

Payne County Democrats  
Meeting Minutes from 11 April 2024  
Stillwater Community Center  
Snacks and socializing at 6:00pm, meeting at 6:30pm

Present at Meeting: Nigel Baldwin, Dennis Bertholf, Valerie Bloodgood, Lisa Bozeman, Rita Breuninger, Emmerson Cave, David Copley, Julie Couch, Sam Cypert, Florence Degler, Carolyn Gang, Cynthia Gedra, Alex Good, Chris Garoffolo, Mary Beth Garoffolo, Mary Ann Grimsley, Deanna Homer, John Homer, Jim Huston, Christian Jimenez, Gary Lanman, Pam Lanman, Avery McIntyre, Ken Morris, Clay Ness, Gary Nicholson, Ed Noltensmeyer, Camry Paulson, Dave Perrin, Ann Perrin, MJ Seals, Lindsey Smith, Miguel Vergara, Haley Walker, Sheralyn Williams, Justin Worley, Trish Ranson

### **Officer Reports:**

#### President's Report and announcements: Justin Worley

-Friends of the Library Book Sale is next weekend

-Report from State Convention on April 6 in Ardmore: CD3 elected Delegates are Jeff Berrong, Ch. Custer Co., Arturo Delgado, union leader and activist Oklahoma Co., Sarah Carnes, CD3 Chair, Canadian Co., Camryn Paulson, Pres. OSU College Dems, Payne Co.

At-Large Delegates from CD3 are **Lindsey Smith** and Mike Woods

**Rep. Arturo Alonso-Sandoval**, HD89 CD3 Okla. Co. PLEO (Party Leader Elected Official)

All of these, and more from all over the state will be going to the National Democratic Convention in August in Chicago.

#### Special Guest Speaker: HD 34 Representative Trish Ranson

-Trish spoke of the Legislative Session , which runs from February to May. Her 2 bills about child care did not get heard. She is on these committees: Agriculture, Higher Education, Career Tech, Public Health, Appropriations and Budget. She is the Minority Caucus leader.

-Ryan Walters (Sec. of Education) is pushing for the complete dismantling of Public Education, many employees have left SDE, lawyers have left. So, there is a lot of chaos, and the Democrats are pushing for rules regarding impeachment proceedings.

#### Finance Report: **Carolyn Gang**

-Balance as of today is \$16,436.19. Donations are up and records balance with the bank.

-May 19th is the Mid-Summer Meltdown social fundraiser is on May 19 in the Library Theater. Look for the invitation, and RSVP

### Secretary's Report: Cynthia Gedra

-Minutes of the February meeting were approved (Ed Noltensmeyer, Avery McIntyre)

### Affirmative Action Report: Sam Cypert, Pat Mullins

- Our Daily Bread volunteers are needed
- Sam wished us all Eid Mubarak, as this is the end of Muslim Ramadan
- Pride Day will take place in Southern Woods Park

### OSU College Democrats Report: Camryn Paulson

-Avery McIntyre is running for President. Camryn spoke about a fundraiser they are doing for political engagement.

CD3 Report: Roger Mullins See report from State Convention, above

**Committee Reports:** *New names are listed as Chairs of these committees. Thank you for agreeing to serve in this way!*

### Communications Sam Cypert

-Our Facebook page usage is up. Website updates are being made. Justin and Sam have been writing and sending out the new "Donkey Dispatch" newsletter.

### Budget No Report

### Political Affairs Sam Cypert

- There have been 130 employee resignations from State Department of Education
- Gay Washington was elected to the School Board, we are happy to announce
- Governor Stitt made a successful compact with the Choctaw Tribe
- OSU Campus Life is partnering with Pete's Pantry. Now partnering with the Regional Food Bank. 13,000 Payne County residents experience food insecurity. OSU and Our Daily Bread are growing fresh produce for clients of these programs.

### Community Engagement Pat Mullins

- Library Classic Cinema this week is "Singin' in the Rain". Pat invited us all to attend.
- Book Club met last week. The next meeting will be on May 14 at 6:30. We are reading the timeless and hopeful book A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

### Events Pam Lanman and Carolyn Gang

### Hospitality/Meeting Refreshments Florence Degler

-How and whether to provide meeting snacks was discussed. Carolyn asked if attendees would be willing to sign up for a month to bring snacks in a pot-luck style. It was agreed there would be a sign-up for each month's meeting, and Florence will be responsible for keeping a list for sign-ups and reminding people.

### Veteran Affairs Ed Noltensmeyer

### Membership and Recruitment Lisa Bozeman

### **Activity**

Jim Huston handed out and reviewed a Voter and Precinct Engagement information packet. This should be a useful resource especially for this election year

### **New/Old Business**

-Please sign up to be a Poll Worker! Call the Payne County Election Board at (405) 747-8350 to sign up. Training days will be May 7 or May 14 from 9am-3pm

### **Discussion/Announcements**

- Our meetings are open to everyone, Republicans included
- Coffee Chat will be on April 20 at Wandering Brew Coffee Shop in Perkins. 251 Hwy 33. 10-11:30am
- May 5th at Stonecloud will be a social with the OSU College Dems. RSVP to Justin Worley at [accounts@paynecountydemocrats.org](mailto:accounts@paynecountydemocrats.org)
- Sam Cypert/Miguel Vergara moved to adjourn the meeting

Next meeting is Thursday, May 9th at Stillwater Public Library at 6:00pm

Respectfully Submitted by Cynthia Gedra