

Portage County Democratic Central/ Executive Committee
Po Box 729
Ravenna, Ohio 44266
www.portagedemocrats.org

Zoom Meeting on April 22, 2021 @ 6:00pm

Democratic Central Committee Members Attending Via Zoom: 32

Guests Attending: 3

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman DePerro at 6:03pm with 32 members present along with a couple of guests.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman DePerro.

A declaration of quorum was established by the Secretary.

A motion was made by Frank Hairston to approve the meeting minutes of February 25, 2021 as written, a 2nd by Christopher Clevenger-Morris. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Updates: Letters of interest had been received from Pamela Macio, Kelly Clary, and Becky Doggett. Present in the meeting were Kelly Clary from Aurora 2B and Becky Doggett from Shalersville D. A motion to appoint Kelly Clary and Becky Doggett to the Central Committee was made by Christopher Clevenger-Morris, a 2nd by Frank Hairston. The motion passed unanimously. Brad Cromes administered the Oath of Office to the appointees. Pamela Macio's appointment for Aurora 5A has been tabled.

A Treasurer's report was read by Brad Cromes. A motion to approve the report as read was made by Christopher Clevenger-Morris with a 2nd by Frank Hairston. The motion passed unanimously. A detailed report is available upon request.

A projected budget for 2021 was read. A motion to approve the projected budget for 2021 was made by Christopher Clevenger-Morris and 2nd by Lisa Hirt. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee - Frank Hairston spoke on behalf of this committee. Additional meetings to be held in the upcoming weeks/months for finalization of fundraising opportunities. Please contact Frank Hairston, Hank Gibson or Melissa Long for ideas on fundraising ideas.

Constitutional Review Committee- Bruce Ribelin and Brad Cromes gave a brief update. Making progress in reviewing the County Constitution for necessary updates and comparing it to the State Constitution. It has been since 2007 that this document has had detailed review and updating.

Membership Committee- Christopher Clevenger-Morris gave an update as to them working on a proposed handbook for recruiting poll workers and registering voters. The goal is to have a committee in place year round to assist with training and guidance. The group will request a review by the Central Committee before finalizing the proposed document.

Service Committee- An update was given by Samantha Stephens reference to the work being done on April 24th at the Haven of Portage County. Members of this committee are in need of a project for the month of May. Any ideas please contact Samantha Stephens or Denise Smith to discuss upcoming events that may be in need of volunteer work.

Board of Elections Update:

Terrie Nielsen gave updates as to the upcoming Primary Election to be held on May 4, 2021. Early voting has opened and available at the Board of Elections until May 3, 2021.

New Business:

Judge Poland was present and spoke briefly to the Committee as to his campaign for Municipal Court Judge to retain his seat this November. Please contact him with any questions or interest in assisting with his campaign. Judge Fankhauser was not available for this meeting.

Federated Democratic Women:

Gloria spoke on the *Plant the Seed of Democracy* fundraiser. Contributions may be made via mail or online at portagefdw.org. Looking at additional fundraisers at the next meeting in May. Please contact a member to be notified of the meeting dates and zoom information.

Portage County Young Democrats:

Christopher spoke on the organization and requirements for their endorsement, please contact him with any questions. They recently partnered with the FDW on the spring fundraiser and are working together with local candidates and their campaigns. Three local members of the Young Dems recently attended the Young Democrats of Ohio spring conference. There are several events coming up in the next few months, so please watch your mailboxes.

Some links that were shared Portage Young Dems' endorsed candidates list is available here:

<https://www.portageyd.org/candidates>

Operative U. info here: <https://www.ohioyd.org/latest/operative-university>

Kent State Young Dems:

Brad gave an update as to Tyler Gardner as he will be finishing up his tenure at Kent State and Devin Douglas will be taking over that position. Brad will be working with her to continue the relationship with their organization.

A motion was made by Christopher Clevenger-Morris to adjourn the meeting with Leota Reale's 2nd. The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on June 24, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.