

Payne County Democrats  
Meeting Minutes from 14 March 2024  
Stillwater Public Library  
Snacks and socializing at 6:00pm, meeting at 6:30pm

Present at Meeting: Diane Lowe, Avery McIntyre, Paulette Hébert, Len Hébert, Carolyn Gang, Ed Noltensmeyer, Debi Bomer, Mike Woods, Gary Nicholson, Jim Potts, Sarah Tooley, Camryn Paulson, Cynthia Gedra, Roy Degler, Florence Degler, Valerie Bloodgood, Deanna Homer, John Homer, Mary Holt, Robin Fuxa, Lisa Bozeman, Lindsey Smith, Neal Ketchman, Hathy Huston, Jim Huston, Dennis Bertholf, Elizabeth Thornton, Miguel Vergara, Eugenia Baumann, David Copley, Doug Stevenson, Cynthia Stevenson, Roger Mullins, Pat Mullins, Julie Couch, Sam Cypert, Justin Worley, Lauren Craig

### **Officer Reports:**

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

Justin introduced himself and recognized one of several new attendees-Diane Lowe.

He lead the Pledge for the U.S. and Oklahoma flags

-Lauren Craig from the Oklahoma Democratic Party was our guest speaker:

Lauren is a Shawnee resident. She spoke about her early life and how she learned that her mom didn't vote until Lauren convinced her that her vote counted.

-She recognized Robin Fuxa, who is running for Senate Seat 21, who was in the audience. She talked about campaign expenses that the Democratic Party can help with, such as yard signs and paid canvassers.

-Rural Democratic activations are up by 900%; recurring donations are up! She encouraged us to sign up for recurring donations.

-Invite a friend to our next general meeting.

-April 13 at OU, there will be a training session to help us help candidates who are running for office.

-President Biden is investing in Oklahoma Democratic campaigns

Justin announced that Ryan Walters will hold a Town Hall meeting at OSU SU 408 on March 29, and we are encouraged to attend and ask questions.

#### Finance Report: Carolyn Gang

We had \$486 in income and \$322.64 in expenses for the month. Balance is \$16,436.19, an overall increase.

### Secretary's Report: Cynthia Gedra

Minutes were amended to include information on the Initiative Petition presentation from February. Oklahoma groups are behind the Minimum Wage petition, with national funding. There is also a link to sign up for signature collections since the Minimum Wage petition (SQ832) has been given the green light by the State Supreme Court. Minutes were approved as amended-Sam Cypert/Avery McIntyre  
Sarah Tooley is in charge of signature collecting for this petition.

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

Women's History Month, Ramadan, St. Patrick's Day and Easter are all celebrated this month.

### OSU College Democrats Report: Camryn Paulson

Camryn spoke about what the College Dems have been doing at their meetings to promote interest and engagement including Black History Month recognition, and speakers from League of Women Voters and Direct Democracy. They will hold a Community Picnic on May 4th or 5th. We are encouraged to engage with this group of young Democrats! March 26 is their next meeting at OSU.

### **Committee Reports:**

Communications Sam Cypert gave a report about Facebook and Instagram engagement numbers.

-Election Countdown will be noted on our Social Media. Today is 236 days until national elections!

### Budget No Report

### Political Affairs

Sam pointed out that Robin Fuxa is running for State Senate Seat 21, and to please support her campaign. She will have an event on March 30. Look for an email with details.

-April 2 is the Election for School Board. Running are Gay Washington and Shelia Means.

-Governor Stitt condemned bullying in response to Nex Benedict's death

### Community Engagement

Pat Mullins talked about volunteering in the community and passed around a sign-up sheet for Our Daily Bread. She suggested that we go as individuals since ODB allows groups to volunteer only once per month. They especially need shopping assistants to go around with the shoppers to help with getting items into the cart.

## Events

- Book Club will be on April 2 at 6:30pm at Bliss Books. Democracy Awakening by Heather Cox Richardson will be discussed.
- May's Im"peach"ment mini-social fundraiser is still on, but we are looking for another location to hold it. It will be an evening of political satire, plus cobbler.
- Taste of Stillwater is April 2. 5:30-7:30 at the Expo Center

## Veteran Affairs No report

## Membership and Recruitment

Bud Reese and Bobi Bertenshaw have stepped down as Chairs of this Committee. They will be volunteering in the Stillwater Community. We are looking for another Chair for this committee.

## **Activity**

Justin asked us to talk with those on either side of us to come up with ways for PC Dems to be more impactful. Results:

- Collaborate with CD3 and the State Level
- Raise money with house parties for candidates
- Have a Dems Happy Hour-Socials like the Coffee Chats we have now
- Have Watch Parties (April 2nd)
- Include other Payne County Towns by inviting them specifically and also going there to meet
- Bridge gaps, community building
- Invite a friend to the General Meeting
- Phonebank for candidates

## **New/Old Business**

These Delegates are candidates for National Convention:

Camryn Paulson, Lindsey Smith, Jim Potts, Mike Woods

Each gave a short speech. April 6 is the Delegate Convention to select 41 delegates plus Cyndi Munson to go to the National Convention

## **Discussion/Announcements**

- Suggestion by Deanna Homer to advertise our General Meetings in the NewsPress. Cynthia Gedra will look into that.
- Sam and Miguel announced that Friday evening is Artwalk in Stillwater
- Coffee Chat is March 30 at 10:30 am at Roundhouse Bakery

Next meeting is Thursday, April 11 at Stillwater Public Library at 6:00pm

Respectfully Submitted by Cynthia Gedra