Minutes
Chequamegon Democrats Membership Meeting
Chequamegon Dems Office, Ashland, Wisconsin

May 9, 2026

1. **Call to Order**. Chairperson Kathleen Adee called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Introductions. We went around the room and introduced ourselves.

3. Approval of April 11, 2026, Minutes. Our meeting notice provided a link to our website page where members can review our minutes. **Motion (Joyce Neumann), second (Caroline Twombly) to approve the minutes for April 11, 2026. Carried.**

4. **City of Ashland ordinance prohibiting political activity at City-sponsored events.** David reported that the Daily Press reported that the Ashland City Council had passed an ordinance prohibiting any political activity or "politically adjacent" activity at City sponsored events. (David noted the importance of having a local newspaper to report on things like this.) This immediately caused concerns for Kathleen and David who noted the probable unconstitutionality of the measure. The terms in the ordinance were very poorly defined (or not defined at all) but it seems that it would have prevented us from, for instance, setting up at the Farmer's Market for "deep canvasing," as we have done in the past, and would have prevented us (and the GOP, and Moqua Right-to-Life, for that matter) from participating in the Fourth of July Parade. David made some calls to the City Attorney, and the upshot is that the City Attorney's office has now drafted an amending ordinance to remove the political language. That amendment will be taken up by the City Council at its meeting on May 12. David encouraged members to attend the meeting and take advantage of the Citizen Participation Period to speak in support of the proposed repeal.

5. Treasurer's report. Treasurer Sandy Raspotnik was absent due to a funeral. Kathleen reviewed the April Treasurer's Report, which was shown on the screen. **Motion (Joyce Neumann), second (Charly Ray) to accept the Treasurer's Report.**

6. 7th Congressional District (CD) recap. Mike noted that our delegates got to hear from all 22 candidates running for office in the 7th CD. Gail Syverud praised our 7th CD Chair, Nancy Stencil. Kathleen noted that all three of our resolutions were passed as written by the Convention.

7. 2027 CD Convention to be hosted by the Cheq Dems. Kathleen informed us that the 2027 CD Convention will be hosted by us. We have secured Legendary Waters Casino, at

Red Cliff, as the site. We hope to have a pre-convention activity at Bad River. We are very excited about being able to show off our beautiful communities and country here, as well as our organization. If anyone wants to join the planning committee or has ideas for the Convention, email us (use the "Contact Us" button on our website) or let a member of the Executive Board know.

8. Democratic Party State Convention. The State Convention will be June 13-14 in Madison. Kathleen asked anyone who wants to be a delegate to let her know today.

9. Membership. David noted that our membership has grown 46% since the end of the 2024 election cycle (comparing January, 2025, numbers with April, 2026, numbers). He encouraged members to think about ways we can boost those numbers even further by the end of this election cycle. We will discuss at the June meeting.

10. Monarca Upstander Training. Kathleen reported that the training we facilitated by Monarca was very well done. Monarca left booklets for those who were unable to attend, detailing the steps an Upstander (constitutional observer) should take if ICE returns to our area. Monarca is now looking into Voter Protection activities.

11. 74th Assembly District Candidate Paul Johnson. We now have a Democratic candidate for the 74th Assembly District. Angela Stroud's 73rd District only covers the northern parts of our counties, but the 74th seat (currently held by GOP Chanz Green) covers a huge area, including the southern parts of our counties.

12. Nominating papers. Mike collected papers that had been circulated by members, and Kathleeen personally circulated additional papers at the meeting, so that we can send them to the campaigns.

13. Angela Stroud. Angela was given the floor to talk about her campaign and her work in the Assembly. She hopes that a Democratic majority will enable the Dems to move forward on utility reform and DNR reform and school finance reform. Angela noted that the 74th Assembly District is lot more subject to a Democratic flip than people are saying. She would like to work on a combined 73rd-74th District strategy. She believes that rural voters who turned to Trump may be willing to turn back to us, especially if they see that we are also rural people.

14. Charly Ray. Charly was given the floor to talk about his campaign. He gave some biographical information about himself. He noted that the 25th Senate District is considered one of the flippable Senate seats. Only two seats need to be flipped to give the Democrats a bare majority in the Senate (Angela would like to see a larger majority). Charly

noted how important it is for the Dems to take over the legislature, as the 2028 Presidential election will be momentous and we need to have state control of the election in trustworthy hands. Noting Wisconsin's importance in national elections Charly said, "Wisconsin is a front-line state and the 25th Senate District is a front-line district" with national impacts.

15, Summer Activities. Kathleen reviewed charts on the wall showing the many activities we have scheduled for the summer, and asked people to sign up for them**.**

16. July 4. One key activity is the July 4 parade. We are looking for a truck to pull our float. Let us know if you have one or know someone who does.

17, Persistent Protests. Persistent Protests continue every Saturday from 12:30-1:30 in Ashland at the Bandshell.

18. Succession planning. All officer positions are open this November as we transition to our two-year staggered terms. Neither Kathleen nor David is running for re-election, so we are especially looking for members who would like to take on the slots they are vacating.

19. **Adjournment**. **Motion (Angela Stroud), second (Charly Ray) to adjourn. Carried.**

Respectfully submitted:

David Siegler
Secretary