

Payne County Democrats
Meeting Minutes from 8 February 2024
Stillwater Public Library
Snacks and socializing at 6:00pm, meeting at 6:30pm

Present at Meeting: Bobi Bertenshaw, Lisa Bozeman, David Copley, Sam Cypert, Florence Degler, Cynthia Gedra, Deanna Homer, John Homer, Kathy Huston, Jim Huston, Neal Ketchman, Lynne Murnane, Gary Nicholson, Bud Reese, Elizabeth Thornton, Miguel Vergara, Justin Worley, Cindy Alexander, Bob Darcy

Officer Reports:

President's Report and Announcements:

- May 19 we will hold our cobbler and ice cream fundraiser in Berry Creek neighborhood. There will be satirical entertainment. You will need to RSVP and can pay at the door.
- Brayfest will be held in the fall, and we will have candidates running for office in attendance.
- March 5th are national Primary Elections
- June 18 are state Primaries. Robin Fuxa is a Democrat candidate running for seat 21 (Tom Dugger is currently in this seat, but will retire).
- Payne County Democrats need Chairs for the following Committees: Events, Veterans' Affairs, and Community Outreach. PLEASE VOLUNTEER! Otherwise, Justin will be asking you for your help with these committees.

Special Guest Speaker:

-Cindy Alexander from Indivisible Stillwater gave a presentation about Open Primaries (which may be a State Question on the ballot), and on State Question 832, dealing with the minimum wage. It proposes to raise the hourly minimum wage to \$9.00 in 2025, raising it to \$15.00 in 2029, with rises keeping in line with the cost of living from 2030 onward. Slides are attached at the end of the minutes.

Audience questions followed her presentation, and Cindy stated that an unknown national group is behind the minimum wage question.

Finance Report:

-Read into the record by Justin. The report submitted by Carolyn Gang states that funds from Diamond Donkey are all in. There was a \$200.00 adjustment made to our balance so the bank and books agreed. The \$200.00 difference was in our favor, so no objection to this. We have \$16,272.83 in our account. ****

Secretary's Report: January Minutes were approved. (Elizabeth Thornton/Florence Degler) Committee Reports will be attached at the end of the Minutes.

Affirmative Action Report:

Report read into the record by Justin Worley. Sam Cypert submitted a report commemorating Black History Month:

We would like to acknowledge and honor the rich and profound contributions of Black

individuals throughout history during this Black History Month. From trailblazing leaders

and activists to artists, scientists, and innovators, the impact of Black culture, resilience,

and achievement resonates deeply in our society. As we celebrate this month, let us

also reflect on the ongoing journey towards equity, justice, and understanding for all.

OSU College Democrats Report:

-Miguel from OSUC Dems stated that they have 5 new members in attendance. February 13 is the next General Meeting.

Committee Reports:

Communications * See addenda

Budget no report

Sam Cypert-Political Affairs

There were more than 3000 bills filed this Legislative Session. Highlighted bills are in the report at the end of these minutes.**

CD3:

Cynthia Gedra attended the CD3 meeting. The CD3 wants to help turn out voters and will visit with each County group to see how they can help us. They encouraged us to request Absentee Ballots, sign up to become Poll Workers, and become Notaries.

April 6th is the Ardmore Delegates Convention, where National Delegates will be chosen to represent us in Chicago.

Minutes and many links for information are at the end of these Minutes.***

Community Engagement

- Sam was absent from 2/8 general meeting due to attendance at the OSU Emerging Professional Mixer.
- Met with the Membership & Recruitment Committee to further discuss increasing membership and overall member retention. More information will be shared by the MRC Chair(s).

Events no report

Veteran Affairs no report

Membership and Recruitment *****

Bobi Bertenshaw reported on the results of the member survey to determine our Talking Points for Payne County Democrats. These were approved by a motion (Bobi Bertenshaw/Sam Cypert)

Talking Points:

1. Elect Democrats to Public Office
2. Increase voter turn-out and engagement
3. Find and elect candidates who support Public Education, access to healthcare, and childcare
4. Support reproductive rights
5. Support gun control
6. Support separation of church and state

-There was discussion about whether these would be in conflict with Democrat candidates who are running for office. Each candidate will have their own Talking Points.

Old Business none

New Business

- April 2 is the election for School Board
- April 6 is the Congressional District 3 Convention in Ardmore
- Coffee Chat is at Balanced Coffee February 24 at 10 am
- no date set yet for Book Club meeting. The book to be discussed is Democracy Awakening by Heather Cox Richardson

Discussion none

Next meeting is Thursday, March 14, 2024 at Stillwater Public Library at 6:00pm

Respectfully Submitted by Cynthia Gedra

Addenda:

****Political Affairs Report:**

Community News:

Stillwater – Block 34 construction officially began this week.

Jan. 29 - Stillwater City Manager Kimberly Meek appointed two Assistant City Managers to increase municipal efficiency.

Agency News:

No major updates.

Executive News:

2024 State of the State Address

o Gov. Kevin Stitt announced that his continued priorities are making Oklahoma a more “pro-business state” and creating a pathway to zero state income taxes.

Judicial News:

Judiciary branch facing possible legislative regulation under S.B. 1672, which would put a permanent age limit of 75 for all judges in the state of Oklahoma.

Legislative News:

The Oklahoma Legislature officially reconvened for the 2024 legislative session on Feb. 5. According to the Tulsa World, 3,030 new bills and resolutions were filed for this session prior to the filing deadline for this period.

Frank Lucas facing a far-right primary challenger for CD3.

Major Filings this Session:

o H.B. 2962 – Bill that would require all Oklahoma classrooms to display the Ten Commandments.

o H.B. 3013 – Bill that would result in a felony conviction for any person who knows or has reason to know that another person intends to use abortion medications or delivers abortion medications to said person.

o H.B. 3217 – Bill that would bar state agencies from showing public support for the LGBTQ+ community.

o S.B. 1729 “Abolition of Abortion Act” – Bill that would fully outlaw abortion in the state of Oklahoma and charge pregnant mothers with homicide. No exceptions for rape or incest are included in the current language of the bill. The only exceptions would be to save the mother’s life or the unborn child’s life.

o S.B. 1958 – Bill that would outlaw incompatibility as a valid legal reason for divorce; also known as “no-fault divorce.” Bill would make divorce filings open to public scrutiny and would require parties to provide convincing evidence of a need for a divorce.

***Communications Report**

Social Media

- Continuing to implement recommendations from the Membership & Recruitment Committee. Working to conduct more frequent posting on Facebook and Instagram, and more usage of Facebook + Instagram Stories functions.

- Metrics

o Facebook

Overall increase in digital outreach compared to the last 30-day period.

1,474 users reached in the past 30 days (up from 363 users last month; an increase of 306.1%).

265 profile visits in the past 30 days (up from 228 users last month; an increase of 16.5%).

60 interactions w/ posted content (up from 33 interactions last month).

o Instagram

Overall decline in digital outreach compared to the last 30-day period.

56 users reached in the past 30 days (down from 79 users last month; a decline of 29.1%).

11 profile visits in the past 30 days (down from 12 visits last month; a decline of 8.3%).

11 interactions w/ posted content (down from 11 interactions last month; a decline of 54.2%).

Web Updates

- Several changes proposed by the Membership and Recruitment Committee as well as the Central Committee; web updates will be made in the next 30 days.

o Will work to update website to include the top 5 most important issues voted on by the Payne County membership.

o Looking at building a new webpage online showcasing the PCD t-shirts available for sale with instructions on how to purchase.

Print Updates

- Working with the Membership & Recruitment Committee to develop an additional rack card for the Payne County Democrats; will have 3 mock-ups for review by the general body at the March general meeting.

***CD3 Meeting Minutes

1. Need for poll-workers

<https://oklahoma.gov/elections/volunteer/poll-worker-opportunities.html>

2. Push for Absentee Ballots More State Election Board Information

<https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/elections/ceb-physical-addresses/ceb-physical-addresses.pdf>

3. <https://oklahoma.gov/elections/about-us/county-election-boards/county-election-board-directory.html>

4. Creating Notary List/Need for Notary renewal Notary Information

5. <https://www.sos.ok.gov/notary/filing/Default.aspx>

6. <https://oklahoma.gov/elections/voters/notary-services/faq-notaries-public.html>

7. OK Voter Portal reminders

8. OK DP 2024 Goals

9. Adding new members to CD 3 Bridge FB page

10. Delegate Selection Plan - Jim Potts

<https://youtu.be/qRR4cdLFcTs>

11. Delegate Selection Plan Links

<https://okdemocrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-Declaration-of-Candidacy-and-Pledge-of-Support-1.pdf>

<https://okdemocrats.org/2024-delegate-selection-plan/>

4. Announcements

1. From CD 3 Officers

April 6 in Ardmore, the National Convention Delegates will be chosen. If you want to be considered, file before 5pm on March 8th.

2. from Co. Off's at Chair's discretion and as time allows

If we have any events in our counties or districts, please let them know. They may be able to help knock doors, make phone calls, etc.

****PAYNE COUNTY DEMOCRATS FINANCIAL REPORT

February 8, 2024

New Final Balance has been adjusted to match with the Bank Statement as we showed \$200+ more in the bank acct than the book balance.

DEPOSITS

Pass the Hat \$82.50, \$20 T shirts, \$10 indiv. Monthly donation \$112.50

\$40 – t shirts, \$10 Act Blue Check \$ 50.00

\$40 – t shirts, \$200 donation, \$10 donation, \$53.44 donation \$303.44

Diamond Donkey payment for Monarch auction item \$300.00

Auto personal donation \$ 9.99

SUB TOTAL \$775.93

Act Blue Auto Donations - \$45. \$125. \$50, \$20, \$15, \$15

SUB TOTAL

\$270.00

TOTAL DEPOSITS

\$1045.93

EXPENSES

Name tag badge kit for computer \$ 36.82

Monthly Act Blue Fee \$ 5.37

Monthly Mail Chimp Fee \$26.50

Monthly Goggle Suite Fee \$60.00

Refreshments for January Regular Meeting \$62.46

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$191.15

BANK STATEMENT BALANCE AS OF 2/8/2024 \$16,272.83

This will be our new correct beginning balance for the March Report

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Gang

Vice Chair, Payne County Democrats-

******Membership and Retention Committee** Wednesday, 1/24/24 6:30pm to 7:30pm Bud's Residence at 5318 N Hunters Ridge Agenda with Meeting Minutes: Attendance: Bud, Bobi, Cynthia, Sam, Lisa, Neal. Guests: Erin and her mom (Name?) 1. Review results from "Talking Point" survey cards a. 21 survey cards collected b. Outcome: i. #1 with 15 votes: Elect Democrats to Public Office ii.#2 with 12 votes: Increase voter turnout and engagement iii. #4 with 12 votes: Find and elect candidates that support public education, affordable healthcare and childcare iv. #11 with 12 votes: Support Reproductive rights v.#14 with 10 votes: Support gun control vi. #12 with 8 votes: Support separation of church and state c. We recommend to the Central Committee to approve and designate these as the Payne County Democrat Talking Points. d. If approved, Sam has volunteered to add to the Website 2. Discuss ways to use current rack cards a. Add QR code to current rack card i. Links to website b. Canvas residents that are on the registered democrat list i. Purpose and message 1. Get more democrats active 2. Invite them to the PCD meetings 3. "Get informed of what's going on in your community" 4. " You can participate by joining us" c. Place cards at i. Visit Stillwater establishment ii.Perkins Library iii. Cushing City hall iv. Wings of Hope v.Trish or Robin to have Rack cards in hand during events vi. PC Dems to have Rack cards when attending events to pass out 3. Discuss strategies of how to reach out to other Payne County Communities: Perkins Mulhall Cushing Yale Glencoe Ripley Ingalls Mehan Iowa tribe Check on radio announcements Radio station in Stillwater KOSU Get something in local papers on event calendars Have a presence at local coffee shops 4. Discuss Strategies to increase membership a. Ask the PC Dems to Invite one person to meeting b. Add live stream to meetings for individuals who are unable to physically attend meetings. Live stream could be recorded allowing us to provide videotaped meetings on website. c. Have ALS interpreter i. People with Hearing impairment tend to be democrat d. Take voter registration information to Wings of Hope 5. Discuss membership retention a. If we have a member that has missed two consecutive meetings, the MRC will reach out via email as a well check and let them know we miss them at the meetings. 6. Sell t-shirts on Website a. We recommend to the Central Committee that we sell the Dem t-shirts online. 7. Open forum a. We recommend to the Central Committee that we include Act Blue donations to treasurer report. Purpose is to increase Act Blue donations. b. For a PDC Community service project the MRC would like to respectfully recommend that the Central Committee consider designating a percentage (10%?) and a fixed dollar amount (Goal) of the ACT BLUE donations to be used for funding sponsorship of an annual United Way fundraising event. This will serve as a PCD community service donation. It will have potential to grow membership and increase awareness of the PCD