Club donate \$500 to Milagro House. (Barbara Bonanno, second Carole Repici). After short discussion, **Motion passed.**
- **Motion:** The Club donate \$500 to Tracy Arnold, candidate for West Lampeter Township Supervisor. (Margaret Babcock, second Carole Repici) **Motion passed.**
- **Post Cards for Swing States:** 69 volunteers have signed up for sending cards addressed to voters with information on the importance of the Supreme Court Judges retention election. Barbara Bonanno will send instructions to volunteers. Cards will be mailed by her on October 24.
- **Visitors Advocacy:** Visits to legislators’ offices are being organized by IndivisibleMT. Those interested may sign up with them at indivisiblemt.org.

- **Letters to the Editor:** Volunteers in this group have met and begun work in this advocacy program which sends letters to the editor as well as contacting legislators to express opinions on current issues.
- **Paper Clip Advocacy:** Member Carole Repici gave information on this resistance movement which began in Norway during WWII to resist Nazi occupation. Protesters wear visible paper clips as a sign of their resistance to authoritarianism. More information can be found at paperclipresistance.com.
- **No Kings Day:** A march through the streets of Lancaster to Binns Park is being organized by IndivisibleMT on Saturday, October 18, 2-4 p.m. Contact indivisiblemt.org to sign up.

Upcoming Events

All upcoming events take place in the Cultural Center Education Room

Understanding Our Democracy: Tuesday, October 21, 10-11:30 a.m. Topic TBD.

General Meeting: Tuesday, October 28, 1 p.m. with Kristy Gismot of United Way.

Special Meeting: Tuesday, November 18, 10 a.m. A review of the November 4th election followed by a social event to thank volunteers.

Lucy Painter
Secretary