

BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD AREA DEMS

June 17, 2024

MINUTES

Chair, Debbie Rosenman called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

Roll Call:

Present: Chair: Debbie Rosenman, Vice Chair: Emery Pence, Recording Secretary: Corinne Shoop, Corresponding Secretary Dave Goodman; Trustee: Nessa Fuller and Trustee Juergen Wiesenberger. Absent: Treasurer: Libby Dzurka

The agenda was accepted as posted without objection.

The minutes from the May meeting were approved and accepted as posted.

Chair Report: Chair Debbie Rosenman

The Chair welcomed the attendees. She advised that the Club is moving into the Action Phase to get ready for the upcoming elections. We had a great Meet and Greet with U.S. Senate Candidate Elissa Slotkin last week. You will hear about how our team of precinct delegates are being trained and encouraged to begin connecting with their voters. It will be important to keep up with our club newsletters and get on the mailing list for Oakland County Democratic Party to know about local events and ways to get involved. There is literally something happening every week and lots of ways to take action to help.

Meanwhile, in addition to our support of the Reproductive Rights postcard program, we are also lining up volunteers to help with our first Road Clean up, one in July and one in September. Sign up at the back table to get a pack of postcards and/or to help with the road cleanup. Soon we have word about yard signs too so stay tuned by reading our newsletters.

Our club has made two endorsements for contested races in the August Primary. We are supporting Nicole Huddleston for 6th Circuit Court Judge and Jim Nash for Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner. You may remember Nicole who has been to many of our meetings and walked with our club in the Beverly Hills Parade. Jim Nash last spoke to our club at our May meeting and impressed us with his commitment to the environment. Please vote for Nicole Huddleston and Jim Nash on your August ballot.

Treasurer's Report:

The Chair gave the Treasurer Report in the Treasurer's absence. There are two accounts: the general account and the PAC account. The general account is used to pay for expenses to operate the club. We encourage donations to both accounts, especially in an election year.

Committee Reports:

Precinct Delegate Committee:

Chair Allen Wolf, gave the following report:

The Precinct Delegates have been very busy. We have 158 of our 180 turfs covered with a Precinct Delegate or a volunteer.

We are doing the most comprehensive training we have ever done. We had 67 attendees at our first two training sessions. Some 43 are scheduled for the remaining training sessions we are doing in person and on Zoom this month. Club members who are not PDs but are interested in being volunteers are welcome to attend as well. The training is quite comprehensive and covers the role of the PD, strategy, voting information, and instructions on using WaveMichigan.

We have also been busy enrolling people in WaveMichigan—our tool for the 2024 election which has been designed around how we do Precinct Delegate work. We already have 117 Precinct Delegates and volunteers with Wave accounts.

Each month the Precinct Delegates will be sending out texts to voters encouraging them to provide us with their email address, become Permanent Absentee voters and to vote for our endorsed candidates.

PDs as well as every club member are encouraged to go out canvassing for Shadia Martini. There is a canvass almost every Saturday and Sunday. On June 29, we are planning a BBAD Day of Action where we will be going out en masse for Shadia. Please join us.

This election is a scary one. The polls are truly shocking. A lot can happen between now and when we vote in October and November. Much of that is outside of our control. But I can assure you that your Precinct Delegates will be doing all they can for Joe Biden and for every candidate we endorse down to our fabulous State Senators, our great House Rep candidates and school boards and library boards.

Postcard Writing Committee/Student Intern Committee:

Emery Pence, the Vice Chair reported that postcard writing efforts for Shadia Martini campaign continues.

He also advised that the work with the student intern program is ongoing. There are many opportunities for interns to work in various capacities in this election year. He asked that if anyone knows of a student that may be interested to please contact him.

Lastly, there is a program where political volunteers from other areas are seeking housing and are looking for host families. He has additional information if anyone is interested in hosting.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Guest speakers: State Senator Jermei Moss

Senator Jermei Moss discussed the changes in the voting process this year due to the changes in the news voting laws. Of special interest was that there are now 9 days of early voting and that the absentee ballots can begin to be processed before the close of the polls.

He reviewed all the safety measures in place to ensure a secure voting cycle. Michigan has joined many other states in permitting the early processing of the absentee ballots, including many red states. He explained that after the prior presidential election, the GOP-lead Michigan State House conducted an investigation into the integrity of the 2020 and found no evidence of any misconduct or fraud.

There are also additional proposed changes in the election laws being discussed. These include housing election data uniformly and in one place for easy review and retrieval, prohibiting discriminatory practices at the polls, providing ballots in multiple languages, and address restrictions getting voters to the polls or voter mobility.

Senator Moss answered questions from the attendees on a variety of topics.

Victor Jimenez from the League of Conservation Voters

Mr. Jimenez gave a presentation addressing the objectives and goals of the League of Conservation Voters. It works to advance policies that advocate safe water, good government, preservation of parks and public land, healthy great lakes and clean air. This includes working to elect candidates that share these goals, educate the public about the importance of these goals to our quality of life and keep our elected officials accountable.

Recent projects include Michigan Clean Energy and Jobs Act, affordable and safe water for every household, utility accountability (DTE and Consumers Energy), polluter pay requirements and inflation reduction.

He directed the attendees to michiganlcv.org for detailed information and encouraged involvement in furthering these goals. Look in the next newsletter for the website that lists ways for Energy Savings.

Announcements and Good and Welfare:

The July meeting will return to the regular date and time, July 16, 2024 (third Tuesday of the month) at 6:30 pm. Come socialize with other members at Michigan Beer Growler Company, 31221 Southfield Road, NW corner of Southfield Road and 13 Mile in Beverly Hills.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Attendees- Attendees at June 17th meeting

Prashanth Balusu
Howard Baron

Nancy Bliss
Barbara Borden*

Charlie Cavell
Chris Chanko
Maureen Christensen
Suzanne Christopherson
Michael Clift
Sally Cole-Misch
Mike Corbin
Lisa Efros
Gabe Efros
Nessa Feller
Maureen Field
Charles Gabrys
James Gardner
Marcia Gershenson
Tracey and James Goddeeris
Dave Goodman
Jainender Jain
Victor Jimenez and colleague
Miriam Imerman
Catherin Martin
Shadia Martini
Jennifer Matlow
Jeremy Moss
Riley Myers
Val Murray
Fred Newton
Lisa Peers
Emery and Linda Pence
Rakesh Ramakrishnan
Debbie Rosenman
Early Scott
Harriet Shakir
Corinne Shoop
Gene Simms
Craig Spangler
Amy Voigt
Laura Wade
Ann Westcott
Gail and Mike Whitty
Jill and Juergen Wiesenbrger
Allen Wolf

Linda Zlotoff

Attendees= 50 people + one on zoo

