

Minutes

March 15, 2022, Birmingham Bloomfield Democratic Club

Call to order by the Chair 6:50 p.m./Roll Call of Officers

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Debbie Rosenman. Officers present include: Debbie Rosenman (Chair), Emery Pence (Vice Chair), Gail Whitty (Treasurer), Andrew Corey (Recording Secretary), Charles Gaba (Corresponding Secretary), Corinne Shoop (Trustee), Nicole Bedi (Trustee).

Approval of Agenda: Discussion (Passed)

Approval of Minutes: Discussion (Passed)

Report of the Chair:

Chair Debbie Rosenman gave the following report:

Club Chair Report for March 13, 2022

In person-meeting at the Bloomfield Township Library

It is wonderful to finally be together in person and to see all of you here tonight. We have our veteran precinct delegates, our newly recruited precinct delegates, our student interns and other interested members of our club area. Together, we are off to doing some important work in our communities and having so many of us here tonight is the start of something very impactful.

As some of you may not know, our club encompasses the communities of Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Township, Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin. We “billed” this meeting as Membership Engagement and what could be more important than that? As we have successfully recruited so many precinct delegates and volunteers, along with establishing our student internship program, we are wanting to build our capacity even more. This election cycle will have some tight primary races, which we will not be endorsing in, leading to the all-important November 2022 election. We MUST work together to reelect our Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and Attorney General Dana Nessel. With redistricting behind us, we also now have a REAL chance of electing more Democrats and flipping the State Legislature. All of this MUST be our focus! Look at our webpage at bbdem.org for the tab entitled “Elections 2022” to find out what districts you live in and who the candidates are who are running in those elections.

We must still recruit for our local school board races and put people in those positions who will stand up for public education and support our students and educators, who have been through so much over the past two years. If that is something you would consider, or know someone who would, please let me know.

Thanks for being here tonight but please join us again at upcoming meetings, held every month on the third Tuesday of the month, where we will meet the candidates and learn more of what is behind the proposals on the ballot. Staying informed, staying engaged and talking with our friends and family and others in our network will make a huge difference in getting out the vote and coming out on top in November.

We want to be responsive to all of you. In the interest of a packed agenda, please seek us out after the meeting to get any questions answered.

Treasurer's Report: Gail Whitty gave the report and urged people to sign up for membership.

Precinct Delegate Committee Report:

Allen Wolf gave the PD Committee Report. 95% PD slots have been filled. Allen explained to the group about being a PD. Abbreviated comments below:

A lot of elements must come together to win an election. Having the right candidates, money, speeches, campaign appearances, media coverage are all important. But in a close election, I believe the most important thing in a campaign is precinct delegates. They drop the literature, they talk to their neighbors, they distribute signs. They make sure their neighbors vote.

We have had a very active PD Committee. I would like to ask the Committee members to stand: Nessa Feller, Sandy Hansell John Owens, Emery Pence, Cynthia Shaw, Cheri Horrigan-Happy and Debbie Rosenman. These people have done a terrific job.

The proof is in the results:

We have 76 returning Precinct Delegates. We have 62 people who have agreed to become Precinct Delegates for the first time

Most Americans have taken our 250-year experiment with Democracy for granted. The events of the last few years have awakened all of us. Democracy is not a given. You are the people who have stood up and said that just voting each November is not enough. You are the people who will make sure Democracy lives on.

We need just 14 more Precinct Delegates slots to fill. We have already filled over 90% of our slots. Something that has never happened in our club or possibly anywhere in Oakland County.

I would be remiss if I didn't recognize Corrine Shoop and Nicole Bedi who work tirelessly every two years to get all of our Affidavits notarized. During Covid that was a huge challenge. But they make it happen. (If you haven't completed your Affidavit, please see one of them before you leave.)

Precinct Delegates candidates are encouraged to attend DPDOC orientation which is being held about twice a month. DPDOC stands for Dem Precinct Delegates of Oakland County – an independent organization focused on recruiting, training and developing PDs. New training dates will be posted shortly. While not mandatory, the PD Orientation is highly encouraged, DPDOC will also be offering several other programs which you will find especially helpful in having conversations with voters.

As you know, we have told you that your basic commitment is to go out twice to the 100-120 homes you will be assigned. I refer to that as your turf.

The first time will ideally be between June 18 and July 4. That is because the first batch of absentee ballots will go out around June 17 for the August Primary.

Mark your calendars for Sept 17. That will be a very important day. We will have a gathering of all PDs in our club area that day in Beverly Park. At that meeting, we will distribute all of the campaign literature. Included will be a comprehensive list of all of the candidates and proposals we as a club are endorsing. This is the most important piece of literature in the campaign.

I have had the chance to talk to many of you and get to know you a bit. I couldn't be more impressed. We have a very talented group of PD candidates this year and we are going to rock the Birmingham, Bloomfield and Southfield Township area! Thank you for being here, thank you for what you are about to do."

Program: Chair Debbie Rosenman introduced Emery Pence who is Vice Chair of the group

Emery spoke to the group about membership recruitment and retention. The members were able to share ideas as a part of a group discussion. Emery collected the ideas and they will be shared with the Executive Board for consideration.

Debbie also spoke about petition signature gathering and distribution. Full comments below:

Petition Signature Gathering

Many of you may already be aware that this election year is filled with many petition campaigns, hoping to get enough signatures to be put on the November ballot. As of the beginning of March, there were 11 such ideas collecting signatures.

Some are awful and should NOT be supported like: "Secure MI Vote", which does everything to TAKE AWAY voting rights, "Let MI Kids Learn", which is a Betsy Devos led attack on public school funding, along with "Unlock Michigan II" which takes away the governor's ability to make emergency decisions during actual emergencies. Unfortunately, due to a loophole in MI law, if the Republicans get enough signatures for these terrible ideas, they intend to pass them through our Republican-led legislature and NOT even take them to a vote of the people. DECLINE to sign these bad petitions.

We ARE supporting many other positive initiatives and that is where you come in. I am helping Fems for Democracy to organize signature gatherers in our club area. These are the four petition drives we are ASKING your support on:

Raise the Wage would ensure a pay raise for all minimum wage workers. Every Michigander working full time should be able to support their family and this is one critical step toward a living wage.

Reproductive Rights for All would establish a Constitutional Amendment to give individuals the right to make and carry out all decisions related to reproduction, including contraception and infertility.

Promote the Vote is a broad coalition-led effort to protect and expand voting rights by offering flexibility for voters to cast their ballots, make elections more accessible and ensure election security while protecting voter privacy.

Michigan United would establish credits that reduce sentences for those who earn degrees or work in prison, among other provisions. This initiative is also led by a broad coalition of labor, business, social service and civil rights groups.

Please sign up on the clipboards going around to help collect signatures and I will be contacting you. You may want to get just one sheet for each and ask friends and family you know to sign. You may want to join in some of the events we will be having to collect signatures in public. You could choose to stand in front of a market or library to collect signatures as well. If you are interested in helping on these petitions in any way, please sign the sheets so I can reach out when the petition sheets arrive. In most cases, we have ONLY until June to collect the hundreds of thousands of signatures to get these on the ballot. We need you help! Thanks.

Good and Welfare

Howard Baron spoke regarding State Education issues and Democratic candidates running to fill State Board seats in the April 9 Primary. Howard will also run for reelection on Bloomfield Hills' School Board.

Representatives for Haley Stevens, Andy Levin for Congress, Democracy Summer, OCDP, Amanda Shelton for Oakland County Circuit Judge spoke briefly regarding their campaigns.

Meeting next month is on Tuesday, April 12th at the Bloomfield Township Hall at 7:00 p.m. (6:30 Social Hour)

List of People in Attendance:

Adrienne Murdah	Allen Wolf
Adam Cornier-Bridgeforth *	Amanda Shelton
Barbara Borden	Barbara Connolly
Beata Lamparksi	Bob McNeely
Bob Nicholson	Catherine Heller
Catherine Hiemstra *	Cherie Happy
Connie Zorn	Craig Spangler
Cynthia Shaw	Daniel Sheehan
Danielle O'Byrne	
Debbie Quenaudon	Deborah Wahl
Diane Luscombe	Diane Shane
Dick Rapplepe	Doug Darland

Doug Hansford	Doug Tucker
Eileen Harryvan	Erica Lopez Negrete Smith
Evie Greenwald *	Frederick Simms
Gabe Efros	Gary Gerson
George Dilgard	Gregg Bloomfield
Hayden Buckfire *	Heather Chen *
Howard Baron	Janice Rosenhaus
Jennifer Arnold-Still	Jessica Greenwald
Jill Wiesenberger	John Owens
Judith Toth	Judy Robinson
Juergen Wiesenberger	Kathleen Dworman
Katie Kirkpatrick	Kelly Dillaha
Ken Ferguson	Laura Wade
Leslie Sheets	Linda Zlotoff
Lisa Ross	Lori Goldman
Mandy Garver	Marci Welford
Marilyn Kelly	Martha Coyne
Martha Szilagy	Martin Brook
Maureen Christiansen	Maureen Sarle
Mike Whitty	Mona Gubow
Nancy Reed	Nessa Feller
Olivia Serio *	Patricia Sheren
Risha Ring	Ryan Olds
Sabrina Saunders	Sandy Hansell
Sally Cole-Misch	Shadia Martini
Shakuntala Balusu *	Stephanie Thornton
Steve Williams	Steve Wolok
Surru Kulkarni	Susan Dilgard
Susan Konop	Tusar Desai
Victoria Macioce-Stumpf	

High School Student Interns *

Motion to adjourn. Adjourned, 8:03 p.m.

Duly Submitted,

Andrew Corey

Recording Secretary