

WV CIVICS COALITION MEETING

Nov. 21, 2023 (Zoom)

I. ROLL CALL

Quick introductions of participants

- Rebecca Tinder (President), Betsy Osborne (Vice President), John Quesenberry (Secretary), Ray Smock (Treasurer), Pat Dillon, April Harless, Margaret Miller, David King, Mary Jane Pickens, and Tom Tinder were in attendance.

II. OPPORTUNITIES

A. Partnership with Kentucky Update

- Betsy will be meeting with the Kentucky Civics Coalition at their conference next week and will have information to share towards the end of next week.

B. Grants Committee Report

- Betsy Osborne, Tom Tinder, David King (committee members)
- Tom Tinder shared the current priority is getting a second year grant from Civics Now. We are eligible to apply for a second year grant for up to \$20,000.
- Things the grant could be used for: activities such as the organization website, conducting a listening tour, Civic Learning Week.
- We requested a \$15,000 grant.
- Tom Tinder wrote a preliminary proposal for the grant and the committee is looking over it. The executive committee will be receiving a copy in the upcoming weeks to look at and make comments and recommendations so that the final grant application can be approved at the December meeting.
- The coalition has roughly \$8600 left from the original grant. Shepherd Foundation was given \$500 for hosting the Coalition on its website while ours is being developed and housing our grant.

C. Partnering with the WV Secretary of State in National Civic Learning Week:

<https://civiclearningweek.org/> (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfVT-P9MaDsefOcBIqWMEv7IEyRVT9EstD36PJbCkUcft09Wg/viewform>)

- Ace Parsi reached out to the WV Secretary of State and he said if the Coalition will work with the Secretary of State's Office, he will be willing to participate. (March 11-15)
- Committee formed to work with Secretary of State – John Quesenberry, Pat Dillon, David King
- Tom Tinder informed the Executive Committee that participating in some state activity during National Civic Learning Week as one of the requirements for the grant from Civics Now. The grant application asks for \$5000 for setup for a statewide activity that could also be done virtually. It was suggested that event could possibly be done at the State Supreme Court using their streaming capabilities.
- April Harless stated the 12th and 13th of that week (Tuesday and Wednesday) are oral arguments at the State Supreme Court but the other days should be available to use. She also mentioned the opening of the Courts Learning Center in December and suggested it might be incorporated into the activities.

D. Decision on setting up a 501 (c)(3) corporation, or continuing to use the Shepherd University Foundation, or using the WV Civic Education Foundation as the fiscal agent

- Options include continue using the Shepherd University Foundation, using the WV Civics Foundation, or creating our own 501 (c) (3).
- Discussion – It was suggested we need to eventually create our own 501 (c) (3). It was also suggested that we continue to use the Shepherd Foundation to house our current grant funds and then move to one of the other two options beginning with the new grant if we are awarded the new grant. **The consensus was to use the WV Civics Foundation as the financial agent for the new Civics Now grant and include that in the grant application.**

III. INFORMATION GATHERING

E. Report on Needs Assessment, Drawing for gift card incentives, and Proposed Next Steps

- 60 participants (half) will receive incentive gift
- Really good response from elementary, pretty good from secondary, and little from administration.
- Link to the survey:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1lbJpLzuavlcGtMUMTWx59ZUjpszEFuFHKAO2pelt80I/edit#gid=1574932945>
- Highlight results:
 - Secondary felt like they had resources and were doing a pretty good job of intentionally carving out spaces for teaching civics.
 - One of the challenges was the amount of time devoted to Math and English at the expense of civics.
 - Lack of time is one of the biggest challenges in elementary especially for social studies in general and civics in specific.
 - Suggestion discussed to help meet the challenges facing classrooms:
 - Trying to provide training, speakers, and activities that can be brought into the schools/classroom instead of physically taking students to the activity (travel/field trip/bus problems)
 - Trying to focus elementary civics activities on civic interpersonal skills (sharing, respect, participation, honesty, etc.) and even tying that into Social-Emotional Learning and Character Education to try to have time carved into the schedule for civics curriculum. This could also help teach the skills needed to allow students to constructively deal with more controversial subjects in the curriculum that are more age appropriate in secondary classrooms.
 - Betsy Osborne has used an online random generator to pick the 30 winners of gift cards from those who participated in the needs assessment survey.
 - **Motion made by Tom Tinder and seconded by Ray Smock to have Rebecca Tinder buy the 30 gift cards for \$30 each and distribute those to the random survey winners and for the Coalition to pay for those. Motion passed.**
 - *Rebecca Tinder will purchase and distribute the \$30 gift cards and then be reimbursed from Ray Smock (Treasurer).*

F. Update on 250th Anniversary of Declaration of Independence Celebration in WV

- Margaret Miller will report to the Executive Committee at the next meeting (December) about updates. The Education Director at WVPBS is on the Declaration of Independence Celebration Committee.

IV. WEBSITE

A. Options Update

- Ray Smock has someone at the Byrd Center who is skilled at developing websites. Ray stated we will need to have our own domain name and choose a user friendly format.
- Rebecca also has a quote from a web designer who has worked with the WV Bar Association.
- **Ray Smock made the motion that we accept the quote from Shane Ward (eve, inc.) to create our website. Tom Tinder seconded the motion. After discussion, the MOTION PASSED.**

B. Maintenance Plan

- **John Quesenberry made the motion that we also pay Shane Ward for maintenance of the website and authorize the payment. MOTION PASSED.**

C. Other

- None

V. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

- **Ray Smock made a motion to accept the November minutes as submitted by Rebecca Tinder. Betsy Osborne seconded. The motion passed.**

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

The next meeting will be December 19, 2023.

Submitted,
John Quesenberry
Secretary WV Civics Coalition