

Minutes of the SAW Joint Democratic Committee Program, January 14, 2020

The SAW Joint Democratic Committee Program was called to order at 7:02 pm by Staunton Chair Beth Daisey.

Waynesboro Chair, Tiffany Potter; Augusta County Chair, Jennifer Kitchen; and Staunton Chair, Beth Daisey all gave opening remarks:

1. Tiffany Potter reported that the Waynesboro Committee is starting the new year reenergized and is planning many events. She announced the new SAW Public Relations Committee's first meeting will take place Jan. 19, 2020 at the Waynesboro Headquarters at 11 am.
2. Beth Daisey urged committee members not to give in to despair or defeat in this most important election year. She mentioned the many elections are upcoming, including the local School Board and City Council races, as well as the Congressional, Senate, and Presidential elections. She urged the audience to use their energies to vote, to get friends to vote, and to each pick one issue to work on.
3. Jennifer Kitchen said that an announcement for a candidate for the 6th Congressional District will be forthcoming. She also urged members to stay energized, build on previous victories, and stay engaged in community.

Jennifer Kitchen introduced AJ and Adrienne Young from the Shenandoah Valley Poor Peoples' Campaign, a non-partisan movement connected to the National Call for Moral Revival of the Poor Peoples' Campaign that began in the 1960s under Dr. Martin Luther King, that is currently reviving under the auspices of Rev. William Barber. AJ Young gave important statistics about poverty in the United States and said the PPC is focusing on:

- 1) Ecological devastation
- 2) Voter Suppression
- 3) Homelessness
- 4) Pushing politicians to do the right thing

He then presented a video from the national campaign and urged our participation in their kickoff on January 24th, at 6:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Waynesboro. AJ and his wife, Adrienne, stated that, "Silence is Violence," and reminded us that there are, "more of us than there are of them." The Youngs ended their presentation with an invitation for all of us to join them. Their website is www.poorpeoplescampaign.org

Robert Horowitz, SAW Dems Canvas Coordinator, reported that if there is more than one candidate for the 6th CD, there will be a primary, not a caucus. He also inspired the Democrats in this area to grow and to participate in our democracy.

This was followed by a lively discussion about the various 2nd Amendment Sanctuary groups who have been to local city council meetings, and on gun owners in general and their increasing organized involvement in political action. Jennifer Lewis and others reported feeling alone at meetings and under attack. Erik Milnes proposed that no one should go by themselves to meetings where they may feel threatened, offered to attend himself, and stated that we must all go together. Others suggested various solutions (voting, becoming more organized, and showing up for one another).

The SAW Joint Program adjourned at 8:00 pm and the Staunton and Augusta County Committees individually held their respective business meetings.