

## **Grant County Democrats Meeting Minutes**

August 26, 2025

Michelangelo called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

Members in attendance were Michelangelo Rollf, Peggy Coleman, Bonnie Halbert, Judy Gilbert, Laura Smiddy, Melissa Napier, Fran Kuechler, Nancy Ogg, Mary Shields, Genevia Risner, Wayne Whalen, Pat Breeden, Debby Lucas Angel, and Tim Donoghue.

Bonnie Halbert led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The minutes were read by all. Debby Lucas Angel motioned to approve and Wayne Whalen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bonnie Halbert gave the treasure's report. There is \$1604.30 total in the account. This includes a \$500 donation from the local 212 IBEW union. There is \$1326.30 for general use. Bonnie needs receipts from everyone who bought things for the fair booth.

Two new members were welcomed. Melissa Napier from Williamstown. She has been married for 37 years and has 2 adult children. She is a retired dental hygienist. Fran Kuechler from Jonesville. She is retired from Duke Energy.

### **Town Hall Reflections**

- Michelangelo brought up three themes/insights from the town hall.
  - Infrastructure
  - Communication in governance
  - Industry

These are ideas that our candidates can run on. They also coincide with the values from our new party platform.

- Geneva brought up that currently there is little to no communication coming from our elected officials. We, the citizens, communicate with them but none comes back or they tell you what they want in the moment with no follow up. Officials need to develop a way of communicating with their constituents through mailings or the internet/email.
- Mary Shields is on the GC Election Board. On the website it states the meetings are on the second Thursday of the month at 9am. She went on August 14 but there was no meeting. It is also printed in the Grant County News. Debby stated that the prior clerk, Tabitha Clemons had established this schedule. Colton Simpson, the new clerk of court, only took over in June so was probably not aware of this.
- Pat Breeden's concern was that even though the county has cut brush on US 25, at the corner of US 25 and Lemon-Northcutt Rd. they missed the brush that blocks the view.
- Geneva said there was a tree on Heeken-Lawrenceville Rd. that is hanging on the wires.
- Wayne's concern was the traffic that occurs because there is not enough room for cars to get into the driveway to pick up their children at the Crittenden-Mt. Zion School.

Debby stated there is a road sub-committee with a plan for the county. There is work being done on Meeks Rd. Old water lines are being dug up and new ones laid. Shawna and Chuck are on the committee.

- What can be done better
  - Hold the meeting later in the evening.
  - Advertise the meeting better, possibly a PSA on the local radio (106.7).
  - The time keeping should be stricter.
  - The monitors could be more organized.
- What worked well
  - The town hall was well organized.
  - The meeting remained focused on local issues.
  - Geneva stated it was nice to have our voices heard.
- What do we do next?
  - Another town hall will be planned after the Marigold Festival
  - Invite local officials to the next meeting.
  - Announce the grievances to the platform, format these and send them to the officials.
  - Ask for answers in writing, or to attend the next town hall.
  - Tell officials that these will be on FB and our website at a minimum.
  - The paper is non partisan but letters to the editor will be published.
  - It was stated that the Coach Stop does not sell the Grant County News.

Fran Kuechler brought preprinted post cards to send to our federal officials, Representative Thomas Massie, Senators Rand Paul and Mitch McConnell. There is a blank space to write additional grievances. Everyone got 3 post cards. The goal is to mail them on the 1st or 2nd so they all get the offices near the same day and barrage the officials with them.

There is a group headed by Michelangelo that will attend the next Fiscal Court meeting. The FC does allow time at the end of their meeting to speak with no time limit. It is possible to get on the agenda for the meetings or you can just speak at the meeting. They are not required to have a space for the public to speak and they don't use Robert's Rules of Order to run the meetings. The next meeting of the Fiscal Court will be on September 2. The following meeting will be on September 15 due to the fact that Chuck will not be able to be there on the 16th. The Fiscal Court is online on You Tube and Facebook.

The last thing on the agenda was the Marigold Festival. It is Saturday, September 20 from 10am to 5pm. We can sell things to make money at the festival. Baked goods, homemade jams and jellies, tee shirts, baskets, luminaries, visors and art pieces were discussed. Pat Breeden and Genevia Risner will work on the luminaries and visors. The Marigold Festival ad hoc committee, Michelangelo Rolf, Genevia Risner, Debby Lucas Angel and Mary Shields, will meet by Zoom on Wednesday at 5:30. The first meeting will be on September 3. Bonnie needs approval to rent a booth. A 10x10 booth is \$25 with no electric or water. The late fee is \$70. With electric and water the fee is \$85. Wayne Whalen made the motion to approve and Genevia Risner seconded. Motion carried unanimous.

Wayne called for a motion to approve a \$100 donation to the Labor Council for the golf tournament. Debby Lucas Angel motioned to approve and Genevia Risner seconded. Motion carried unanimous.

Business being concluded at 8pm Nancy Ogg made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Wayne Whalen seconded the motion.