



Meeting Minutes: Thurs., Feb. 15, 2024 @ 7 PM at OP Community Center

- I. **Welcome:** Glenda Stainback welcomed all, including some new members.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** unanimous
- III. **Approval of January Meeting Minutes:** unanimous
- IV. **Guest Speaker Kermit Williams, Executive Director of Oakland Forward and OCDP Statutory Vice Chair** provided a brief history of Oakland Forward and talked about its mission: to serve the community by supporting reproductive freedom, the transit system, economic justice, and services for people of color, etc. As OCDP Statutory Vice Chair, Kermit focused on the urgency of engaging in politics now, especially urging folks to vote. Dems must unite despite any differences of opinion. We are in a dire situation. OC must overperform with Dem votes.
- V. **Guest Speaker Max Lewis, AFL/CIO Field Director** provided an update on MI redistricting maps. One (Motown Sound) out of the 10 available is the best one overall: drawn by Detroiters, provides balance to keep Dem majority, compliant with VRA. Public comments are encouraged, especially attendance at meetings on this issue.
- VI. **Treasurer's Report (Nina Abrams):** no report at this time. Nina encouraged the raising of funds to support Dem activities going forward—communications, signs, securing Dem votes.
- VII. **Chair Updates:** Glenda mentioned the need for more PDs, volunteers for the Voter Protection Team, attention/radar with regard to disinformation and scams, awareness of REACH as organizing tool for Biden campaign, candidates for election need VAN access for their campaign.

VIII. **Election of Trustees for Berkley & Royal Oak Township: Bryan Burnett** was elected for Berkley; **Jeanine Joshua** was nominated for RO Township, but she was not present to accept so her election is deferred until the March meeting.

IX. **Committee and Other Updates**

Communications (Laurie Lisi): Facebook rules are being reviewed; a retractable banner has been created; the membership call list is up and running; PD affidavits must be signed by persons wanting to run.

Voter Mobilization (Mary Ann Fontana) asked for volunteers for phone banking and return of absentee ballots.

Community Service: There will be an American Red Cross blood drive on April 8; staff are needed.

Membership: There is no cost to join DSOC. However, donations are welcome and encouraged to uphold Club activities.

X. **Elected Officials' Reports**

Andy Kolakowsky, RO/Berkley Judge has been involved with the driver license program.

Robert Wittenberg, OC Treasurer, urged everyone to vote for county-wide officials.

Rep. Regina Weiss urged everyone to support Dems in special Warren and Westland elections.

Rep. Helena Scott joined her colleagues in supporting getting out the vote for Dem candidates.

Rep. Natalie Price talked about a fundraiser on pie day, 3/14.

Rep. Jason Hoskins has been working on racism issues, encouraging support locally and statewide.

Yolanda Charles, OC Commissioner, said that the ring smart security program is up and running.

XI. **Good and Welfare**

Sharon Baseman, Fems for Dems Co-chair urged folks to attend a program on February 16 featuring a representative from the Biden campaign. Biden never forgets and always emphasizes that we are a democracy.

XII. **Take Action: *Do More in '24 - AV Ballot Chase*** Laurie Lisi emphasized the importance of chasing absentee ballots before February 27.

XIII. **The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roslyn Schindler, Secretary