

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

**Meeting Date: October 5, 2022
Location: 575 E. Lake St., Ravenna, Ohio 44266
Time: 6 p.m.**

ATTENDANCE

Central Committee Members: 28 (two of whom also are elected officials)
Elected Officials (non-Central Committee members): 3
Guests: 5
Total Attendance: 34

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Denise Smith called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mickey Marozzi led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Secretary Audrey Kessler confirmed that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Frank Hairston moved to approve the meeting minutes from September 7, 2022, as presented. Mickey Marozzi seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

INTRODUCTION AND APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

Denise Smith introduced two individuals who had requested appointment to the Central Committee: Sara Ashley Cook (Brimfield C) and Gina Maglionico (Shalersville B). Christopher Clevenger-Morris moved to appoint Sara Ashley Cook (Brimfield C) and Gina Maglionico (Shalersville B) to the Central Committee. Frank Hairston seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Mickey Marozzi administered the oath of office to the new members.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of Treasurer Gary Horning, there was no report.

RECOGNITION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS, CANDIDATES AND ODP REPRESENTATIVES

Denise Smith recognized the following elected officials present at the meeting: Brad Cromes, Mickey Marozzi, and Melissa Roubic. Smith recognized the following candidates: Dr. Geraldine Hayes-Nelson (for county commissioner) and Brad Cromes (for county auditor). Smith also recognized Emily Grigg, a field organizer for the Ohio Democratic Party's coordinated campaign. Grigg said that the get-out-the-vote (GOTV) effort needs lots of volunteers for canvassing door to door in three-hour shifts and volunteers to serve as GOTV leaders. The leaders work in the local party offices and hand out assignment sheets to canvassers. There will be eight days of canvassing. The GOTV effort is very important for getting Democrats out to vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Committee

Denise Smith said she sent a reminder email to members of the Audit Committee about the need for the group to meet. The audit report is due 60 days from December 31, 2022. Smith said she named Bob Howard to be chair of the committee.

Finance Committee

Frank Hairston gave the report. He said that everyone had "a great time" at the fundraiser on September 11 at Big Dog Saloon in Ravenna. The event raised about \$2,000. Hairston said he has fundraiser ideas for 2023. More information will come later.

Membership Committee

Christopher Clevenger-Morris gave the report. He said that efforts to find new volunteers and people to fill vacancies on the Central Committee are continuing.

Volunteer Committee

Sharon Spencer gave the report. Spencer said she has enough people to staff the office but needs more people to sit at a table outside the board of elections during early voting hours. People coming to vote will not be approached directly. Volunteers will provide candidate information if someone requests it. There will be two shifts: morning and afternoon. Lots of shifts are available.

Service Committee

Denise Smith gave the report. Smith asked if anyone is interested in getting the Service Committee going again with more food drives. There were no immediate responses.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS UPDATES

Terrie Nielsen gave the report. Nielsen said that early voting starts October 12. Hours for early voting are on the BOE website. Twelve thousand applications for absentee ballots have been received so far. Ballots will be mailed on October 12. Poll workers are still needed. The voter registration deadline is October 11. The BOE mailed postcards to voters to inform them of the new districts (the result of the redistricting process) and their polling location. Nielsen concluded by saying, "Make a plan to go out and vote."

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Postcards

Denise Smith said that candidate postcards are on the tables for members to write and address for mailing.

GOTV Opportunity

See RECOGNITION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS, CANDIDATES AND ODP REPRESENTATIVES above.

Chair's Circle

Denise Smith reminded members about the upcoming Chair's Circle event. She said that featured guests include Judge Jennifer Bruner (candidate for Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice), Scott Schertzer (candidate for state treasurer) and Judge Terri Jamison (candidate for Ohio Supreme Court).

CONSTITUENT GROUP REPORTS

Federated Democratic Women

Ohio Supreme Court Justice Jennifer Brunner will be the featured speaker at the FDW's VOTE gala on October 20 at the American Legion in Kent. Invitations to the event have been mailed.

Portage County Young Democrats

Christopher Clevenger-Morris gave the report. He reviewed the group's activities, which included completing 2,500 postcards for Tim Ryan (with 2,500 more to go); phone banking; literature drops for all local, state and judicial candidates; upcoming canvassing in Aurora on Saturday and in Kent on October 10 and 11; and targeting Democrats who don't always vote in off-year elections.

Kent State University College Democrats

No one was present to give a report.

OTHER BUSINESS

John Kennedy is doing his hunger run of the entire county each weekend of this month. Geraldine Hayes-Nelson said the Democratic Party "looked great" at the Kent State Homecoming Parade. She added that Democrats "really showed up, even students." Brad Cromes announced a fundraiser for GOTV on Tuesday from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Ravenna Elks, thanked Kathleen Clyde and Hayes-Nelson for putting together a watch party on election night at The Battleground

restaurant in Kent; thanked all for their efforts in the election; noted/warned that the Ohio secretary of state will be creating an Election Integrity Commission, saying that the real intention of the commission is voter suppression, especially among minorities. Cromes said that we are in “a tough environment” but that “we *can* win the secretary of state election. Clyde thanked everyone for their help with the election and added, “Let’s keep pushing.” She said her campaign will be having a fundraiser October 17 or 19 at Windmill Lakes in Ravenna. Clyde closed by saying that she is “working very hard to retake the seat” in the Ohio House. Hairston thanked Clyde for “all your hard work” and noted that the Republican Party is putting out a lot of nasty stuff about Clyde. Another Central Committee member expressed a similar sentiment, saying that it is “despicable” what Clyde’s opponent is doing and saying in advertisements. Bruce Ribelin had similar comments. Hairston said that “we need to call the Republican Party about this.” Bob Howard noted that the Portage County Health District has a levy (Issue 8) on the ballot that involves no new taxes. Ribelin asked members who are eligible to vote for Issue 8 do so by voting “yes.” Jim Tighe said that the *Plain Dealer* has endorsed Ohio Supreme Court candidates Jennifer Bruner, Terri Jamison and Marilyn Zayas. Chris Mallin said that Democratic secretary of state candidate Chelsea Clark is “smart and wise” and the first candidate to attend the Ohio election law training. No one else has done this, Mallin added. John Kennedy thanked all who supported his hunger run. Kennedy said that he and another person ran more than 100 miles, collectively, over two weekends. He noted that hunger is a problem in Portage County and that senior retirees are showing up at food banks. He said he will do the event again next year but added that more engagement and involvement are needed. Diane Smith said that “we need to get the three Democratic Ohio Supreme Court candidates elected.”

ADJOURNMENT

Chris Mallin moved to adjourn the meeting. Delores Durbin seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Submitted by Audrey C. Kessler, Secretary