

**Plymouth Area Democrats
April Meeting, Plymouth Senior Center
April 19, 2017**

March for Science, this Saturday in Concord.

Hands around the Statehouse in opposition to Northern Pass. Buses, carpool. Arrives at noon, speakers begin at 1 PM, reception following at Capitol Center for the Arts. Need a carpool? Contact Martha Richards.

Grafton County Caucus at the Upper Valley Senior Center (in Lebanon) on Saturday, May 6 at 10:00 AM. There will be two meetings; caucus (there is not a slate of officers, you must be nominated or nominate yourself. You must be a registered Democrat to vote), following will be the Grafton County meeting.

May 19 meeting speakers are Democratic candidate for Governor, Steve Marchand as well as a speaker from the ACLU.

Francesca Diggs presented the Strategic Outreach Plan.

- Emphasis on inclusion at our PAD monthly meetings.
- Francesca introduced "PAD on the Road". Our town chairs will help support this effort in various towns. The first meeting is in Rumney in May, then none through the summer and resume in the Fall. We will be seeking both issues/concerns AND potential candidates for 2018
- Outreach to community businesses.

Sarah introduced our technology updates.

- New website is partially complete. Please check out the active pages. The following pages are active: bylaws, minutes from 2004 to present, Board members, issues, join, educate, run for office, volunteer, and about.
- Our blog is active. If you would like to write a blog post, contact Sarah.
- Update on Val's letter to the editor requesting a Special Election for District 9.
- Tweets are getting out. (Ray Buckley retweeted our request for a District 9 Special Election.)
- Newsletter are going out. We have a 30% open rate on the newsletter.
- Twitter - Francesca, Emma, and Sarah are tweeting on PAD's behalf. Please follow us at #PLYAREADEMS
- Sarah is drafting our Strategic Communication Plan to be completed by the end of April.
- If you want announcements in the newsletter, please contact Sarah ASAP.

Jessica/Opioid Street Team

- The OST is working to establish recovery centers.

- NH Opioid crisis is a state-wide issue.
- Hope for NH – a recovery network for the state of NH. Hope has resource centers throughout NH. Hope hosts AlAnon meetings, 12 Step meetings, life skills classes, and provides a safe place for people seeking and/or waiting for detox help.
- Most of Hope's funding is through donations for the Hope for NH walk on May 6. A pledge of \$75 will provide a sponsorship for the t-shirt. Winnisquam High School is the location of the May 6 walk.
- Amanda, with Plymouth Area Recovery Connection (PARC), attended the meeting.
- Joyce asked the membership for a motion. Steve Rand moved, Sarah seconded to donate \$75 to Hope for NH. Passed Unanimously.

Fran Taylor

- May 5,6,7 the Congregational Church will be celebrating 25 years as the first Open and Affirming Church in NH.

District 9 Special Election (Josh as speaker)

- Jeff Sackett resigned from his position as legislator for District 9 in early February, leaving a seat vacant in the legislature.
- Several citizens have request from the Ashland Selectboard for a special election.
- It appears that Ashland will request the special election on condition that the State funds the ballots.
- Josh sees this vacant seat as a question of democracy at risk.
- Josh asks for support, voices, help, and votes for the special election.

See document titled Issues and Concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41.