



## **CENTRAL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

November 21, 2019

Prior to the meeting, Chair Peg Watkins announced that the evening would celebrate the election of Democrats throughout the county. A lovely letter from Ken Wright, newly elected to Westerville City Council, was read. Elected candidates Heather Karr, Powell City Council and Cory Hoffman, Delaware City Council, were applauded by the group. The election of Drew Farrell to Delaware City Council was also recognized.

Meeting opened at 7:39 pm with Chair Peg Watkins requesting the Pledge of Allegiance be led by Steve Schottel.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT** - the report from previous month had been posted for review and David Carpenter made a motion to table the minutes. Opinions as to whether such a motion should be made were entertained from Corinne Lyman, Annie Curran, Marian Jacques, and Treasurer, John Schmarr. Since this is not a usual occurrence, guidance from present ODP officials was sought by the Chair. Marianne Gabel moved that a written amendment be presented for an up or down vote. Lee Lybarger moved to table and Coe Huckabee seconded. Elected and appointed Central Committee members had received orange papers with their names on them when they signed in at the meeting. Those members held their papers up if they approved the motion, and others if they were against. Liz Shirey from ODP counted the vote. The motion passed 38 to 14.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** - John highlighted the report which was provided on the back of the agenda page. Brian Jaffe questioned what he saw as a discrepancy between income reported from Membership as opposed to the amount he had been told the party receives monthly from recurring monthly donations. John explained that the monthly recurring contributions that come in via the ActBlue "join/renew" page are reported as "membership" and recurring donations made via the general ActBlue donation pages are reported as "miscellaneous". Brad Shimp moved to accept John's report and it was seconded by Kevin West. All approved and motion carried. John Henney requested appointment as a Central Committee member. Marian Jacques moved to accept, Mindy Hedges seconded and he was approved. Coe Huckabee was nominated by Brian Jaffe and co-seconded by David Carpenter and Lee Lybarger, Mary Therese Spaulding was nominated by Mindy Hedges and seconded by Marian Jacques. Nominations closed. Greg Hankins moved and Enas Yunis seconded administering the oath of office at the next Central Committee meeting. Motion passed.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

- Petitions – Marian Jacques had Ohioans for Gun Safety's petition for the Background Check and Closing the Gun Show Loophole laws.
- Planning ahead for 2020 – what state, national, and local races are on the ballot, who do we have for candidates?

Rachael Morocco candidate in the Ohio 67<sup>th</sup> for the seat currently held by Kris Jordan, was present and gathering signatures for her petition.

Peg had information on the front table for upcoming races and briefly covered them:

County Commissioner, County Coroner, County Engineer (very specific requirements including being an engineer and a surveyor. Candidate does NOT have to be a county resident), Common Pleas Judge, Probate Juvenile Judge, Prosecuting Attorney, County Recorder, Sheriff, County Treasurer

Other current announced candidates:

Alaina Shearer, House District 12 whose husband was present

Antoinette Miranda, State Board of Education

Louise Valentine works with LEAD Ohio and has information available on all races.

Members were reminded that the deadline for filing intent to run for a Central Committee seat are due at BOE by December 18<sup>th</sup>. Forms were available at our sign in table.

Brian Jaffe questioned why his form had been handed in to the Secretary but was not showing up on the BOE website. Anthony Saadey responded to him and was assured it would be checked on, to be safe simply fill out a form tonight.

The Chair then read a speech which is included at the end of this report. Summary: 2020 election is the ultimate test. The ODP sees Delaware as an up and coming county. The Republicans have taken notice of the elections won and closeness of those lost, and they are nervous. Our top priority should be electing Democrats to office. Therefore, as Chair, believes we should move from our office to another location, but not rush. We are currently spending @ \$1000.00 a month for an office that is largely unused and does not promote inclusion. She suggested storing our office equipment and spending the next three months exploring more carefully, other options.

Peg opened the floor to discussion with the following guidelines: people would sign up to speak for a maximum time of 3 minutes. The time keeper was Louise Valentine. Sergeant at Arms was Sam Kindred who handed each speaker a "talking stick" and a microphone.

A list of rules had been written on a large sheet of paper by Nancy Cline and it was attached to the wall and read to the members:

#### RULES OF INTERACTION

Take turns speaking

Use first names

Ask questions for clarity

No attacks

Focus on interests, not positions

Be a good listener

Recognize differences

Focus on the future

Be kind/respectful



Chair Peg Watkins' address to those assembled

**The 2020 election will be the ultimate test of our resistance** against Donald Trump and the **despicable** version of politics he has brought to our country. Here in Delaware County, we Democrats have a huge opportunity to unseat him along with the elected Republicans who have cheered him on for three years.

We have a guest tonight from the Ohio Democratic Party, Director of Party Affairs Liz Shirey. Part of this is because many eyes are on Delaware County – David Pepper is highlighting the positive election results **in our county** as he speaks around Ohio **and** with national leaders. **We** have great potential to continue to be a crucial player in this battle. This is the other reason Liz is here...as a representative from our state organization with a **vested interest in our success**.

County Republicans have taken note of our wins earlier this month in the cities of Delaware, Powell, and Westerville. Some noticed that our candidates were getting support from big name Ohio Democrats like Sherrod Brown, Andy Ginther and Nan Whaley – **this makes them nervous**. They see that we have momentum and we are gaining support from Delaware County voters. **Now** is the time for us to **hit the gas together** -- NOT be held back by inter-party politics.

Attempting to ensure all voices were heard on the issue of our headquarters, as we near the end of our lease, we had several very emotional meetings, conversations, and e-mails.

Under a time crunch, we used a voting process that we have since learned from the Ohio Democratic Party was not in accordance with the ODP and DNC by-laws. (DNC Bylaws Section 8 (d) pg. 16).

I believe we should move from our current location to one that is more accessible and available to serve the growing number of Democrats and incredible Democratic candidates in Delaware County – but I don't believe that rushing to another long-term commitment is wise. For 2020, we could certainly sustain a temporary period of time with no physical office. Out of 88 Democratic County parties in Ohio, only 33 have a permanent headquarters.

I believe we should take the time to consider various options, keeping in mind the following:

- The Delaware County Democratic Party values inclusion. We are all in support of this, and there are not "two sides" to this perspective.
- We are currently paying about \$1,000 per month for an office that is largely unused and is too small for our monthly meetings. Our monthly meetings take place in the Willis Building and other types of events are held throughout the county. Out of all of our 2019 candidates, only one used the office space to support her campaign.

- This year, there will be races for many county offices, and we would like to be able to support our candidates. In 2019, we gave about \$6,000 total from the party to our local candidates, and twice that amount went to rent and utilities.
- **Our top priorities are: getting more Democrats elected to office, getting Democratic voters to turn out to vote, and to have an organization that supports the Democratic Presidential nominee, regardless of who she may be.**
- Between now and the March Primary in 2020, **no federal or state candidates will be permitted to use** a county party's headquarters. Once we have a nominee, they will be looking for a location to serve as a temporary headquarters. This gives us a good three months to explore more carefully what is available AND what type of space we could use most effectively.

I propose a few steps:

- We will continue to hold monthly Central Committee meetings here at Willis Education Center, a space that is FREE for our use
- **Our current lease ends on December 31, and the space at 12 ½ N Sandusky Street has now been put on the market. Our landlord will permit us to rent on a month-to-month basis while we arrange to move. I recommend a 2-month limit on this.**
- The four members of the ad Hoc Facilities committee have laid a foundation that we can build on with **additional voices and some thinking outside the box**. We can explore different ways of using physical space, such as buying a bar, or somewhere more suitable for fundraising events, as well as consider alternate locations in the county.
- If we don't identify a new office space by the end of February, Party belongings not in use will be put into a storage space
- The Party will continue to use our post office box (P O Box 872, Delaware, OH 43015), as well as provide information on our website: [www.ohiodeladems.org](http://www.ohiodeladems.org)
- We can forward phone calls to a Google Voice phone number

We are a diverse group of personalities, perspectives and abilities. We must figure out how to move forward together, as a group of united Democrats in Delaware County.

We must stay focused on what is best for the future of our party in Delaware County, in Ohio, and in the country. We must resist this divisiveness that has already driven people away, and focus on why we are here.

**We want to elect Democrats. We can only do it TOGETHER.** Thank you.