

## PAD Meeting 05/13/26

- I. **6:09 Welcome**
- II. **Exciting News!**
  - A. The Grafton County Sheriff has withdrawn from the 287(g) agreement with ICE as of the end of April
- III. **Recognize elected officials**
  - A. Sallie Fellowes, Janet Lucas, Deb Reynolds, Joyce Weston, Katie Wood-Hedberg
- IV. **Recognize town committee members**
  - A. About half of the attendees (two dozen-ish)
- V. **Recognize new members/attendees.**
  - A. Emma Cranich (sp); Paul Goundrey- candidate for District 6; Althea C; Roger Larochele District 11; Nancy Shilty; Jeff Shilty; Mitchell- regional director for Chris Pappas; Marc Bourassa
- VI. **Minutes (motion; discussion; all in favor; opposed)**
  - A. The minutes did not make it onto the website- sorry. We need a communications board member.
- VII. **Treasurer's report**
  - A. Bill is unable to attend this evening. We will update the group next week on the current account balances. In the meantime, if you are able, please make a donation through the envelopes
- VIII. **Announcements**
  - A. We have candidates in all of our districts! We have NH House candidates in all our local districts! In addition to Marc who will be speaking tonight, we have new Candidates in District 6, Orford, Wentworth and Rumney, a seat currently held by Linda Franz—Paul Goundrey, District 11, Alexandria, Grafton, Hebron and Groton, the seat now held by Lix Brenezhny —Roger Larochele and District 18, the large floterial seat held by Donald McFarlane—Debra Ford. Tonight we have Paul and Roger here.
  - B. Lara Parr- new chair of the Potluck Committee
  - C. Campaign season is upon us. We are trying to figure how to best support our local candidates who do not have a primary opponent. NHDP has a neutrality clause so we can't coordinate as a regional or town committee with a candidate who has a primary opponent. People can volunteer as individuals. That being said, we have the Regional Organizing Director for Grafton County from Granite State Victory, Chris Pappas' campaign organization, Mitchell Dobson-Green here tonight if you want to get involved, as an individual with that campaign.
  - D. June 13- You've Protested, Now What- Littleton Senior Center
    1. This is a half day of planning how we can work with candidates, messaging, oppo research and practical strategies for what has worked. This is for candidates, town committee members and everyone who is interested in getting involved!

**IX. Upcoming events**

- A. The NHDP Convention is this weekend in Dover. Andy Beshear is the keynote speaker—tickets are still available
- B. Medicaid Matters is presenting a program on What Granite State Families Need to know About Changes to Medicaid on Wednesday, May 27 at the Byron G. Merrill Library in Rumney
- C. Training for Conversation Canvassing—see Katie if you want more information
- D. We will need volunteers for the July 4 parade
  - 1. Should we march in the Bristol parade instead of the Ashland parade since we really want to help the Bristol Area Candidates?
  - 2. Vote
    - a) By hands- unanimously for Bristol
      - (1) We can have two groups if there is interest, but the times overlap.
- E. We will need volunteers for the Rumney Old Home Day, August 8
- F. Some literature available on the upcoming NHEC election- not an endorsement by PAD or Katies

**X. Other Business- URGENT**

- A. Rep. Janet Lucas
  - 1. Session is coming to the close and is turning into a “sinister season”
  - 2. There is a floor amendment proposed for SB 408; it was passed unanimously by committees in both chambers. Bi-partisan bill, but HB 1793, campus carry bill, as an amendment to SB 408.
  - 3. Janet has a list of those on the finance committee- please send an email to them tonight.

**XI. VI. 6:30 Main Program- Marc Bourassa and Karen Harned**

**A. Marc Bourassa- District 10 (Bristol, Bridgewater**

- 1.
  - a) A Bristol homeowner for 27 years, decided stay permanently out of a love for the community and of its great potential. Marc currently serves on the town Planning Board and was elected in March to the Bristol Budget Committee.
  - b) He is an avid boater (and has built 23 of his own), loves the outdoors; hiking biking, etc, loves his motorcycle and is a guitarist who until recently had a band that played regularly in southern NH.
  - c) He has a lifelong commitment to public service and a deep dedication to improving the quality of life for the residents of Bristol. His membership to town committees and other organizations provides him an opportunity to bring his fiscal expertise, strategic management experience, and community focused approach to the work of representing his town.

2. Marc is running because he has been in the area for nearly 30 years and is devoted to the community. He was motivated to run because of the frustrations of local politics. He supports working families, seniors, and those working to build a future.

**3. Principles**

- a) Every child deserves a high quality public education. A free, universal public education is a corner-stone for a successful republic. We cannot allow income or zipcode or political ideologies to influence what quality of education a child receives.
  - b) Healthcare is a right, not a privilege. No one should have to decide whether to pay rent or get medicine, stay awake at night worrying about taking care of a loved one. He wants to expand access to all of the care.
  - c) The tax system must be fair. Property taxes cannot crush our residents. Seniors cannot be priced out of homes that they have had for decades, young families cannot be forced to move because they cannot afford the taxes. Tax those who can afford it. Update the tax system so that it is modern and fair.
4. He grew up in Manchester, worked to save for college from age 10, worked throughout college to pay for it, and majored in finance and accounting. He has worked in a variety of fields which required careful accounting to the penny. Marc will ask the hard questions about the budget. Marc has spent more than 35 years as a financial and senior executive across multiple industries, including technology, manufacturing, and nonprofit healthcare. As a Chief Financial Officer in the Community Health Center system, he developed and managed multiyear strategic plans and annual operating budgets, and oversaw the deployment of hundreds of millions of dollars of federal and state funding. He has a long record of safeguarding taxpayer resources and implementing policies to ensure public funds are used efficiently and responsibly.
5. Marc has three grown children, two of whom are adopted. That has influenced him with what children experience in foster care. We need to increase our social services because it is personal.
6. How do we win? Politics is local; we must stay focused on what matters to our neighbors: affordability, education, healthcare, property taxes.

**B. Questions/ Comments for Marc**

- 1. Many people don't know who their reps are. Educate about character, competency, and common sense. We have to educate voters about the candidates.
- 2. Property taxes are a big issue. How are you going to address it?

- a) We are constrained constitutionally to establish a progressive tax. That's an issue.
  - b) Property taxes tax unrealized gains. If you have some stocks that increase 10%, but you don't sell them, you don't pay taxes on that. In property taxes, if your house increases in value, the town assessor can come and say, hey, your house that you bought for \$200K is now \$220K, your taxes go up.
  - c) Same with vehicle registration. Those are regressive taxes.
3. What committees would you be on/want to be on/be appointed to?
- a) I do not know, but Janet has more information.
  - b) Janet- committee appointments are made by the party chair. Those go to leadership which usually approve the recommendations. Someone with Marc's background could be on about any committee.

**C. Rebecca Harned- Senate 7 District (Hebron, Bridgewater, Bristol)**

1. Brief Bio

- a) Rebecca Harned is a committed citizen of New Hampshire's Seventh Senate District who is proud to raise her family in New Hampshire and dedicate her career to public service and the public good. A full-time working parent, Rebecca knows firsthand the financial pressures facing families as the cost of living continues to rise across the state. As the daughter of a service-disabled U.S. Air Force veteran, Rebecca has a personal understanding of the challenges facing veterans and seniors, particularly those living on fixed incomes and with health challenges.
- b) Rebecca lives the core values of our community through local citizenship, service, and accountability. These principles are essential to strengthening our communities, in fighting for a better today, and creating a brighter future for all people in our District.
- c) She is a proud graduate of Colby-Sawyer College where she relied on need-based financial aid and worked two jobs to complete her degree. She went on to earn a master's degree and spent more than a decade in Washington, D.C., working on practical, bipartisan solutions in public safety and disaster preparedness. Her work focused on achieving real outcomes while safeguarding taxpayer dollars, earning her a reputation for fiscal responsibility, innovation, and results-driven leadership.
- d) In 2017, Rebecca returned home to New Hampshire to raise her family and invest in the community she loves.

She lives in Sutton, where her son attends the Kearsarge Regional School District and is active in local sports and community organizations. Rebecca currently works full-time as a research scientist and serves on the Kearsarge Regional School District Municipal Budget Committee, where she helps ensure responsible stewardship of local tax dollars and improve the quality of education.

- e) Rebecca is a recipient of Colby-Sawyer College's Alumni Achievement Award and has been recognized for her contributions to public service. In her free time, she and her family enjoy being active outdoors in New Hampshire's lakes and mountains.
2. Rebecca is very much invested in the community and chose to come back to NH despite the challenges that the rural landscape can pose for the benefits for her family. She knows that local issues are going to require larger solutions. There are issues with roads, services, and more. Rebecca "sees the solutions" to the issues, not just the problems.
3. She studies risk from a scientific perspective and communicates that to various agencies like firefighters and will take that perspective to the Senate.
4. She is very enthused that this will be our year to turn around policies from the Free State problems that we have. We also have to focus on local issues instead of looking at the national stage.
5. Political focus- caveat, she wants what much of the party wants
  - a) Solutions: fiscal responsibility. Fix this.
    - (1) Example, the Education Freedom Accounts. When removing the caps, that skyrocketed the budget. Most of the families who applied for the credit already had their kids in private school. In other words, they could probably afford it.
  - b) There is not an appetite for a state-level income or sales tax. But we have not explored other opportunities for funds.
    - (1) We need to look at how certain fees could impact residents positively and negatively.
  - c) Property Taxes- these fund essential services like public education.
    - (1) Education preserves the quality of community. When public education diminishes, so does property. The homes become a diminishing asset. These don't help new business opportunities or the next generation.
  - d) Education- we need to recalibrate and improve our services. Brings up an example of the Franklin school

system where special education needs were not being met.

- e) Economic development- clean and green energy is good and data centers are very bad. Use fringe areas for solar panels, etc.
  - f) District 7 is big- 22 towns. Rebecca needs help to spread her message across the towns to have those tough conversations.
6. Questions/ Comments for Rebecca
- a) How do we bridge that gap between particularly older and Republican voters?
    - (1) There are other revenue solutions. Essentially, we need a new business plan for NH. Consider the future of NH. What do we want it to look like? How can we make it better for the citizens? We have that opportunity.
  - b) The new voter ID law to prove citizenship worries S.F.
    - (1) Education. We have to talk to our neighbors to make sure that they are aware.
  - c) What should we know about your opponent?
    - (1) Rebecca is running a clean campaign. Simply, they have different characters and values.
    - (2) For example, her opponent pushed a bill which would eliminate the autonomy of a local town on whether or not a school stays open. The bill opens up the question to the whole district without considering the local economic issues caused by closures.
    - (3) The opponent also supports EFA's and other bills.
  - d) Besides money, what else can we do to support your campaign?
    - (1) We need letters to the editor written
    - (2) Volunteers for canvassing
    - (3) Coffee and conversations or in a town green after church
    - (4) This district is 42% undeclared. Needs engagement for the masses
    - (5) Estimating about \$350,000 needed for the campaign; she is fiscally conservative and is careful with how the money is spent. Also looking for non-PAC money through labor unions and others.

## XII. Next meeting

- A. Our next meeting is Wednesday, June 10 and we will have a presentation on Countering Christian Nationalism