

A. Gasperoni said Community Housing Network is working on adding about 105 properties throughout the years and they just built/added 15 more for a total of 120 properties. She said the homes are established and being leased out.

She invited members to attend the “80’s Homecoming Fundraiser” on Friday, October 24, 2025, at the Lafayette Grande in Pontiac.

J. Kotowski told members Oakland County Health & Human Services assists with “Wellness Wednesdays” every Wednesday at the Baldwin Center, 212 Baldwin Ave., Pontiac. Agencies at Wellness Wednesday assist clients with getting connected to the services they need. Baldwin Center provides a lunch at the Bistro, laundry and shower services are also available.

R. Frost said Micah 6 is working on a hat, glove, and coat drive for distribution on November 1st. Items can be dropped off at their location on Newberry St. On November 7th through November 9th Micah 6 will be doing a fundraising and tour event at the Webster Community Center.

C. LaFleur said CNS Healthcare will host a “Harvest Fest Family Night” on Thursday, October 23rd from 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm at four locations in the metro Detroit area.

J. McQueen said he will be reaching out to HPWC partner organizations to update information for Pontiac City Council.

C. Sisiruca shared that Central Multicultural La Familia is hosting a Wine Tasting event at Centro on October 24. The funds raised will support Centro programs in the community.

A. Barksdale told members Trinity Health Oakland’s car seat checks are twice a month with one in Pontiac and the other in Clarkston. They also do driver safety classes with AARP and driver refresher courses. Her next fall prevention class is in February 2026, and registration is available now.

3. Speed Dater Presentation: “Starter of Hope”, Monica Marena

M. Marena told members “Starter of Hope” is a 501c (3) non-profit with a goal of broadening access to healthier breads throughout underserved communities in Oakland County. She said “Starter of Hope” began with Sourdough Ida’s bakery in Troy when as a way to reduce food waste they began donating the left over loaves to local shelters like the Hope Shelter. She said their future goal is to collaborate with existing organizations specifically during the holidays to donate whole or minis loaves or bread rolls to organizations who have special events going on for the holidays. She said they have worked with the HOPE Shelter and Honor Community Health. They are currently looking to collaborate with any organizations who are within 10 miles of the bakery in Troy and are looking for high quality breads to serve for the holidays. She said the best way to contact with them is at starterofhope@gmail.com

4. Strategic Plan Discussion

K. Merz reviewed what the group discussed at the August meeting for the Strategic Plan survey. Members were asked to review on their own or with their table group the survey questions and make notes or suggestions. J. Kotowski asked members if they are aware of other surveys taking place in Pontiac to please note the organization doing the survey on the handout. Large group discussion ensued.

5. Adjournment:

K. Merz adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m. The next HPWC! meeting is in-person on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, from 1:00 pm – 3:00 at the Bowen Senior Center. This will be the annual potluck meeting.

Minutes submitted by: Signa Metivier

Approved by: Kelsey Merz