

Plymouth Area Democrats General Meeting Minutes April 20, 2020

Meeting convened via ZOOM at 6:42 p.m. Mike recognized the dignitaries in the chat Room.

There was the presentation of the Reynolds/Richards award by Deb Reynolds and Martha Richards. Award was given to Val Scarborough for all of her years of hard work and tireless dedication in getting local democrats elected.

Announcements: Sarah Daniels-Campbell, Grafton Co. Chair, spoke about the ballot request by email. Many delegates have not responded as of yet. She is putting word out to please reply. Ron talked about the National Democratic Training Committee and there are several online trainings coming up geared towards candidates, campaign staff, local managers, and committees. The trainings include topics such as fund-raising messaging and digital campaigns. There is also a bank of items such as call time forms, budget forms, etc. Their response to Covid-19 is that they are gearing more resources to digital campaigning and digital fundraising. You can attend live sessions or taped sessions. There are 3 live sessions upcoming that Ron highlighted, plus 6 more live sessions through mid May. More info at: trainedemocrats.org.

Slate spoke about the convention and stated that they were moving from live face-to-face to taped videos. There will be a 2 week period for voting, May 9-23.

Mike opened the panel presentation, which included 3 state elected officials:

- Mary Jane Wallner, Merimack county house district 10, chair of finance committee, and vice chair of GOFFER;
- Lou D'Allesandro from Senate District 20, chair of Finance and vice chair of Capitol Budget, and vice-chair of Ways and Means;
- Executive Council committee member District E-1, Mike Cyans.

Each panelist had 5 to 10 minutes for opening remarks and then questions would follow.

Mary Jane talked about the lawsuit against governor Sununu in which they were seeking a preliminary injunction to force Sununu to receive approval from the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee for future expenditure of federal funds. The court hearing was on Monday. The judge dismissed because of "standing". (due to the house and senate not voting to enter the lawsuit), however voting would have been impossible due to the quarantine. The fiscal committee does a 2-year budget, signed by the governor who accepts and approves funding. Most of the time, funds are approved. The governor did not want the grant to go through the Fiscal Committee. He has circumvented the committee and set up his own committee to advise but has no power to approve.

Lou gave a financial outlook. GOFFER operates on a biannual budget. It brought in more money than expected in 2019. It sent 20 million dollars back to the communities. Budget was passed for this year. But Covid has had a tremendous impact. Unemployment is at a historic high in the

state. Health care labor force has been decimated. He talked about the national CARES package legislation. Today, in Concord, they heard from the restaurant and hotel industry in the state which gave compelling testimony. \$700 billion in help has been requested from these industries to keep afloat. The booming economy in New Hampshire is not any longer. Revenue picture will not be looked at again until June. Damage remains to be seen in its entirety. Determining how to spend and planning a recovery are very important. The legislature is on hold with no access to the state house. The May 4th opening of the economy may be extended. They will meet again on Friday for more testimony. They will discuss how the 1.2 billion dollars in federal aid will be spent. He reports most of deaths in New Hampshire are 60 years of age and older. Reminds us to stay inside, follow the rules and wear PPE.

Mike Cryans talked about unemployment. In NH, unemployment rate was 2.5% 6 weeks ago. Now, 99000 people have applied, as of last week. 1 in 10 New Hampshire residents is unemployed. Another 30k will likely be added. Concerns are for covering basic bills and buying food at this point. He has received many calls about campgrounds opening. There is talk about the 2020 summer tourism season being a write-off. He is in favor of hazard pay for jail staff. He makes service to his constituency his main intention for serving. Please contact him with any concerns.

Question and answer period was opened to the floor:

In question was entertained about the meaning of “standing”. Standing is when a petitioner does not have a significant reason to be in court.

The question was asked what are the next steps in the lawsuit against the governor? Mary Jane says they have 10 days to file for reconsideration. They will weigh the options. The ruling is only hours old and they still need time to consider their next steps. They want to take time to weigh all the options. Mary Jane has concerns about and wants to hear from farmers, agriculture, food supply channels, homeless agencies, mental health organizations, and substance abuse agencies and the disabled community. She requested for any members of these communities or any other industry they have not yet heard from in New Hampshire to step forward. They need to hear from them.

Mike Cryans states that 12 of the 13 hospitals in District 1 are small hospitals. They are being impacted tremendously. Hospitals are the largest employers in some of these communities. He is very concerned. Elective procedures were profitable and cash flow was decent pre-pandemic for these smaller hospitals, but we are unable to do those right now.

There was a statement made about how we secure safety for the people of our state while getting people back to work and creating new jobs. The situation is very different from FDR’s New Deal. We do need to address re-training issues, creation of new industries, and the fact that many businesses will be folding, and many more will be out of work permanently. There is concern about revenues such as car registration. These income streams are down and people cannot pay their property taxes. There are only about 60 days left in the fiscal year and cuts are very unlikely for this year, but we will be carrying forward a deficit into 2020 and beyond.

Mary Jane and Lou have concerns about the fact that they have yet to have rules around spending of the federal funding.

Meeting Adjourned