

Plymouth Area Democrats
General Meeting
May 25th 2022

Attendees

Bill Nesheim, Chair
Vacant, Vice Chair
Jane Helfrich, Secretary
Ron Goggans, Treasurer
Kimberly Rawson, Communications Chair
Gunnar Baldwin, Technology Officer (via Zoom)

Attendees

Martha Aguicin
Heather Baldwin
Gunnar Baldwin
Krisan Evans
Sallie Fellows
Sebastian Fuentes
Anne Hunnewell
Richard Hunnewell
John Lennon
Taylor Largmann
Karen LiotHill
Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban
Richard Lobban
Roz Lowen
Bill Marsh
Mike Machanik
Marcia Morris
Melanie Nesheim
Sue Prentiss
Deb Reynolds
John Richards
Martha Richards
Sheryl Shirley
Elizabeth Silvia
Fran Taylor
Tink Taylor
Sam Weiss
Joyce Weston
Sam Weiss

OPENING REMARKS. Bill Nesheim opened the meeting at 6pm. Bill first acknowledged the mass shooting events of the past day and previous week and asked for the members to observe a moment of silence for Texas.

REVIEW OF HOUSE, SENATE, AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DISTRICTS. Bill then referenced the title slide with the evening's agenda and spoke briefly about the redrawn districts and opportunities to turn the state legislature blue. Bill asked for a show of hands from attendees from PAD towns in the redrawn county district map. New district maps and a breakdown of towns assigned were on the slides. Bill emphasized the need to recruit good people to run for open seats, as well as the priority for PAD members to get to know their new districts. With new maps, there may be new representatives or in some cases a "mis-representative", (someone not representing your voice). Bill also talked about the importance of local "down ballot" races. The NH legislature is quite large and there may be a lot more opportunities to win seats down the ticket. This is important because although most of the attention is focused on national campaigns, more power may reside within the state legislature. (*Amendment 10- "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people."*) Bill also addressed the change in the map for the Executive Council, (which Democrats opposed), but offered that there may be a chance for a Democratic seat. Gunnar Baldwin, PAD Technology Officer will post the new maps on the PAD website for all members to review the changes. Bill added that Gunnar is also updating the PAD website. Bill encouraged everyone to talk to their neighbors about the changes in district maps and how it may affect the voting outcomes.

Bill then discussed tonight's opportunity to host and meet some local candidates and introduced Kim Rawson as the social media expert for PAD. Kim then greeted the group and stated she will be available this evening to candidates running for the first time to assist them with their campaign messaging, social media presence, and headshot photos. Kim gave directions to the breakout room and invited candidates to come see her.

MEET THE CANDIDATES. Bill made general introductions of the 11 candidates in attendance to the members and asked each of them to come up to the podium and introduce themselves to the membership. The following is an abbreviated summary of the candidates' remarks:

1. **Suzanne Prentiss**, currently NH State Senator District 5. Running for re-election. Suzanne is a mom, a medic, and a community leader. Her medic experience taught her about public health, preparedness and planning, her experience as a mother taught her the value of public education, and her positions as a Community Leader taught her about political will and political courage.

2. **Bill Marsh**, currently NH state representative from Carroll County district 8. Running for NH State Senate District 1. Bill is a retired physician interested in public health. He is town moderator for Brookline NH. Bill resigned from the GOP over his disagreement with their position on no mask mandates and vaccinations.

3. **Karen Liot Hill**. Currently Grafton County Treasurer. Running for Re-election. Previously Mayor of Lebanon (2008-2009), and Lebanon city councilor. Strong advocate for fiscal responsibility.

4. **Marcia Morris**. Running for Supervisor Grafton County.

Christian minister serving in Meredith, NH. Lives in Holderness. Staunch democratic, progressive Christian, community organizer and he is “psyched” about the PAD support.

6. **Taylor Largmann**. Running for NH State Representative D10. Has longstanding ties to NH. Believes the Millennial generation has been shortchanged on health care and student loans. Studied Political science at Northeastern and has worked on environmental issues with Duval Patrick. Board member of Jumpstreet. Member of the LGBT community. Currently working on a parental rights bill.

7. **Richard Lobban**. Running for NH State Representative in D10 or D18. Chief Interest in the field of Education. Has spent many years working overseas in Africa and the Middle East. Former Lecturer at the Naval War College. Member of the ACLU. Firm believer in social justice and has worked on political asylum cases.

8. **Carol Lobban**. Running for NH State Representative in D18. Wants women to come out and vote because women get things done! Democrat through and through. Taught Anthropology and racism 30 years ago. People need to talk about these things, be a citizen participant and get these ideas out there. The idea that Roe v. Wade will be overturned is horrific. Voting rights! All politics are local. Build the strongest platform possible.

9. **Bill Bolton**. Currently on Plymouth Select Board and runs Transport Central. Running for NH State Representative D8. Professional experience in public health and administration. Raised 4 children in Plymouth. Strong support for public education. Understands the challenge of non-profit institutions in towns and burden on local taxpayers, 66% of Plymouth is “non-Profit institutions. Working on finding solutions.

10. **Heather Baldwin**. Lives in Thornton. Running for NH State Representative D4. Ms. Baldwin says she is “afraid”. She said she is afraid for the country and doesn’t like the direction it’s going in. She said she has a lot of experience and has lived a long time. She has a lot of moxie. It would be easy to stay afraid, but that wouldn’t do any good. She wants to represent the people in her town and run a campaign based on hope, love, compassion, tolerance, and honesty.

11. **Sallie Fellows**. Currently NH State Representative for Grafton 8th district. Running for re-election Grafton 8. Republicans play the big game with education...they want to privatize everything. That’s my first message to you. This is the truth-the problem with education funding and property taxes is that in this state we don’t have a broad-based tax. I think I can get re-elected, and I am going to work to make taxes fair.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE. Elizabeth Silvia-Chandley, Political Director Kuster Campaign addressed the meeting and said she liked the energy in the room. She informed the group that Annie Kuster was filing for re-election on June 6th at 1pm, and she invited everyone present to be there. If you can’t come, said Ms. Silvia-Chandley, “I brought petitions that you can sign “ to

support Annie Küster's campaign. Regarding the re-districting, Ms.Silvia-Chandeley said "we are still waiting to see what happens. We don't know yet."

INTRODUCTION TO ORGANIZE NH. Bill introduced Sam Weiss. Sam stated that he is the Regional Organizing Director covering Northern New Hampshire for the Democratic Coordinated Campaign. After sharing some of his background with campaign organizing, Sam described his present focus is hiring staff for Grafton County, launching phone banks (some are already up) and regular canvassing, and providing support to local State Senate and House candidates. Sam said that as soon as the filing deadline passes, the staff can carry literature for the down ballot candidates. Sam will reach out to the town chairs and ask them if there are any candidate materials, they would like the staff to carry, such as a one pager, or other printouts. Sam described "relational organizing " developed initially for the 2008 Obama campaign, which leverages personal relationships as an additional way to reach voters. Sam hopes to have the app available for download soon. Sam is working on finding office space, hopefully in Plymouth, and figuring out the budget. Bill offered that PAD wants to help in that regard. Bill also shared that a local donor had provided \$350,000 to support down ballot candidates. The donor and /or his spouse will soon be invited to a PAD meeting.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS. Sallie Fellows described a tax break incentive that requires volunteers to provide households with information on eligibility to receive a \$350.00 property tax rebate. The conversation with household adults might well lead to other conversation about their needs and interests, community issues are a possible connection with PAD. Let Bill or Sallie know what town you would be interested in doing this kind of volunteering and canvassing in.

FUNDRAISING and BY-LAWS. Not discussed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm.

Jane Helfrich
PAD Secretary