

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

Zoom Meeting on February 25, 2021 @ 6:00pm

Democratic Central Committee Members Attending Via Zoom: 42

Guests Attending: 5

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman DePerro at 6:08pm with 42 members present along with a number of guests.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Denise Smith.

A declaration of quorum was established by the Secretary.

A motion was made by Delores Durbin to approve the meeting minutes from January 21, 2021 with a 2nd by Mike Deluke. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Updates: With great sadness the Chair announced the passing of member Bonnie Pittman, the mother of Judge Laurie Pittman. An official declaration of vacancy to Shalersville D was made by Chairman DePerro.

The Treasurer's report was read by Gary Horning. A motion to approve the report as read was made by Frank Hairston and 2nd by Leota Reale. The motion passed unanimously. A detailed report is available upon request. Gary Horning indicated he hoped to have the Annual Budget update by the next meeting.

Committee Reports: The Audit Committee report was read by Audrey Kessler with minimal questions all having clarification by the Treasurer. A full report is available upon request by contacting Audrey Kessler. A motion was made to accept the Audit report by Mike Deluke with a 2nd by Frank Hairston. The motion passed unanimously.

Constitutional Review Committee - Bruce Ribelin gave an update of the discussions had reference to electronic media meetings, social media, the endorsement process, bi-laws needing reviewed, etc. Suggested duties for precinct committee members and understanding the role of being a member. This committee intends on continuing to meet the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the

month at 6:00p.m., more details to follow. 2007 was the last time the Constitution was updated and is in need of review and updating.

The Membership Committee - Christopher Clevenger-Morris read an update as to their meeting. This group began drafting a job description and small handbook for Committee persons. They will continue to meet and review resources from other Counties across the state that may be useful for our membership. Their goal is to have a finalized proposal for the entire body to consider at the next meeting.

The Service Committee - report was read by Samantha Stephens. This group will be working on member involvement in the community, bringing members together, volunteer work, service projects, etc. An upcoming opportunity will be at the Hope Town Recovery Housing in Windham on March 6, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. to assist with interior painting. Please contact Samantha Stephens at enlowstephens@gmail.com for interest in helping with this project and those in the future. In April, a project will be held at the Haven in Ravenna with a need for box lunches. Details will follow via email as they are finalized.

Board of Elections: Terrie Nielsen reported that all candidates were certified by the Board. The only candidates on the May 4th ballot will be Counsel at Large seats in the City of Streetsboro and Tallmadge. There will be 11 issues on ballot. School Board and Township Trustees petitions are due by August 4th filing deadline. There continues to be a need for Precinct Election officials. Training will begin in mid-March through mid- April. The deadline to register to vote is April 5, 2021, also being the first day of absentee voting. Please contact the Board of Elections with any questions or to assist with working the polls on election day.

Hank Gibson addressed the committee reference to the Finance Committee. A completed report was not available at this time, but fundraising will be the greatest effort going forward.

Old Business: 2020 Post-Mortem -an update on the data will be given at the next meeting.

New Business: Municipal Court Judge Mark Fankhauser and Judge Kevin Poland are up for reelection this November. Both candidates are uncontested in the Primary, but do have opposition in the November election. Judge Poland was present in the call and addressed the committee to his experience, qualifications and dedication to our County as Municipal Court Judge for the past 12 years along with 35 years experience practicing law. Please reach out either candidate if you are wishing to help with their campaign. You may reach Judge Poland judgekpoland@gmail.com and Judge Fankhauser at fankhauser@ameritech.net or (330)606-7624 for information on their campaign.

Federated Democratic Woman - update given by Gloria Haven as to the workings of a new website and logo for their group. They will also soon have access to credit usage on the site for donations. The SEED packets are in and planning on being mailed out soon. They will continue conducting their meetings via ZOOM for the near future.

Portage County Young Democrats- update given by Chris Clevenger-Morris as to the launch of 1st wave of endorsements for the upcoming Primary Election. Questionnaires are due by March 8th @ 4:00p.m. Please contact Chris at chris@cc-morris.com with any questions.

Other business: Denise Smith commented on a recent meeting held via Zoom for the group WAKE/Aurora for Change, an educational seminar on the redistricting and gerrymandering process. It was very informative and helpful in understanding the process and changes. Please contact Denise Smith at civichief01@gmail.com for additional information.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m. with a motion from Chris Clevenger-Morris and 2nd by Bruce Ribelin. The motion passed unanimously.