

WV CIVICS COALITION
ZOOM MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

MINUTES

I. ROLL CALL

Attending: Rebecca Tinder (President), Professor Betsy Osborne (Vice President), Byrd Center Director Ray Smock (Treasurer), Chief Justice Beth Walker, Ace Parsi, Deputy Secretary of State Mike Queen, State Bar Executive Director Mary Jane Pickens, David King, Margaret Miller, Pat Dillon, and Tom Tinder.

Each person briefly introduced themselves.

I. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 15, 2023 MEETING

A motion was duly made, seconded, and passed to approve the Minutes of the August 15, 2023 meeting.

II. FINANCIAL REPORT FROM FISCAL AGENT – BYRD CENTER

Treasurer Ray Smock stated that the original grant was in the amount of \$8,600 and that no expenditures had been made.

III. NEW OPPORTUNITIES

There was a discussion with the State of Kentucky regarding collaborative efforts between the Civics Coalitions in both states. Comments were on the opportunities for joint grant proposals, utilizing one staff person to serve both entities, including website work. Other remarks concerned the timing of such a joint effort based upon the newness of the WV Coalition. It was agreed that Vice President Osborne will have additional conversations with the Kentucky leadership and report back at the next meeting.

Treasurer Smock mentioned the upcoming celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. Actions have already been taken at the federal level and some states have begun preparations. A comment was made that Culture Center Director Randall Reid Smith may be the contact person here in WV. After additional discussion, Deputy Secretary Queen volunteered to contact Director Reid Smith and report back at the next meeting.

The Members then reviewed a grant opportunity from Mr. Parsi from the NPGO organization. It was determined that the Coalition might not be eligible for this grant at the present time. However, an agreement was made that a Grants Committee

should be initiated for this important area. Volunteering to serve were Vice President Osborne (Chair), David King, and Tom Tinder.

IV. INFORMATION GATHERING

Vice President Osborne led a discussion relating to the planned needs assessment survey of teachers and administrators. After many comments concerning the survey questions, the survey length, and the placement of questions, it was agreed that the survey will be finalized by next week and sent to the Coalition for consideration.

During the discussion, it was reported that Dustin Lambert, the State Social Studies Coordinator and a Coalition member, will be leaving his position and moving to another position in the WV State Department of Education.

V. WEBSITE

It was agreed that there would be further discussion regarding the website at the next meeting, including the utilization of Career and Technical school programs, options, maintenance plan, topics, and other matters.

VI. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

A motion was duly made, seconded, and passed to approve the Minutes of the last Coalition meeting on August 15, 2023.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Deputy Secretary Queen informed the Coalition that today is National Voters Registration Day in the United States.

IX. MEETINGS – THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 4:00PM

There being no further business to transact, the Zoom meeting was adjourned.