

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

Meeting Date: September 7, 2022
Location: 575 E. Lake St., Ravenna, Ohio 44266
Time: 6 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Central Committee Members: 39 (six of whom also are elected officials)
Elected Officials (non-Central Committee members): 2
Guests: 0
Total Attendance: 41

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Denise Smith called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Denise Smith led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Secretary Audrey Kessler confirmed that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mickey Marozzi moved to approve the meeting minutes from June 1, 2022, and August 3, 2022, as presented. Cindy Greene seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS

Vic Vigluicci administered the oath of office to three new members: Meade MacKay (Sugar Bush Knolls), Diane Pochedly (Hiram A) and Norma Thomas (Windham Village B).

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Gary Horning gave the treasurer's report. For the **General Account**, the balance as of August 1, 2022, was \$19,640.36; income was \$1,46.58; expenses were \$2,555; the balance as of August 31, 2022, was \$18,131.94. For the **Restricted Account**, the balance as of August 1, 2022, was \$1,500.22; income was \$1,000.00; expenses were \$1,066.36; the balance as of August 31, 2022, was \$1,433.86. Frank Hairston moved to approve the treasurer's report. Mike DeLuke seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS, CANDIDATES AND ODP REPRESENTATIVES

Smith recognized the following elected officials present at the meeting: Brad Cromes, Delores Durbin, Tiera Moore, Andrew Kluge, Vic Vigluicci, Mickey Marozzi, Dean DePerro and Paula Giulitto. Smith recognized the following candidates: Dr. Geraldine Hayes-Nelson (for county commissioner), Brad Cromes (for county auditor) and Paula Giulitto (for judge, Portage County Common Pleas Court). No Ohio Democratic Party representatives were present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Committee

No report.

Finance Committee

Frank Hairston gave the report. He reminded members that the tailgate fundraising event is scheduled for Sunday, September 11, at Big Dog Saloon on Highland Avenue in Ravenna from noon to 5 p.m. Cost is \$20. A cash bar will be available. Hairston asked all to come and "have some fun." Payment can be made at portagedems.org or at the door. A veteran's organization will receive a portion of the proceeds. Hairston also recognized the members of the Fundraising Committee for their help in organizing the event. Christopher Clevenger-Morris asked if the Portage County Democratic Party would have the whole facility. Hairston responded in the affirmative.

Membership Committee

Sharon Spencer gave the report. She said that the PCDP has three new members and that the recruiting of additional members continues.

Volunteer Committee

Christopher Clevenger-Morris gave the report. Starting on September 26, the party headquarters will be open from 10 p.m. to 3 p.m. most days, with evening hours on Wednesdays. Slate cards will be handed out at the board of elections as people arrive there for early voting. Volunteers are needed to work four-hour shifts. Volunteers also are needed to staff the party headquarters during the extended open hours.

Service Committee

Denise Smith gave the report. Smith said she gave a personal donation to The Haven, a shelter for the homeless. She said the donation was a result of her matching funds from the Portager's Fair subscription fundraiser. The Haven also needs volunteers to serve meals to their clients on Fridays and Saturdays at 5 p.m. Smith added that application forms for anyone who want to help with the meals are available at tonight's meeting. Volunteers are especially needed during the winter months.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS UPDATES

Terrie Nielsen gave the report. Nielsen said the BOE received 33,000 absentee ballot applications in the mail yesterday. In two weeks, people can check the status of their application on the BOE's website. Once again, poll workers are greatly needed. Applications are available from Nielsen at tonight's meeting, or interested persons can go to the BOE website to obtain one. Requirements for being a poll worker include being a registered voter in Portage County, having no felony convictions, participating in poll-worker training, working on election day and being able to read. Free continuing education credits are available to poll workers who are attorneys, social workers and Realtors. Other professions may be eligible also. Four poll workers are needed for each precinct. Finding poll workers, said Nielsen, is a responsibility of Central Committee members. The BOE trains more than 600 poll workers for each election. The large number is necessary because some people who agree to work do not show up on election day. Poll workers are paid \$20 for training (2 to 3 ½ hours) and \$130 on election day. High school students who are seniors and at least 17 years old are eligible to serve as poll workers. Kent State University students also are eligible. The deadline to register to vote is October 11. Early voting begins on October 12. Absentee ballots will be mailed after October 12 to those persons who requested one.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Strategic Plan for ODP

Denise Smith said the Portage County Democratic Party submitted its strategic plan to the Ohio Democratic Party. By submitting the plan, the PDCP may be eligible for an ODP grant of \$500 to \$1,000.

Chair's Circle

Denise Smith said the Chair's Circle is the PCDP's major fundraiser. It's the money that keeps the party operating. Smith said she is issuing a challenge by donating \$2,000 for the Chair's Circle fundraiser. She added that the money raised at the event will help pay expenses in next year's election, which will have a lot of local offices on the ballot. Money is needed, for example, to recruit candidates and purchase campaign materials for those local elections.

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.

Portage County Young Democrats

Christopher Clevenger-Morris gave the report. He reviewed the group's activities, which include candidate fundraisers; get-out-the-vote efforts; and the KSU homecoming parade, during which make-a-plan-to-vote cards, slate cards and candy will be distributed. Clevenger-Morris encouraged people sign up for the parade and for other activities, such as making

phone calls and making literature drops. The group has raised \$6,000 this year and printed 5,000 literature pieces. The group still needs \$1,500 for postage to mail the literature pieces. Clevenger-Morris said he is asking the PCDP for a donation to help cover the cost of postage. It was noted that the PCDP, in past years, has donate \$1,000 to the Young Democrats. Geraldine Hayes-Nelson moved that the PCDP donate \$1,500 to \$2,000 to the Young Democrats to cover the postage costs for literature mailings. Brian Pearson seconded the motion. After some discussion about how much and whether to donate, Hayes-Nelson amended her motion to specify a donation of \$1,500. Pearson seconded the revised motion. Chris Mallin said he would donate \$500 for a total donation of \$2,000. The motion was approved unanimously, with Clevenger-Morris abstaining.

Kent State University College Democrats

No one was present to give a report.

OTHER BUSINESS

one.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Submitted by Audrey C. Kessler, Secretary