

**Plymouth Area Democrats Meeting:**  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2014

Began- 6:14 PM

Ended- 7:39 pm

Joyce began the meeting by introducing the notables attending our meeting. The June minutes were approved. Joyce mentioned the office is paid for and we have given money to the candidates, but mentioned we still need donations to support advertising for our candidates in this election cycle.

Candidate Presentation:

Sue Ford - current Representative for Grafton District 3. She is running for re-election. Four areas she is looking at; economic fairness (minimum wage increase), Pre oil buy, environmental concerns (she supports cap and trade), and education specifically cost. Strong supporter for common core. Northern Pass, working to stop it. The civility in the house is back, every bill that has been passed bi-partisan.

Mary Cooney - NH House District 8, she believes that the government should provide what ordinary people can't. We need money, but we do not have taxes to support our state. We have failed to fund many programs. Republicans want to cut, and that is not working. She believes we need to invest.

Chuck Townsend - District 11 of the House. He spoke about redistricting, and that although this happened they were reelected. He has the despair that we need new revenue. We need a Democratic House to make that happen, and we need a strong turnout.

Kelly Monahan - Register of Deeds. Her office is the foundation of our economy. It is the official public record. They are critical. They have live staff to help. It is especially important for our seniors. She has 30 years of business experience, we need Internet access, but we also need privacy. We need a turn out.

Kevin Maes - District 6 was a Selectman and other town offices. He saw politics become very nasty with the last Speaker of the House. We need to stop that from happening. We need to be able to work cooperatively together. He is a retired educator.

Jackie Cilley - She is running for the House in Barrington. Quick facts, more than ½ of republicans candidates have signed the Americans for prosperity pledge, only 20% of democrats voted at the primary, we need to boost our numbers. We have a lot at stake. Every time we cut at the state level the cost goes to our property taxes. We are going to pay for it!!!

Will Pisano – From the Kuster campaign; Annie has been working hard for NH in Congress. She was able to go across the aisle. The republican candidate is a tea party candidate and is extreme. The Koch brothers are supporting her. We have the people here, and coordinated campaign working towards the election.

Brandon – PSU student working as our Field Coordinator for the coordinated campaign. We need to stop Bill O'Brien. We need to get Democrats out to vote, and we need to work hard to get these votes, to knock on doors and make phone calls. He invites everyone to participate. This election is very important. Annie lost by 3,000 votes in 2010, and we need to sway the election in this area. They are counting on us, we can make an impact.

Joyce spoke about election plans. The first weekend in November we will be going to the recycling facilities. We need to organize totems. Barbara Fahey will be taking volunteers for both events. When we go door-knocking make sure we are taking local candidates' info as well, not just the big 3 candidates. Jackie suggested we take samples of ballots of who to vote for with us.

House Party this Sunday in Campton for Carolyn Mello see the events newsletter if you would like to attend.

Paul Philips – Pemi Baker TV campaign forum. They are trying to set this up, similar to the last event. Maybe break it up into two nights. He would like the candidates to think about what dates would work for them. Paul is also coordinating the letters to the editors, if you would like to volunteer please see him.

Speaker:

Bill Bolton introduced our speaker Mark Connolly. Mark will discuss a growing need for political financial reform.

Mark Connelly –

He believes financial reform is the most important issue of our time. It is about the money involved in our politics. The new rich are becoming a monarchy. The Republican Party has been changed by the money in politics. Regulators were not doing and continue to not do their job. He thinks this is because they are afraid they will lose their job, or are just focusing on getting ahead. This is part of the problem, but the other part of the problem is Congress. They do not always have our best interest at heart. A study foretold that if we do not regulate money in politics we will have another economic downturn. We are creating jobs, but not what we need and the middle class is hollowed out. We have Dodd Frank, now and ½ of it has been put in place. This is partly because banks are trying to repeal many of these regulations. The banks are bigger now than they were in 2007. This all gets back to the influence of money in politics. We really need to reign in this influence. Much of the money is called "Dark Money," we do not know where the money is coming

from. Fewer and fewer people are influencing the money going into elections.

What can we do about? Many states want to overturn Citizens United. 17 states have asked congress to do this. The NH republican congress wanted to study this. We need a Constitutional amendment. The Democrats in the house want to do it, the republicans will not. We need to be the 18<sup>th</sup> state, so that more states can come together. We need to scare Congress, we need to threaten a Constitutional Convention. Some republicans want this to change. It is a threat to democracy. 50% of retired politicians become lobbyists. This needs to be reformed. It is going to take a grass root effort. Every presidential candidates needs to understand we are tired of it. We can make a difference.

There are 300 lobbyists in Concord trying to influence our NH Senate. We need to change our election laws. It is in the best interest for everyone.

Questions -

What is the goal of the Koch Brothers?

They want to flood you with negative information, so you don't vote. We need transparency, and the repeal of Citizen United.

We need to support candidates who are a part of the system, but with the idea that they will change the system. We can't just not have money at this point or the candidates who will make the change won't win. To Sheehan's credit she has talked about wanting to make that changes.

What should we do to fight on a local level against candidates with money?

Letters to the editor etc... Speaking to people to about the impact of electing these candidates, otherwise we will be watching from the sidelines.

How do we make this the topic?

This should bi-partisan. He wants business people to understand the regulations and why we have them. Regulation is important. Small banks are taking on the brunt to protect the big banks. We need to get out and talk to people about this. People are interested, when they see the results of this election. We have to get out and tell people what this State Senate wouldn't do.

We need a system that is too small to save. We need to cut down on the size of the banks. If the big 12 banks fail, there goes the world economy. We need to reign in the elites.

Market Basket was a huge impact. People vote with their pocket book. We need to invest in local events.

We have predatory lending back, which Forrester voted to put back.

