

January 12, 2026 CARROLL COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Carroll County Democrat Central and Executive Committee met on this date at the Carroll County District Library, CCDL at 6:00 pm. Committee Chair Tom Postlethwait, called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: (13 + 4 +5) Terri Ossler, Tim Bille, Linda Farmer, Ron Mayle, Ray Morgenstern, Paula Puch, Mary Ann Bryan, Bruce Carlton, Linda Peoples, Valerie Gardner, Janice Marciniak, Jan Kennedy, and Tom Postlethwait were present. **At Large Members:** Jim Gardner, Melanie Wood, Betsy and Tom Williams. **Guests:** Tim Vandeborne, Jonathan Papai, Lauren Shannon, Joshua Shannon, Cheri Whipkey. Tim Vandeborne introduced himself to the group with the intent to run for a political office either Auditor or Commissioner. He is retired military and teaches at Buckeye Vocational School. He is graduate of Carrollton High School and lives locally. He stated he's the type of guy that does the "right thing". Lauren Shannon and Cheri Whipkey are both from the Board of Elections.

CORRESPONDENCE:

*Chair Tom reminded us to **return** our Declaration for Candidacy for Central Committee by February 4th to the Board of Elections. Linda Peoples stated that she no longer wanted her precinct seat of Harrison A.

1. Kim Mc Carthy sent a recent of payment for our ODOCCA dues of \$50.
2. Frances Strickland, speakers bureau of ODP, reached out to Chair Tom. He directed her to Valerie Gardner at 1-740-352-3305 regarding banquet speakers.
3. Tina Bernard from Carroll County General Health District asked for donation for Neighbor 2 Neighbor Hygiene Item Drive.
4. Petitions for candidacy were circulated for Eliot Forhan and Amy Acton/David Pepper.
5. Several campaign directors identified their information: Dan Thomas-Mike Kripchak, Anthony Eliopoulos-Deputy Political Director for Sherrod Brown 440-654-1105 or anthony@sherrodbrown.com. Caitlin Huxley ODP volunteer 312-541-0172.
6. Secretary read a thank you from the Hands Across Sherrodsville for our donations in November.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Jan Kennedy motioned to accept the electronic minutes as presented to the members by secretary, Paula Puch. Motion was seconded by Tom Williams. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer, Linda Farmer, presented a December balance of \$9117.80. Dan Schermerhorn made a \$80.00 donation. December debits were: \$474.17. The January balance is \$8,723.63. Balance in the Special Fund is \$97.03. Motion to approve was made by Bruce Carlton, seconded by Jim Gardner. Motion passed.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Campaign:** Chair Ray Morgenstern presented the group with a list of every candidate running in Ohio for both Republicans and Democrats.
2. **Communication:** Brenda Serri shared an album of our ads in the Free Press Standard. She says its going well and is working with Beth Sines, who is part of Carroll County Resistance Outreach
3. **Think Tank/Vacancy:** This subcommittee went to Outreach in 2025.
4. **Events:** Banquet chair, Valerie Gardner gave information about the April 9th banquet with cost of ticket \$50. 1 speaker secured at this time. Check calendar for proposed events.
5. **Budget:** Presented a preliminary budget to be voted on.
6. **Fair Booth:** No report
7. **Chicken BBQ:** May 17th and August 22nd.
8. **Outreach:** Carroll County Resistance led by Janice Marciniak reported that the group has been cross referencing independent voters with those that signed the women's reproductive rights petition. The goal is to touch them 10x in some form. Melanie Wood provided the group with postcards to send to legislators designed by the Majority Project. Postcard topic was Opposing ICE and Executive Abuse of Power. There will be a MLK Day Rally in New Philadelphia 11:30-1pm at the courthouse.
9. **Legislative:** Brenda Serri spoke for chair Dave Devey. She stated that there is so much executive overreach both at the federal and state levels. We should all be contacting our representatives.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Thank you to Brenda Serri and Beth Sines for their diligent work for the Free Press Ads. The Ads have been well received. Democrats in the county stated; "We exist!"

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Jan Kennedy made a **motion** to accept the proposed 2026 Budget that was explained by the Treasurer. Proposed income is \$10,000 with a carry over of \$8,763.63. There was a carry over of \$4,393.63 from 2025. Motion was seconded by Bruce Carlton. **Motion** carried.
2. A tentative calendar was presented to the group by the Secretary. She asked subcommittee chairs to decide when they would like to have a standard meeting on the calendar. She also asked members to check their status for subcommittees. So the subcommittee rosters could be updated.
3. The group decided to support the Neighbor 2 Neighbor Hygiene Event for the February meeting. **Bring hygiene items, socks, amazon gift cards.**

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Jan Kennedy stressed the need for everyone to get a flu shot. Terri Ossler is having surgery January 23rd.

ADJOURNMENT: 1st Jan Kennedy 2nd Terri Ossler

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, February 9th, 2026 at 6 pm at the CCDL

Minutes respectively taken and submitted by Paula Puch, CCDP Secretary.

