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

July 11, 2026

1. **Call to Order**. Chairperson Kathleen Adee called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. Thanks to Lance Twombly. Kathleen thanked Lance for doing tech today.

3. Introductions. We went around the room and the Zoom screen and introduced ourselves.

4. Approval of June 13, 2026, Minutes. Our meeting notice provided a link to our website page where members can review our minutes. **Motion (Gail Syverud), second (Jamie Paterson) to approve the minutes for June 13, 2026. Carried.**

5. Treasurer's report. Treasurer Sandy Raspotnik orally presented the report. She noted that she had made a couple of errors on previous reports totaling about $20. These will be corrected on the next report. In summary, our balance on May 1 was $3,649. We had income in May of $1,002 and expenses of $901. Our May ending balance was $3,751. We had similar income and expenses in June and our June ending balance was $3,621. **Motion (Penny Rutyna), second (Greg Trush) to accept the Treasurer's Report.** Dan Goglin asked if we could post the Treasurer's Report on the website as we do with our minutes. Sandy noted that there is sometimes a time crunch between the end of the month and the monthly meeting but said the Executive Committee would discuss. Sandy reported on the settlement with the Wisconsin Ethics Commission that was spearheaded by previous Treasurer Maddy Kemp. Maddy discovered that there was a discrepancy between our reported balance and our actual checking account balance, dating back several years- she never was able to pinpoint when the discrepancy arose. Instead we fessed up to the WEC so that we could get everything back in order, and they fined us $183 and have called it even.

6. Ethics complaint against Tom Tiffany. Kathleen has signed a complaint to the Ethics Committee regarding a campaign finance irregularity in Tom Tiffany's reporting.

7. 2026 Wisconsin Democrats Convention. Kathleen reported on the convention, which was attended by about 10 Cheq Dems delegates.

8. Office staffing. Secretary David Siegler reported that the Executive Committee would like to add office hours, so we will be looking for volunteers to staff the office on Thursdays from 4-6 and on Saturdays from 10-12.

9. Membership. David noted that we have identified donors from many communities in our two counties who have given to Democratic candidates but not joined the Cheq Dems. We want to send them letters inviting them to join and are looking for volunteers to do that.

10. Picnic. Our annual picnic will be Saturday, August 29. We will provide pulled pork sandwiches and lemonade and will ask participants to bring a dish to pass. Kathleen asked Gail if she'd be in charge of decorating and I think Gail said yes. At our next meeting we'll ask for volunteers.

11. July 4 Parade in Ashland. Kathleen gave a shout-out to Michael Balestreri, Lydia Harman, and Lenore Koski for making the signs that decorated our float. She also thanked Steve Saetre for driving home a supporter who could have had a medical issue in the middle of the parade where it would have been difficult to get help. Also, she thanked Lenore for staying behind at the office during the parade, so that we could keep it open for parade goers who needed to cool off, get water, or use the bathroom. This was appreciated. There were huge parade crowds and we received a lot of appreciation.

12. Canvassing. We'll be doing canvassing the weekend of July 25-26. Ellen Lafans is organizing canvassing for Fred Clark; she asked supporters to contact her if they want to participate. Kathleen clarified that the CheqDems do not endorse any candidates who are in a primary, but members are free to participate in any campaign they want. Mary Hamel suggested that people wondering about the election should go to myvote.wi.

13. Call for officer candidates. Neither Kathleen nor David is running for the positions they hold (president and secretary). Mike Radtke and Sandy have not announced their intentions. Anyone is welcome to run for office. Anyone who wants more info on what serving as an officer entails should contact any of the current officers.

14. Governor Candidates Forum. The afternoon of our meeting we were hosting a candidates forum. Kelda Roys, Francesca Hong, and Joel Brennan were all to attend. Mandela Barnes had announced his intention not to participate earlier in the week. Sara Rodriquez told us the night before that she would be unable to attend. Kathleen distributed paper and asked members to write down questions to be posed to the candidates by the moderator Angela Stroud. We took some time to do that and then collected the papers and

reconvened. The Executive Committee was then to review, combine, and edit the questions

19. Adjournment. Motion (Dan Goglin), second (Lenore Koski) to adjourn. Carried.

Respectfully submitted:

David Siegler
Secretary