

Oak Park/Huntington Woods/Royal Oak Township  
Democratic Club  
January 21, 2021  
Zoom meeting (COVID)

1. Called to order, 7:04 p.m.

2. Max is asking everyone to put name, address, phone number so we know who is in the meeting "signing in"

3. A big thank you to Max for all of his hard work as Chair.

#### 4. New Board Election

- Sharon Baseman moves to have Regina Weiss act as chair for nominations.
- Mayor McClellan seconds motion.
- Passes unanimously.
- Regina opens with all open positions.
- Nina Abrams nominates a slate:
  - Chair: Mary Ann Fontana
  - Vice Chair HW: Bree Stocker-Smart
  - Vice Chair OP: Max Milstein
  - Communications - Shaun Whitehead
  - Treasurer - Andrew Cissell
  - Secretary - Laura Rock
  - Trustee - Manjula Egan
  - Trustee - Zakiya Hollifield
  - Trustee - Madeline Shipp
- Nina moves to nominate entire slate.
- Tom Franco seconds motion to nominate entire slate.
- Wanda moves to close nominations.
- Nina seconds motion.
- New slate passes unanimously.

5. Mary Ann takes the reins as Chair at 7:09.

#### 6. Quick announcements

- Let's get started with ideas and the direction for the upcoming year.
- Dems have had much success this year, especially nationally.
- But, not as much with MI state reps.
- So we can't lose sight.
- Must continue with same effort for 2022 starting now.
- There will be committees, please volunteer where you can help.
  - Laurie Lisi will head Precinct Delegate committee.

- Precinct delegate is VERY important role in upcoming elections.
- Besides educating the community on who is running and who Dems suggest to vote for -- want to engage community about what they want from gov't and what their issues are.

● Shaun Whitehead will head Communications committee.

- We will be updating the website and adding a volunteer tab with local events.
- We will be adding a spot on the site for the community to bring their concerns/issues to the club.
- Hope to connect Facebook to our website.
- Looking for anyone who has experience in communications to help!
  - Yolanda and Sharon have experience and can help!
- Esther will pass on FB credentials to Mary Ann

● Bree and Mary Ann will research ways for members of our club and the community at large to volunteer in the community.

- It will be a nice way to show that our Dem club supports our community and are trying to actively help our community.
  - Yad Ezra food bank
  - Forgotten Harvest food bank

● Any ideas on how to get more participation from the club?

● Feel free to email ideas to club email.

#### 7. Quick announcements from elected officials

- Robert Wittenberg - New OC Treasurer, takes office on 7/1.
- Mayor McClellan
- Regina Weiss - MI State Rep for 27th District - got her committee assignments!
  - First community conversation is Friday., January 29 at 11:00 a.m. in Facebook Live with Sen Jeremy Moss
  - Her FB page is:  
<https://www.facebook.com/staterep/reginaweiss>

- Jaimie Powell Horowitz- 45th District Court Judge
- Yolanda Smith Charles - County Commissioner
  - 17th district

#### 8. Korey Hall -from Governor Whitmer's office - COVID update

- Contact: [hallk21@michigan.gov](mailto:hallk21@michigan.gov).
- Have administered over 598,000 vaccines so far.
- Goal is 70% of population 16 yo or older to be vaccinated.
- Goal is to vaccinate 50,000/day.
- Goal is to use 90% of doses delivered within 7 days.
- We are one of the lowest in the country with about 30 new cases a day --??
- Our total is around: 538,377.
- Looking for an exemption to buy Pfizer vaccine direct, as they are in the state and would save time.
- The UK variant has been found in MI. It is easier to catch.
- Governor Vaccine Recovery
  - Health: ramp up vaccine.
  - Jobs/economy: requesting unemployment to be extended to 26 weeks; offering food assistance; offering rental assistance.
  - Education: allocating federal \$ to be sure that all kids can be in person in school by 3/1.
    - Plan coming to get teachers vaccinated.
- Get on list with County.
- Make appointments.
- Hoping more is on the way.
- Try your primary care Dr. first, have been having luck that way.
- County Health Dept., too.
- Try the Beaumont route (must have been to Beaumont within the last 3 years)
  - Call first thing in the morning.
  - 800-592-4784
  - At first prompt, press: 1.
  - At 2nd prompt, press: 2.
  - Will likely wait for a couple of hours.

#### 9. ACTION ITEM:

- There is federal money allocated for COVID relief, vaccines -- but, it is being tied up by Senator Shirkey and Rep. Albert.

- MI legislature back in session on Tuesday, January 26, 2021.
  - We must email and call to demand they release the money - pass on the COVID allocations we received from the federal govt.
  - Tell all of your friends to email and call too!

#### ● CONTACT:

- Senator Shirkey:
  - [mikeshirkey@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:mikeshirkey@senate.michigan.gov)
  - 517-373-5932
- Thomas Albert
  - [thomasalbert@house.mi.gov](mailto:thomasalbert@house.mi.gov)
  - 517-373-0846

- If you are not receiving emails from the club, email Mary Ann: [fonocco@gmail.com](mailto:fonocco@gmail.com).
- February meeting is: February 18, 2021, via Zoom.
- Dem convention is February 20th.
- Must have registered by January 21 at midnight to be able to attend.
- Thank you to Don and Doris and Wendy for making calls re: the convention.
- Thank you to Nina for your work on the bylaws.
- Everyone -- be sure to pay your dues.
  - Just \$10/year.
  - On our website -- there is a donate button.
  - Don and Mary Ann will discuss Rank MI Vote
- Manjula - be sure to keep pressure on all of our elected officials, be vigilant. The threat is still real. He isn't going anywhere and neither are his supporters. Our democracy is still at stake.
- Jeff Jenks - yes, work harder than ever so we move in right direction. Don't forget about Lansing.
- Gabe - yes, we must push our leaders from the party to progressive policies. If we want to engage voters and have them support our side, we need to move the right way.

Meeting ended: 8:26pm