

Minutes Plymouth Area Democrats November meeting
11/18/2015

Start: 6:29 pm

Business Meeting:

Chairwoman Joyce Weston began the meeting by recognizing the local representatives that were present for the meeting. The minutes from the October meeting were approved. Joyce reviewed the winter lineup for meetings, which included February 17: Colin Van Ostern; March 16: Mark Connolly; and April 20: Carol Shea-Porter and possibly Congresswoman Annie Kuster. Suzanne Smith reported on her efforts to get more Democrats elected in local seats. She is starting with NH House District 5. They also need to fill House District 16 and need to focus on finding a candidate for Senate District 2. It was mentioned that Mike Cryans would like to speak to the group as well. Martha Richards spoke about the upcoming annual fuel assistance fundraiser, "Keep the Heat On." Barbara Fahey gave the treasurer's report. The executive board will begin looking for a PAD office for June, hopefully on Main Street.

Speaker:

Joyce introduced NH Representative Jackie Cilley, a resident of Barrington. Jackie Cilley is a native of Berlin and earned her MBA as an adult student at the Whittemore School of Business and Economics at UNH, where she has since taught for many years.

She first ran for a seat in the House of Representatives in 2004, when she was elected to represent Strafford in the 4th District. She subsequently served for two terms in the NH Senate, from 2006 to 2010. She was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor in 2014, when Maggie Hassan won the primary. Cilley was again elected to the State House in 2014. She currently sits on the Executive Departments and Administration committee.

Cilley is the sponsor of two bills impacting wages this year – one to eliminate the tipped minimum wage and the other to adopt prevailing wage standards for contracted work that involves state dollars.

Jackie took some time to discuss the heroin epidemic hitting our state and what was being done at legislative level to combat this. Jackie discussed the need to increase wages. She explained some recent history regarding the low (below minimum) tip wages and gave some interesting statistics.

Cilley then introduced a guest speaker from the "other" NRA (the National Restaurant Association), who explained the historical and racial implications beginning after the Civil War on the low minimum wage for servers and the need to increase the minimum wage for people now receiving tips. At the conclusion of the meeting both speakers explained what the public can do, which includes writing letters to the editor and contacting your legislators.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Therriault

