



COLES
PROGRESSIVES

Huddle



Meeting Minutes

July 29th, 2020

Seventeen Coles Progressives/Huddle members attended this Zoom meeting. Bill and Paula facilitated, Susan took notes, and Susan volunteered to facilitate the **next meeting** in two weeks on **August 12th at 7:30 pm**.

Don't forget: Medicare for All Zoom Event next Wednesday, August 5th at 7:00 pm.

Letters to the Editor

Chuck stated that besides eliminating letters to the editor, the JG/TC will soon go to a 5-day/week publishing schedule.

Kody Czerwonka for State Representative Campaign

Kody is a progressive candidate to support! He reported positive experiences in his campaign for the 110th district. He asked for volunteers for on-campus outreach and said that he has raised \$2,000 in the past couple of weeks; let him know if you want a sticker or yard sign! The campaign also needs a fundraising coordinator. Remote opportunities for volunteers can be found at his website, www.kodyczerwonka.com

Black Lives Matter Here Too

The focus of our BLM campaign has shifted to the schools and the Charleston Police & Fire Board. Tammy will concentrate on Mattoon schools and Paula will continue her excellent work with Charleston. Tammy and Lindsey will cultivate stories involving discrimination in the schools, and Susan will share Paula's "Call for Stories" on Coles Progressives' Twitter and Instagram. Susan will begin a dialogue with Brendan Lynch about the inner workings of the Charleston Police & Fire Board. Paula is working on her FOIA (Freedom Of Information Act) requests for the schools.

Letter to Chad Reed

Susan reported that she emailed our letter to Chad Reed last Saturday, after collecting signatures. She will keep an eye out for a response, if any, and report.

Financial Update

Gary reported that we have about \$1,200 cash on hand after making payments to the State for taxes and fees and setting aside the \$300 earmarked for Road to Freedom. The IRS has cashed our \$600 check, but it will take 2-3 months before they rule on our official tax-exempt status.

Letter to the Chamber

Bill will send the letter after incorporating the wording changes suggested by Charles. We discussed the Coles County State's Attorney's refusal to prosecute non-compliance with the governor's mandates. Maria mentioned that other jurisdictions levy fines on people not wearing masks in public; however, pursuing that idea here would likely be unproductive, as it would require city councils to make an ordinance, police to issue citations, and the state's attorney to prosecute.

Defund the Police Movement

Charles reported on the Huddle's progress. They have prepared an email summarizing their continuing research, which will be available within the next day or so. Ellen has requested a plethora of documents from the Coles County Sheriff's Department via FOIA. A general discussion of police training and employment requirements followed. Lindsey will pursue obtaining more information from CPD regarding training.

C.A.R.S. - Coles Area Ride Sharing

Lindsey gave an in-depth report of the CARS initiative, which will (hopefully) provide free or low-cost public transportation. At the moment, much of the work is formative, consisting of research and looking at models. One problem is the need for a log system that would interface rides/passengers with drivers/routes. The group discussed ideas for a logistics system similar to what Uber uses, as well as the creation of surveys and structure, i.e., who would qualify, how much would it cost, what area would it serve?

Volunteer Appeal

Annalisa reported on her ideas to encourage more active group members. The group discussed several ideas, including a yearly survey to reaffirm membership, token membership dues (maybe \$1-2 per year), what we should require of our members, and the form meetings should take (realizing that in-person meetings are not currently feasible). This is a developing project.

Statement to the County Board

Bill will draft a statement to the County Board requesting their assistance with compliance with health department protocols in the county.

Upcoming Local Events & Meetings of Interest:

Fighting COVID-19: The Pandemic Threat, the U.S. Response, and a **Single Payer Response**

Wednesday, August 5th @ 7 PM

Presented on Zoom

 **ISPC**
ILLINOIS SINGLE-PAYER COALITION
Organizing for national guaranteed healthcare for all.

Paula Enstrom, MSPH, RN

Patricia Simpson,
Emerita Professor, Loyola University
Chicago



Coles County Board meeting

Tuesday, Aug 11th, 7-8 pm

WATCH PARTY (Coles Progressives FB Group)

Charleston & Mattoon City Council mtgs

Tuesday, Aug 4th & Aug 18th 6:30 pm

Charleston School Board mtg

Wednesday, Aug 19th, 6:30 pm

Mattoon School Board mtg

Tuesday, Aug 11th, 7-8 pm

See the Huddle ACT calendar for more events
(www.charlestonhuddle.com/act/calendar).



MISSION STATEMENT

Coles Progressives is a group of thoughtful, committed citizens dedicated to achieving positive change by mobilizing citizen action and advocating for legislation, regulations, and government programs that share our vision for progressive change.

As a non-profit, non-partisan organization, we work to strengthen ties within and between our communities, enhance human dignity, create effective democracy, support workers' rights, promote environmentalism and sustainable development, and reinforce diversity, compassion, and inclusiveness.

We welcome you to join our team and help us make a difference, working to improve the quality of life for all residents of Coles County.