**M I N U T E S**

 **January 2, 2024 Meeting**

**Hot Spring County Democratic Committee**

The meeting convened on January 2, 2024, at 6:00 pm at Frances Hall, Henson Benson Foundation at 22560 Highway 67 in the Board Room in Perla, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Tom Dillard welcomed everyone. There no guests.

No December minutes were presented due to the Committee having Christmas pot luck supper rather than a meeting. Incumbent James Bryant, District 1 Justice of the Peace provided an update in his District, and Marion Gibson, candidate for Justice of the Peace, District 3 shared her campaign plan.

Treasurer Bobbie Hill was not present, however, she reported via text an account balance of $8,102.74. A donation of $100 was received from Ms. Berdie Holder. She designated $50 for Valerie Hearn’s campaign, and $50 for Marion Gibson’s campaign. Tom said membership dues for 2024 will be collected during the February Committee meeting.

Mark McCorkle was not present for update on social media efforts.

Nicole Hughes, Election Commissioner, reported the Election Commission is testing the new equipment. The poll books have arrived, and they have been working to check out voting centers. Plans to go to Bonnerdale for a balloting station. Commissioners are preparing for the ballot draw and have conducted ballot proofing. Several corrections made.

Janice Goldman said she has a place in her yard for a “Valerie Hearn for JP4” sign.

Tom has proposed the Committee host a fundraiser in early to support our candidates. He suggested a reception committee to develop a mailing list. Speakes mentioned by the group included Tippi McCullough, Joyce Elliott, Linda Chesterfield and Wan Morgan.

Tom reported that constitutional amendments are still in Attorney General Griffin’s office awaiting approval. One proposal is by Conrad Reynolds to do away with voting machines. Searcy County has moved to paper ballots.

Mary Dillard provided an update on a felony records sealing workshop. Legal Aid of Central Arkansas said they could not help because they are short staffed. Mary said she will reach out to local judges to see if they can help with the project.

The MLK Parade is scheduled for January 15, 2024. Line-up begins at 3:30 p.m.

Adjourned.

**NEXT MEETING: 6:00 pm, Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at The Henson Benson Foundation – Frances Hall.**

 Marion Gibson Tom Dillard

 Secretary Chairman