

Plymouth Area Democrats General Meeting January 30th 2019

Jay called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

He recognized the representatives and elected officials, past and present that were in attendance. Jay thanked the community, reporting that Plymouth Area Democrats raised \$11,561.85 for this past election cycle. Additionally, he acknowledged the volunteers which made it all possible.

Jay announced that PAD has 4 open positions up for election in March. The positions open are: vice-chair, treasurer, publicity, and technology. He invited anyone who would like to run to please let us know. We are also looking for town chairs. There are 17 towns in our district. Paul shared that you are automatically a delegate to the Convention, as a town chair. One of the perks.

Jay introduced Paul who stated that Grafton County is the most democratic county in New Hampshire currently. Paul introduced this year's inaugural Reynolds/Richards award recipient, Rep Suzanne Smith. Deb Reynolds and Martha Richards were invited to the podium to bestow the honor and award. Josh Adjutant presented a letter from Annie Kuster. Suzanne came forward to receive her award and gave a speech.

Mike introduced the representatives from NHDP which included Emma Tyler, Chris Garretty and Slate Goodwin. They did a PowerPoint presentation on the results from the past year's election campaign.

The mic was handed over to Emma for her portion. The coordinated campaign turnout was a 17% increase, the highest in history. The largest and earliest investment in field in NH midterm history. This past election we had 22 offices, 58 field staff, and 48 organizers. It is the first time a Democrat replaced another Democrat in Congress since the Civil War. We had 2 red-to-blue flips on the Executive Council, creating majority. We had 5 red-blue-flips in the state Senate. 388 Democrats filed to run in the House. We currently have 233 Democrat representatives in the House. We spent a \$2.2 million budget. Coordinated campaign ran different programs: field organizing, digital program, absentee ballot program, out-of-state program (working with groups such as Swing Left, Lean Left and Sister District), Voter Protection Program.

The mic was handed over to Slate who talked about the field program. We knocked on just shy of 400,000 doors (PAD knocked 6108 doors). New Hampshire had 2832 State volunteers. 319,370 phone calls were made. We had 5 campus organizers.

The mic was handed over to Chris Garretty. 2018 saw historic levels of voter turnout and results. Enhanced models for voter targeting were implemented. In the state Senate, Democrats won 54% of the vote but won 58% of the seats.

The mic was turned over to Mo Baxley, 2nd Vice Chair of the NHDP. She fielded questions and comments. There was frustration expressed over the phone call campaign. And there were questions about how effective it was. Mo stated that phone banking does work and that the statistics prove it. There was also caution expressed about small splinter groups which are popping up. There was a feeling that we should be “uniting for the prize”. Mo reminds us that we are on the same team and to resolve the differences. New Hampshire State Committee is made up of officers in state government and there are approximately 400 members. Ray Buckley steers it. Mo led a discussion about how the coordinated campaign has been evolving over the past 10 years: The 2012 election saw zero coordinated. 2016, while it felt clumsy and frustrating, was a huge improvement. And in 2018 there was another vast improvement. And there is still work left to do. Mo encourages us to advocate and put forth any changes to the Constitution that we feel are needed or improved upon. And encourages us to be coming to the state Rules Committee meetings so that we can stay informed and have our voices heard.