

**Portage County Democratic Party Central/Executive Committee
P.O. Box 729 Ravenna, Ohio 44266
www.portagedemocrats.org**

**Meeting Date: June 1, 2022
Location: 575 E. Lake St., Ravenna, Ohio 44266
Time: 6 p.m.**

ATTENDANCE

Central Committee Members: 51
Elected Officials (non-Central Committee members): 3
Guests: 11
Excused Absences: 2
Total Attendance: 65

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Denise Smith called the meeting to order at approximately 6:10 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Attendees stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Secretary Audrey Kessler confirmed that a quorum was present.

OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS

Judge Melissa Roubic administered the oath of office to the newly elected Central Committee members.

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHAIR

Smith moved to appoint Victor Viglucci as temporary chair for the purpose of conducting the election of officers for 2022 to 2026. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION DECLARING CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN ITS ENTIRETY BE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Frank Hairston moved for the approval of a resolution the declaring Central Committee in its entirety be the Executive Committee. Bruce Ribelin seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION GRANTING FUNRAISING, CONTRACTING, LEASING AND PURCHASING AUTHORITY TO THE CHAIR

Mickey Marozzi moved to grant fundraising, contracting, leasing and purchasing authority to the chair. Cindy Greene seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

DECLARATION OF VACANCIES

Vacancies were declared for the positions of chair, first vice chair, second vice chair, treasurer, secretary and parliamentarian. It also was declared for four precincts, individuals who want to fill those vacancies are present at the meeting. Christopher Clevenger-Morris moved to have these individuals sworn in now so they can participate in the vote for Central Committee officers. Hairston seconded the motion. A Central Committee member objected, saying that these individuals should be sworn in after officers have been elected. Chis Mallin noted that the Portage County Democratic Party's constitution and bylaws say that the names of persons who want to be appointed to the Central Committee are to be presented at one meeting and voted on at the next meeting. Clevenger-Morris noted that a memo from the Ohio Democratic Party allowed for the option of appointing members at the reorganization meeting. Mike DeLuke said that the Portage County Democratic Party "should follow *our* constitution and bylaws." Upon request, Viglucci read the memo from the Ohio Democratic Party. The motion to swear in the prospective new members at the current meeting failed.

EXPLANATION OF VOTING PROCEDURE

Vigluicci explained the procedure that would be used to elect officers. He said the votes would be done by written ballot but added that the written-ballot requirement could be waived if the Central Committee approves a resolution granting such waiver for offices where only one candidate is running. It was moved and seconded to the waive the written-ballot requirement for those offices for which only one candidate is running. The motion was approved unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair

Vigluicci asked for nominations for chair. Mike DeLuke was nominated and seconded for the office of chair. Hairston nominated Denise Smith for the office of chair. Clevenger-Morris seconded the motion. It was moved and seconded to close the nominations. Central Committee members voted by written ballot. DeLuke received 14 votes. Smith received 36 votes and was declared the winner.

First Vice Chair

Hairston nominated Christopher Clevenger-Morris for the office of first vice chair. It was moved and seconded to close the nominations. As there was only one candidate, a voice vote was taken. Clevenger-Morris was declared the winner.

Second Vice Chair

Amy Michael nominated Sharon Spencer for the office of second vice chair. The nomination was seconded. It was moved and seconded to close the nominations. As there was only one candidate, a voice vote was taken. Spencer was declared the winner.

Treasurer

Smith nominated Gary Horning for the office of treasurer. Clevenger-Morris seconded the nomination. It was moved and seconded to close the nominations. As there was only one candidate, a voice vote was taken. Horning was declared the winner.

Secretary

Hairston nominated Audrey Kessler for the office of secretary. The nomination was seconded. It was moved and seconded to close the nominations. As there was only one candidate, a voice vote was taken. Kessler was declared the winner.

Parliamentarian

Hairston nominated Terrie Nielsen for the office of parliamentarian. The nomination was seconded. It was moved and seconded to close the nominations. As there was only one candidate, a voice vote was taken. Nielsen was declared the winner.

With the elections completed, Vigluicci turned the meeting over to Smith.

OATH OF OFFICE TO OFFICERS

Victor Vigluicci administered the oath of office to the newly elected Central Committee officers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the March 10, 2022, meeting were not presented for a vote to approve.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Horning gave the treasurer's report. For the **General Account**, the balance as of February 28, 2022, was \$18,232.27; income was \$2,630.00; expenses were \$4,758.36; the balance as of May 31, 2022, was \$16,103.91. For the **Restricted Account**, the balance as of February 28, 2022, was \$2,474.73; income was \$3,000.00; expenses were \$2,824.12; the balance as of May 31, 2022, was \$2,650.61. Dean DePerro moved to approve the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Smith announced that Clevenger-Morris is now chair of the Volunteer Committee and that Spencer is now chair of the Membership Committee. A chair is needed for the Finance Committee and the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee

also needs members. Smith asked that anyone interested in serving on the Audit Committee to please contact her. The audit will be done at the end of the calendar year.

FUNDRAISER

Smith asked and encouraged members to send the fundraiser cards they received to at least five people. She added that the cards can be sent as is, or a personal note can be added if desired. A copy of the fundraiser card is on file with these minutes.

RECOGNITION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Smith recognized the elected officials in attendance at the meeting.

RECOGNITION OF CANDIDATES

Smith recognized the candidates in attendance at the meeting. She asked if any of them would like to speak. Geraldine Hayes-Nelson, candidate for Portage County Commissioner, chose to do so. Hayes-Nelson said that she is “excited for the Democratic Party” and that she is “a very proud Democrat.” She added that she will be having a campaign fundraiser on June 27 at Bar 130 in Ravenna. Kathleen Clyde, who is running unopposed in the Democratic primary for state representative in District 72, also spoke, as did Matt Kilboy. Kilboy is running unopposed in the Democratic primary for Ohio’s 14th Congressional District.

ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES

Hairston moved that the Portage County Democratic Party endorse all Portage County Democratic Party primary candidates. Clevenger-Morris seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

OFFICE GRAND OPENING

Spencer announced that the Portage County Democratic Party will have a grand opening for the party office on June 14 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Candidates and Central Committee members are invited to attend. Spencer said that some people already have volunteered to staff the office but more are welcome. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Spencer. On a related note, Spencer said that she wants to provide a list of Democratic candidates to every Democrat who requests an absentee (by mail) ballot, adding that she “wants our candidates to win.”

ENDORSEMENT OF OTHER CANDIDATES

Hairston moved that that the Portage County Democratic Party endorse Judge Laurie Pittman for Portage County Common Pleas Court (General) and Paula Giullito for Portage County Common Pleas Court (Domestic Relations). The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

CONSTITUENT GROUP REPORTS

Ohio Democratic Party Representative

Lauren Marsh, Northeast Ohio regional party affairs director for the Ohio Democratic Party, spoke at the meeting. Her message was to “turn Portage County blue.”

Federated Democratic Women

The group will be having a fundraiser on June 8 at 6 p.m. at Little City Grill in Kent. The suggested donation is \$50 per person. The event will include beer and food pairings.

Portage County Young Democrats

Clevenger-Morris thanked Kathleen Chandler for her help in registering Democratic voters for the primary election.

Kent State University College Democrats

No one was present to give a report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Canine Protective Vests for the Portage County Sheriff's Office

It was noted that the Portage County Republican Party has donated \$1,000 toward the purchase of canine protective vests for the Portage County Sheriff's Office. The issue before the Central Committee was whether the Portage County Democratic Party also should donate \$1,000 toward said cause. DeLuxe moved that the Portage County Democratic Party

donate \$1,000 toward the purchase of the canine protective vests. The motion was seconded. After considerable discussion, including questions and concerns, Greene moved to table the motion on the floor. Clevenger-Morris seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS UPDATES

Nielsen said that the primary election for state senate and house seats is August 2. She stressed that poll workers are needed. Nielsen also encouraged people to vote early (either in person or by mail). The last day to register to vote in the August 2 primary is July 5. Early voting starts on July 6.

EVENT DATES

Smith reminded Central Committee members about the events listed on the meeting agenda and noted a correction to the date for the Kent Heritage Festival. The correct date is July 2. A copy of the agenda is on file with these minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

Hank Gibson moved to adjourn the meeting. Clevenger-Morris seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Submitted by Audrey C. Kessler, Secretary