

Plymouth Area Democrats March Meeting
3/16/2016

Business Meeting:

Chair Joyce Weston recognized the notable people in attendance:

- Martha Richards, County Commissioner
- Suzanne Smith, HD 8 and Hebron Town Chair
- Rep. Mary Cooney, HD 8
- Rep. Susan Ford
- Deb Reynolds, Former State Senator
- Tink Taylor, Former House Rep.
- Kelly Monahan, Registrar of Deeds, Grafton County
- Bill Bolton, Plymouth Select Board
- Mike Conklin, Plymouth Select Board
- Fran Taylor, Holderness Town Chair
- Val Scarborough, former Plymouth Select Board
- David Peeler, Campton Democratic Town Committee Chair
- Marilyn Lieto, Hebron Democratic Town Chair
- Richard Harrington – Political Director of the NHDP

The meeting minutes from February 2016 were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Barbara Fahey said the PAD revenue for 2016 was \$72 and the expenses were \$326, and then explained we collect donations at every meeting to cover expenses, such as the Senior Center rent. With fund raising, such as the 2016 Garden Tour, scheduled for July 9 this year, we will have a positive balance at the end of the year. The checking balance is \$8,242. She encouraged donations in the blue buckets.

Joyce announced upcoming events:

- The spaghetti dinner sponsored by PAD and Diane Downing at the Italian Farmhouse on April 7th to raise money for Keep the Heat On.
- Carol Shea Porter coming for our April 20th meeting.
- Brian Sowdrya of the NHDP will be at the April meeting for potential "candidate training".

Suzanne Smith is seeking candidates for Bristol, Alexandria, Bristol, Plymouth-Holderness-Hebron, Lincoln, Waterville Valley, and Woodsville. Contact Suzanne "zanne1@metrocast.net"

Suzanne Smith spoke about how when she first ran for the NH Legislature she knew nothing, but she attended educational workshops, met with people in their homes, and took advantage of a lot of educational opportunities. Suzanne could set up house parties to help (candidates) get to know people. She welcomed candidates to come to the Democratic Caucus – and stay to hear what it is like – or come Committee Day.

Paul Phillips, as Chair of the Nomination Committee, began the process to elect the PAD officers. All incumbents had agreed to remain in their positions.

- Joyce Weston as Chair for a 2 year term
- Bill Bolton as Vice Chair in a 1 year term
- Alison Therreault for Secretary in a 2 year term
- Bill Bolton in the Technology position in a 2 year term
- Val Scarborough in Public Relations position for a 1 year term

Paul asked for nominations from the floor and there were none so he asked who was a favor say “aye” and the ayes were resounding. No “nays”. The slate was elected.

Joyce introduced Senator Donna Soucy, Beth Mason, Ken Roos, and Richard Harrington to talk about the NH Democratic Party Platform and to get feed back from our members. **See Bill Bolton’s March 10th PAD email containing the 2014 NHDP Platform document, which serves as the basis for the 2016 Platform.**

The NH State Convention is June 18, 2016.

Richard Harrington explained it is about the values of the NHDP, which is trying to get input for the platform from the whole state. The current document is from 2014 and they are hoping to update it significantly. Martha Richards asked how the opposition to Northern Pass could be incorporated and that is a bi-partisan issue. There was talk of burying the lines, etc.

Joyce asked if the party could get rid of “the Pledge” which is to pledge never to have a state income tax (or state sales tax?). Sue Ford talked about rail from Nashua to Manchester and that the vote in Easton had failed along partisan lines. Paul Phillips mentioned document may say enough about taxation. Deb Reynolds encouraged the idea of the state adopting a family friendly theme to attract young people to our state. Tink Taylor continued discussion about rail, transportation to the airport, etc. Kelly Monahan talked about salaries for Party Chair and other positions, which are no longer being transparent. Peter Holman asked about how to get new platforms into the process, additional categories. The drug issues, specifically the opiate crisis, were mentioned. This information is on the State’s web site. Richard explained the timeline was May 1st for input and closing the hearing. They would have a draft by May 16th but it would be open to amendment. The final is due by May 23rd at 5:00 PM. Richard stated, “We need a Democratic majority” in the legislature.

Bill Bolton introduced our speaker, Mark Connolly, candidate for Governor of New Hampshire. Mark Connolly is the former Deputy Secretary of State and Director of Securities Regulation for the State of New Hampshire. Connolly has over a decade of public service. He has worked over twenty years in the private sector and now owns New Castle Investment Advisors in Portsmouth, serving as a Registered Investment Advisor for individuals and not-for profit institutions.

Connolly serves on the advisory board of the New Hampshire Rebellion project, which since 2013 has mobilized hundreds of citizens of all political stripes in two marches to call attention to out of control campaign spending.

Mark Connolly gave an excellent speech about his growing up in NH, raised by a single mother, working his way through Dartmouth, and entering into the work world in the private and public sector. He announced his candidacy for Governor last November. He is very smart, knowledgeable, and experienced. He received and answered many good questions from the clearly informed PAD members. See a video of the presentation on the PAD website.

Next Meeting: Wednesday April 20, 2016 featuring Carol Shea-Porter.
Respectfully submitted, Barbara Fahey

