

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

Meeting Date: November 10, 2021
Time: 6 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Central Committee Members: 24 (includes two elected officials)
Guests: 3 (includes one elected official)
Total Elected Officials: 3

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dean DePerro called the meeting was called to order at approximately 6 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Becky Doggett led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

It was stated that a quorum had **not** been established, as only 24 members were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Without a quorum present, approval of the minutes from September 8, 2021, was tabled until the next meeting.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Resignation and Declaration of Vacancy

DePerro announced that Cathy Poling of Kent 4B and Ina Sayre of Deerfield B have resigned from the Central Committee and declared a vacancy in these two precincts.

Appointments

Two new members who would have been appointed officially at this month's meeting (Pam Mascio, Aurora 5A, and Sandy Money penny, Mogadore Village) were not present. The official appointment of these members was tabled until the next meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Gary Horning gave the treasurer's report. Without a quorum present, approval of the treasurer's report was tabled until the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

DePerro reminded those present that the annual Chair's Circle event is being planned for December. A tentative date for the event is December 1 at the Battleground restaurant in Kent. A time has not been determined. The event is expected to be in person. Hank Gibson said there was nothing else new to report at this time. He did, however, mention the golf outing that had to be canceled because the timing of the event was not right. He said he is "dedicated to making this happen next year" because the PCDP needs to raise funds to pay its monthly bills and carry out its activities. Golf outings, Gibson said, can raise a lot of money. Gibson also said that additional fundraising ideas are needed. DePerro also urged members to bring fundraising ideas to the Finance Committee.

Constitutional Review Committee

First Vice Chair Denise Smith said that all that needs to be done now is for the PCDP to submit a copy of the revised constitution to the Ohio Democratic Party and perhaps also to the Ohio secretary of state.

Membership Committee

Clevenger-Morris said the committee met to talk about filling some of the vacant seats on the Central Committee and the provision of training and support for Central Committee members. The committee adopted an inclusion statement that will guide the Membership Committee as it seeks to fill vacancies for the 2022-2026 cycle. Clevenger-Morris read the

statement aloud. He also reminded members in attendance at the Central Committee meeting that they must file Form 2M with the Portage County Board of Elections if they want to appear on the ballot next year to retain their Central Committee seat. In the coming weeks, the Membership Committee will be reviewing potential candidates for vacant Central Committee seats. Clevenger-Morris added that anyone interested in helping with this effort should contact him or Becky, Terrie or Denise. The written committee report is on file with these minutes.

Service Committee

Smith gave the committee report. She said that between bad weather and the pandemic, there have been no new events. Smith, however, did remind members in attendance that tomorrow, Veterans Day, Judge Lorie Pittman with Portage CARES is sponsoring a food drive (nonperishable foods) and collection of personal items for the veterans' homes in Portage County. Items will be collected in front of the courthouse at 203 W. Main St., in Ravenna from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., concluding before the county's Veterans Day ceremony. A copy of the event announcement that went out by email is on file with these minutes. Smith added that the option of dropping off donations at the party office is not available because the party will not have formal office hours until after January 1 of next year.

Volunteer Committee

Smith gave the committee report. She said the purpose of the committee is to help her find volunteers to set up, work at, and take down the Portage County Democratic Party's booth at fairs and similar events in Portage County throughout the year. She said she is not asking anyone to volunteer now, but she won't turn anyone down. Smith said that even if Central Committee members cannot do the work themselves, there likely are people in each member's precinct who could and would like to help if asked. She said to find and engage those people and get them to lend a hand. DePerro said that this year, members are being asked to volunteer to serve on a committee or do a particular task; next year, he said, members will be assigned to a committee or a task and, if they say "no," they will be asked to say why they cannot comply. Clevenger-Morris added that his committee will be "taking a deep dive into attendance records" to see who does and does not come to Central Committee meetings and find out if the people who do not come really want to be on the committee. DePerro said that, to his knowledge, there is no mechanism to remove an elected member from the Central Committee, but he will do his best to encourage non-attenders to step back and let someone else step up who may want to do the job instead. He added that the party needs "boots on the ground" and "people who can organize." The party's success depends on having a visible presence in the community so people can see the deeds the party is doing, such as Portage CARES.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS UPDATES

Terrie Nielsen announced the deadline for the filing of post-election finance reports, stressed the continuing need for poll workers and poll workers who follow through on their commitment to serve on election day, and gave a status report on state and Congressional redistricting. (Note: Additional details are not included here because the voice of the speaker was not loud enough to hear clearly on the recording.)

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Candidate Communications

DePerro said the Central Committee is planning to have a Christmas party this year. The tentative date is December 7. A possible location is the Battleground restaurant. The building in which the Central Committee is holding its meetings does not allow alcohol to be served. DePerro said he thought that alcohol should be available at a Christmas party. He said he is looking for a place that can accommodate a large number of people and be conducive to a party atmosphere. The Christmas party would be open to family members as has been the case in the past. Watch your inbox for more information as it becomes available.

CONSTITUENT GROUP REPORTS

Federated Democratic Women

Gloria Haven gave the report. Haven said the group will be meeting on Saturday to approve changes to its bylaws and constitution. The group has another meeting November 15, also on Zoom, to work on plans for next year. There are no plans for fundraisers next year because of COVID restrictions that require a meeting space large enough to allow for social distancing. The group hopes to "get a fresh start in 2022."

Portage County Young Democrats

Clevenger-Morris gave the report. The group partnered with the Democratic Party to help with coordinating get-out-the-vote efforts; defended Democratic incumbents in Ravenna and across the county and made gains on the Aurora Board of Education; carried out an overwhelmingly successful program to reach voters through literature distribution, phone calls and knocking on doors; and provided support for Democratic candidates by designing custom print pieces and campaign websites, providing social media support, and assisting with campaign finance reporting. Clevenger-Morris gave special recognition to Becky Dogget, Denise Smith, Lucy Reiblin and Bob Howard for their help and support and congratulated Marvin Woods for running an outstanding campaign even though he did not win the election. Clevenger-Morris added that the Portage County Young Democrats will enthusiastically support Woods moving forward. Clevenger-Morris also said that the group will be “taking a deep dive” into data about the election to determine what worked well, what did not work well and what improvements can be made. Finally, he asked that Central Committee members at tonight’s meeting take, write, stamp and mail a handful of the voter-engagement postcards for 2022 and which support the upcoming U.S. Senate election. The postcards should be mailed by January 7, 2022. The complete report is on file with these minutes.

Kent State University College Democrats

No one was available to give a report. DePerro said that getting the Kent State University College Democrats more involved is one of the Central Committee’s focus areas for next year.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other official business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no quorum, DePerro declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 7.

Submitted by Audrey C. Kessler, Secretary