

Plymouth Area Democrats Meeting
and
Town Caucuses
March 8, 2017

At 6:30 pm (following a terrific potluck supper!), PAD Chair Joyce Weston called the meeting to order and acknowledged the current and former elected officials in attendance.

Joyce introduced Sarah Sadowski, the Plymouth area representative of the group, "Family Friendly Economy." Sarah spoke briefly about the program, and asked people to sign up to get involved.

Joyce introduced former legislature candidate Josh Adjutant, who announced his candidacy for the seat that will be vacated due to Jeff Shackett's resignation. He spoke briefly about the special election process and asked attendees for their support. Joyce added that the special election is likely to take place in the fall.

Joyce spoke about the special PAD meeting that was held in Bristol on March 5, saying that there was low turnout, but great commitment by those in attendance.

Joyce addressed the "Ides of Trump" campaign to get as many people as possible to send postcards to the White House on March 15. Judy Hall of the Gathering for Unity offered that her group is hoping to get pictures of lots of postcards being delivered to the Post Office. She also said that they will be meeting on March 9 at 6:00 pm, and that there will be an ACLU "People Power" event on March 11 at 4:30 (more info available at the ACLU website). Both events will be at the Starr King UU Church.

The PAD business meeting then started with Val Scarborough explaining the proposed revisions to the PAD by-laws, as follows:

1. Officer terms: Establish 2-year terms (2 term limit remains the same). This is a housekeeping change, as term length was not previously included in the by-laws.
2. Advisory Board: Establish a limit of 2 terms for members, and increase maximum membership from 12 to 15 (minimum remains at 3).
3. Establish that only registered Democrats may vote on PAD issues and officers. We are an organization of Democrats. All interested parties are still welcome to participate in PAD meetings and other activities.
4. Combine the offices of technology officer and publicity officer into the single office of Communications Officer. This change is based on the increasing use of technology to communicate with our members. A Communications Committee will be established to work with the Communications officer on various tasks, including input to the PAD website and Facebook Page, writing press releases, and more.

Sarah Daniels-Campbell provided an overview of the new PAD website, and requested input from the PAD membership. Very impressive!

Stephanie Osborne put forward the Nominating Committee's proposed officer slate as follows:

Vice Chair: Francesca Diggs
Secretary: Susan Mathison
Treasurer: Emma Van Ness
Communications Officer: Sarah Daniels-Campbell

Joyce pointed out that information about all the nominees was available each table. She asked if there were any nominations from the floor, and Representative Steve Rand nominated Josh Adjutant for Vice Chair. Josh asked to speak, and he was allowed to do so. Joyce then invited Francesca to speak, and she did.

Sheila Oranch commented that she thought Josh would serve better on the Communications Committee than as Vice Chair.

Votes were as follows:

Vice Chair: Francesca Diggs: 29
 Josh Adjutant: 19
Secretary: Susan Mathison: unanimous voice vote
Treasurer: Emma Van Ness: unanimous voice vote
Communications Officer: Sarah Daniels-Campbell: unanimous voice vote

Martha Richards, Fran Taylor, and Joyce Weston presented plaques and flowers to outgoing PAD officers Bill Bolton (Vice Chair and Technology), Barb Fahey (Treasurer), and Val Scarborough (Publicity).

The business meeting was adjourned, and after a brief break, PAD members broke into Town Caucuses to elect Town Chairs, Vice Chairs, and delegates-at-large. Joyce pointed out that only registered Democrats were eligible to participate in the Caucuses.

The Caucuses were concluded at 8:30 pm.

Submitted by Val Scarborough
PAD Member