

PLYMOUTH AREA DEMOCRATS
General Membership Meeting
February 28th 2024

DRAFT

Attendees

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

Sallie Fellows
Sebastian Fuentes
Anne Hunnewell
David Holt
Gary McCool
Bill Nesheim
Melanie Nesheim
Deb Reynolds

John Richards
Martha Richards
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.

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS. Tommy Hoyt and Sallie Fellows, NH State House representatives gave brief reports on the work of their individual committee assignments. Mr. Hoyt emphasized the need for more Democrats in the legislature and his support for women's reproductive rights, and Ms. Fellows discussed several bills including the defeat a bill to raise the minimum wage, and the defeat of a bill to enshrine reproductive rights in the state's constitution.

BUSINESS MEETING.

MINUTES. The minutes of the January 31st 2024 general meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Bill Nesheim provided a treasurer's report. He reminded members of the need for contributions to offset increased expenses in this election year (i.e office space for campaign). Bill also reminded members of the option to contribute via ACT BLUE, currently 15 contributions are received monthly through ACT BLUE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS. Joyce encouraged members to find out when their local school budget hearings/meetings are held and attend those meetings in order to stave off a chance "Croyden"

like situation in our local townships (when “free-staters” blocked the Croyden town budget allocations.

Joyce announced that on Monday March 4th there will be a meet and greet for Cinde Warmington, gubernatorial hopeful, in Bristol, 6-8pm. Flyers with meeting details were provided.

PROGRAM. Sebastian Fuentes from Rights and Democracy, David Holt from Welcoming New Hampshire, and Nara Navinova , Ukrainian immigrant living in New Hampshire were featured speakers on “Immigration in New Hampshire”. Nara shared her personal story of coming to America as a Fulbright scholar and her decision to apply for protective status (in light of the war in Ukraine). Sebastian shared his experience coming to the USA in 2021 on a J-1 visa, and his successful but complicated 11-year long journey to becoming a US citizen. David Holt provided more information on current numbers of immigrants in New Hampshire, programs available to assist them as well as the numerous requirements that must be met and the expenses involved.

[Click here](#) for slide show on immigration presented at the meeting

Concluding remarks from the presenters emphasized that the vast majority of immigrants entering America are seeking safety, peace and opportunity.

NEXT MEETING. March 27th.

Jane Helfrich
PAD Secretary

