

**PLYMOUTH AREA DEMOCRATS**  
General Membership Meeting  
January 31, 2024

**Attendees**

Joyce Weston, Chair  
Val Scarborough, Vice Chair  
Bill Nesheim, Treasurer  
Jay Scarborough, Communications Officer  
Gunnar Baldwin, Technology Officer

Gunnar Baldwin, Sr.  
Rep. Heather Baldwin  
Reagan Bissonette  
Carlos Cardona  
Rosemary D'Arcy  
Herb D'Arcy  
Nancy Dowey  
Ross Ewing  
Sebastian Fuentes  
Gary McCool  
Janet Metcalf  
Richard Metcalf  
Barbara Mullen

Natalie Murphy  
Bill Nesheim  
Melanie Nesheim  
Dick Osborne  
Stephanie Osborne  
Betsy Salemsen  
Ted Smith  
Eleanor Spencer  
Fran Taylor  
Tink Taylor  
Sally Widerstrom  
Jackie Wolff  
Ken Wolff

**AGENDA**

**WELCOME.** Joyce Weston called the meeting to order and welcomed current and past local members of the legislature, as well as newcomers to the meeting. The meeting was well attended. The minutes of the November 29 general meeting were approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT.** Bill Nesheim provided a brief treasurer's report. There are seven monthly contributors to PAD via ActBlue.com. Here are details:

Bank Balance 1/30/2024: \$7,114

•Expenses 2023: \$3,012

- PRCC for meetings: \$600
- Pizza at December meeting: \$205
- E-mail list management: \$258
- Website hosting: \$264
- PO Box rental: \$194
- AV Equipment: \$921
- Printing, materials: \$208

●2023 Income:

Act Blue: \$ 1705 less \$67.55 fees (3.9%)

Other contributions by check: \$1,515

Cash contributions \$1,459.75

●2024 Income to date:

Act Blue: \$145 less \$5.75 fees

**ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Joyce mentioned that the need for good candidates to run for town positions, particularly school and library boards which are under attack from the right wing. The filing period is over as of Friday 2/2.

**The results of the Primary:** Joyce thanked everyone who worked on the Write In Biden campaign. Our town-by-town results are on the PAD facebook page. 74% of the Democratic ballots in our area were Biden write-ins.

**Carlos Cardona, intro for his run for SD2:** Carlos did a great job announcing that he is running for Senate. He has coordinated with NHDP and is assured there will be no primary.

**Suzanne Smith:** Most of you know by now that our good friend Suzanne Smith died on January 6 after a six year battle with cancer. Suzanne was a very special person and a close friend to many of us. She served six terms in the house and was chair of Resources, Recreation, and Development. She did extensive work on many environmental committees. Yet she somehow found time to show up for visibility and canvassing. She will be greatly missed. We had a moment of silent meditation to remember our friend, Suzanne.

- **Candidate recruitment:** We are lucky to have all of the incumbents in PAD running again. Thanks to Heather Baldwin, Bill Bolton, Sallie Fellows, Tom

Hoyt, Peter Lovett, Jerry Stringham (still a maybe), and Carolyn Fleuhr-Lobban who is going to run in the floterial, HD18 where John Sellers now holds court. Half of that district — and the most Democratic part — is under Mascoma Forward, and they are working on it. Carolyn's husband, Richard Lobban, is considering running in HD10 (Bristol, Bridgewater).

We are working on finding a candidate for ...

- HD6, which includes Rumney and Wentworth.

**Upcoming events:** Our next meeting: Wed. 2/28 at 5:30: Immigration and its current status in NH. Sebastian Fuentes of the NH Immigrant Coalition, Rights and Democracy, and David Holt from Welcoming, NH.

**OUR SPEAKER: Reagan Bissonnette** is the Executive Director of the Northeast Resource Recovery Association. NRRRA is the oldest and largest cooperative-model recycling nonprofit in the United States. NRRRA helps our transfer station to find end markets for our recyclables, so she knows a bit about recycling and waste reduction. She is also on the New Hampshire Solid Waste Working Group, which assists the DES with solid waste planning and policies. Before joining NRRRA, Reagan worked in land conservation and practiced law as a corporate attorney.

Ms. Bissonnette discussed the process for about a half-hour and then took questions. Under discussion was the problem of Styrofoam, which is too light and bulky to be profitable in the recycling process.

More from Ms. Bissonnette and NRRRA <https://www.nrrarecycles.org/news/your-recycling-questions-answered>

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Weston

