

Plymouth Area Democrats
Minutes of the Meeting, April 18, 2012

After a lively potluck dinner, Chair Bob Lamb welcomed members to the April meeting. An estimated 60 people were in attendance. Mr. Lamb recognized our elected delegates and former representatives who were in attendance: Jim Aguiar, Suzanne Smith, Mary Cooney, Sue Ford, Phil Preston, Kate Miller, Carol Friedrich, Sid Lovett, Catherine Mulholland and Tink Taylor, Plymouth Select Board Member Val Scarborough, Dr. Sheryl Shirley (PSU Democratic Advisor) and Senator Deb Reynolds.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved unanimously. The treasurer's report was passed until next month's meeting.

The chair recognized Deb Reynolds, who announced a voter registration event to take place at PSU on April 28 – before the Concord legislature can affect student registrations. Deb also reflected on the area democrats' unanimous excitement about the newly hatched campaign of Bob Lamb for NH Senate in District 2. Her remarks set off an energized standing ovation for Bob.

Bob's response, after a serious and humble thank-you, expressed that he was running against the Republican "mind-set of Concord" which was backward-thinking and mean-spirited. He reiterated that he would work for the "best interests" of NH, rather than "special interests." And finally, he asked sincerely for our help.

The speaker of the evening was Terri Norelli, now minority leader of the NH House and former speaker of the House (2006-10) – the first Democratic speaker in 84 years. She is in her eighth term, serving Rockingham's 16th District. A graduate of UNH, she was an honor student, graduating *summa cum laude*, before continuing with graduate degrees.

Terri emphasized the difference between the Republican and Democratic ideals and the damage being inflicted on the State by the current legislature. Many issues were discussed, including redistricting, moving the primary date, and the reactionary legislation passed or in the pipeline about schools, Medicare, guns, worker's rights, small business licenses, and women's reproductive rights. For a full list of issues and updates in Concord, Norelli suggested NHhousedems.org as a good source. Norelli's address was well received by the attendees.

Upcoming meetings of PAD:

5/16 Speaker: Grafton County Attorney Lara J. Saffo.

5/19 Grafton County Democrats meet at the Canaan Meeting House from 9-11 am

6/21 Debate: Jackie Cilley and Maggie Hassam, Democratic candidates for NH Governor

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Weston, Secretary

