**NOTES
From the
MCDP TOWN HALL MEETING
October 21, 2023**

The Mitchell County Democratic Party (MCDP) held a town hall meeting at 10:00 a.m. to Noon on Saturday, October 21, 2023. The town hall meeting was held in the conference room of the Mitchell County Board of Education (72 Ledger School Road) in Bakersville, NC. The purpose of the meeting was to hear from the MCDP membership about what the Party’s focus should be and where we should be engaged during the upcoming 2024 election cycle.

Chuck Hubbard, a candidate for North Carolina’s Fifth Congressional District, was the keynote speaker for the meeting. He talked about the record of Rep. Virginia Foxx in Congress and how he would represent all of the people of the Fifth Congressional District. He indicated that regard-less of the Congressional district in which Mitchell County found itself after the redistricting dust settled, Mitchell County would have a friend in Congress if he was elected.

Chairman Gouge announced that Risa Larsen, the MCDP’s Treasurer, was facing some health issues and was currently in the hospital in Asheville. He asked everyone to sign a get-well card that would be sent to her.

Gouge called for the election of a MCDP Secretary due to the resignation of Gloria Schulman due to health reasons. Johnathan Alex Campos was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Chairman Gouge opened the floor up for comments on what the group want the Party to focus on and be engaged in during the 2024 election cycle. The following suggestions were brough forth:

* the group agreed that the Unity Picnic with Avery and Yancey Counties was a huge success and that we should make that activity an annual event – possibly rotating it between the three counties. Everyone was pleased with the number of candidates the event attracted.
* it was suggested that the MCDP should consider planning and participating in more multi-county events –
	+ Avery County was hosting a social potluck at The Dispensary in Spruce Pine on October 28, 2023 and the MCDP was co-sponsoring the event
* in addition to Facebook, Instagram, and Mailchimp as our communication tools with the local MCDP, we should consider creating phone trees in the precincts and/or do a countywide mailing (e.g. postcards) to the Democrats and unaffiliated voters
* it was suggested that we survey the MCDP and unaffiliated voters to ascertain what issues (local and state) are important to them
* the group assembled thought it was important for the MCDP to hold monthly meetings of the membership where speakers (candidates or experts on various issues) could be brought in to address the countywide membership
* it was suggested and agreed to that the MCDP have a float in the Spruce Pine Christmas parade to increase the visibility of the MCDP
* the MCDP should continue its involvement with and presence at the 2024 Rhododendron Festival
* it was announced that the MCDP was exploring a way to sell MCDP merchandize through a third-party vendor so the Party could avoid issues involving storage
* there was a discussion and general agreement that the MCDP should hold at least two fundraisers during 2024; it was noted that the fundraiser held in August by Rick Gougeon at Little Switzerland Books and Beans was successful; and, the MCDP Activities Committee could explore ideas further
* there was a desire to see the MCDP have a greater presence in the local media (e.g. ***Mitchell News-Journal*** and W-TOE radio)

A motion of adjournment was made and seconded. Chairman Gouge adjourned the meeting at 11:22 p.m.