

PLYMOUTH AREA DEMOCRATS
General Membership Meeting
September 27, 2023

Attendees

Joyce Weston, Chair
Val Scarborough, Vice Chair, Absent
Jane Helfrich, Secretary
John Richards, Treasurer
Jay Scarborough, Communications Officer
Gunnar Baldwin, Technology Officer

Kathy Archibald
Gunnar Baldwin, Sr.
Gunnar Baldwin, Jr.
Heather Baldwin
Gwen Blair
Art Bourgeois
Karen Bourgeois
Arlene Bownes
Fran Chevalier-Smith
Rosemary Darcy
Bill Darcy
Nancy Dowey

Sallie Fellows
Carole Heuser
Marilyn Lieto
Lou Lieto
Kathy Henning
Karen Liot-Hill
Jim Johnk
Gale Johnk
Christina Mason
Gary McCool
Bill Nesheim
Melanie Nesheim

Becky Noel
Dick Osborne
Stephanie Osborne
Paul Phillips
Ted Smith
Fran Taylor
Tink Taylor
Jim Turbyne
Sally Widerstrom

AGENDA

Welcome. Joyce Weston called the meeting to order, then welcomed new and returning local members of the legislature and congratulated the members from Bristol on the formation of the new Bristol Democratic Town Committee. The minutes of the June 28 general meeting were approved.

Update on PSU Student Voter Registration. Joyce remarked that she expected some students from PSU to attend the meeting at 6:30pm to hear the guest speaker. Joyce noted that a PSU Democrats group has been formed with Oscar Lakowicz as leader, but that not many students have signed up yet. Joyce also updated the group on the Voter Registration efforts targeting PSU students. She said that many students don't fully understand how their domicile status as students residing in New Hampshire enables them to register to vote. Joyce asked for volunteers to assist with student Voter Registration efforts next week in off-campus housing areas.

Executive Council Candidate. Joyce introduced Karen Liot-Hill as a candidate for the Executive Council District 2. Ms. Liot-Hill is the former Mayor of Lebanon NH and current Grafton County Treasurer. She discussed contract approvals and judicial nomination reviews as examples of some of the Executive Council's remarkable authority and oversight responsibilities. Ms. Liot-Hill ended her brief remarks by noting the ongoing UAW strike and reminding members how music can connect us. Ms. Hill then invited the members to join her in singing "We Shall Not Be Moved", which was sung on the picket lines by striking workers in Michigan in 1936-37.

Treasurer's Report. John Richards mentioned that "Act Blue" donations are coming in regularly and that the current PAD bank account balance is \$6011. Joyce then added that due to family responsibilities, John would be resigning his post as Treasurer, effective today. Joyce asked for nominations from the floor for the position. Bill Nesheim accepted a nomination from Gunnar Baldwin and was duly elected to the Treasurer's position on the Board.

Gubernatorial Candidate. Joyce welcomed the meeting's guest speaker, Joyce Craig, Mayor of Manchester, who is running for Governor. Ms. Craig spoke about her success in Manchester and outlined her priorities for New Hampshire if elected. She is an advocate of funding to improve infrastructure statewide, fund state projects to combat climate change, and improve economic development that would create more jobs across the state. Among her many concerns is the need for many more affordable housing units, for families and the homeless population, sustaining and improving funding for public education, and ensuring that reproductive freedoms are maintained. Ms. Craig said that she, in her travels across the state, found that public safety is an issue and cited the extreme threats to reproductive freedoms and LGBTQ rights. Ms. Craig ended her pitch by saying that what matters most is creating opportunities across the state for families to thrive. Ms. Craig then took several questions from the members before the meeting was adjourned.

Jane Helfrich
PAD Secretary

For Verbatim Remarks see the YouTubeVideo Plymouth Area Democrats, September 27th, 2023.