

Payne County Democrats
Meeting Minutes from 12 June 2025
Stillwater Community Center Stillwater, OK 74074
Snacks and socializing at 6:00pm, meeting at 6:30pm

Present at Meeting: Lisa Bozeman, Nancy Brookes-Davenport, David Copley, Justin Cypert-Worley, Sam Cypert-Worley, Florence Degler, Mary Dickey, Michelle Dickey, Ryan Dickey, Cynthia Gedra, Bonnie Hammond, Elyssa Hoffman, Deanna Homer, Kathy Huston, Jim Huston, Neal Ketchman, Gary Lanman, Avery McIntyre, Sherril Moore, Lynee Murnane, Clay Ness, Sarah Prater, Cal Prater, Trish Ranson, Beth Thornton, Taush Sampley, Malcolm McCallum, Rosa Lee Merz, Kathy Davis, Carla Kliesen, Bryon Springer, Laura Hendrick, Genie Bauman, Lisa Gallery, Jeff Pickens (36)

Officer Reports:

President's Report and announcements: **Sarah Prater**

Began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Oklahoma Pledge.

Handouts: OK Democratic Party candidates, Positions needing filled for Payne County Dems, What makes a successful county party, 2-year plan outline for Payne County Dems

-We still need one male delegate to go to State Convention.

-We had a very successful Diamond Donkey event with Cyndi Munson and doubled our bank account balance from that!

-We held a Precinct Officers' Training on May 20 so people could learn to use the mini-Van app

-Some of us watched the State Candidate Forum on June 1

-We hosted a virtual mini-Van training with the ODP and opened it to other counties

-Kudos to the ODP for putting together a virtual Town Hall with Jamie Raskin

-Statement of Intent: Sarah shared her statement of intent for our meeting and asked others to share theirs as well. Some thoughts expressed were: the power of community organizing to overcome feeling helpless or fearful, and to make a better future for future generations, reverse the loss of DEI and equality, wishing to not be fighting again for what had already been won.

-Guest speaker: Representative Trish Ranson speaking on behalf of John Waldron and Erin Brewer. Trish talked about her view of what advantages Waldron would have if he won the State Democratic Chair position with the connections that he

has as a State Representative. He is a top fundraiser and a knowledgeable communicator and former educator. He would still keep his Representative spot if he becomes Chair, and employees who work for the State Democratic Party would still be able to stay on if they want to.

Finance Report: **Sam Cypert-Worley**

Bank balance is at \$17,421.12 after the Diamond Donkey event.

Records and Logistics: **Cynthia Gedra**

May Minutes amended and approved. (Springer/Prater)

Affirmative Action Report: **Cal Prater and Christian Jimenez** no report

OSU College Democrats Report: **Avery McIntyre**

They have elected a slate of officers for the upcoming academic year.

CD3 Report: they are preparing for State Convention. College Democrats of Oklahoma is bringing a record number of participants to State Convention!

Committee Reports:

Communications and website: **Justin Cypert-Worley** We looked at the new website that is up and running. It looks great and very user-friendly.

Hospitality **Florence Degler** snacks provided by Florence today. Thank you!

Budget **Sam Cypert-Worley** he has made a list of our normal yearly activity expenses.

Political Affairs Rep. Trish Ranson spoke about Session this year. Congress overrode 47 out of 68 bills that had been vetoed by Governor Stitt. She highlighted several important bills including the mammogram bill, insurance covering 6 months of birth control, childcare workers getting state subsidies for care of their own children, OK Promise for teachers' kids if you teach for 10 years.

- OSU Vet Med school received funding for new building. Very important-there are fewer than 20 Vet Med Schools in the US. We cannot afford to lose accreditation.
- OU Pediatric Heart Hospital got funding
- Stitt is still pushing for a tax cut, but it cuts future revenue. Even the Farm Bureau is against it.
- Wait and see on Social Studies textbook purchase.
- Barber/Cosmetology Board to continue for one year while they figure out what changes are to be made.
- State has a 3 billion dollar surplus. Governor does not want to spend

Community Engagement **Abigail Martin** *These will be found on our calendar in the future:*

- The Consortium Friendraiser was well attended despite rain. A July 4th Friendraiser is in the works.
- Blue Dot Sunday coffees at 11:30am various locations. Friday night drinks at Stonecloud
- June 20 (Friday) from 4-5:30pm is the Protect Democracy march at the courthouse
- Saturday, June 14, PFLAG picnic and Protect Democracy No Kings demonstration
- Shine the Light to Protect Democracy demonstration every Thursday 7-7:30 at Myers Park
- 1st Saturday at Prairie Arts-mats for the homeless.
- Cardinal Love for the Homeless (facebook group) needs sleeping bags and mens' clothing

Events **Justin Cypert-Worley** Payne County Fair at the end of August. **Sherril Moore** volunteered to help with our booth.

Veteran Affairs **Bryon Springer and David Copley**

Membership and Recruitment **Lisa Bozeman** good turnout today. Please keep coming back

Precinct Engagement **Michelle Dickey** Sherril Moore asked to have the monthly code printed on our website (done), and requests a hand-out with Consortium information and/or Events to hand out as she knocks on doors.

New Business

Macro Plans:

- 1) We need a male delegate for State Convention (done)
- 2) Delegates for State Convention-make sure you are ready and have a room, etc.
- 3) There will be a meeting of the Central Executive Committee and Committee leaders listed above soon (done)
- 4) Find candidates for "Contest Every Race"!
- 5) We need people to sign up to call on people in Precincts that don't have representation

Discussion/Announcements

- Have a meeting in other Payne County towns.
- Revive monthly Coffee Chats, especially in different towns. Justin and Avery will spearhead this
- Check your voter registration to make sure you are registered
- If we had the same buying power now as in previous generations, we would need the minimum wage to be \$66.00/hour
- When talking with people who have different opinions from us, remember that we are humans first. Put things in a human perspective rather than a political one.
- Define Democrats and find common ground
- Bernie Sanders is coming to Tulsa Saturday, June 21

Adjourned (J. Cypert-Worley/Prater)

Pass the Hat \$117.00

Next meeting is Thursday, July 10 at the Stillwater Community Center at 6:00pm

Respectfully Submitted by Cynthia Gedra