



Oak Park-Huntington Woods- Royal Oak Township Democratic Club Meeting Notes

November 17, 2022, 7 pm

- I. Welcome to New Members: **Mary Ann Fontana** called the in-person meeting at the Huntington Woods Library to order at 7:03 pm and welcomed everyone, including those on Zoom.
- II. **Treasurer Andrew Cissell** provided a report that the Club has \$1000.40 in the savings account and \$912.70 in the checking account. Donations and dues are welcome.
- III. **State Senator Jeremy Moss, now President ProTem of the Senate**, expressed great excitement and appreciation that the State House and Senate have been flipped from red to blue for the first time in almost 40 years. In addition, we re-elected the top three in the state. With the Dems controlling the SC as well, MI did extremely well in the midterms. Dems are leading/chairing several key committees and projects. Our goal is to get gun control, repro rights, voting rights, and LGBTQ rights enshrined into law.
- IV. **Mallory McMorrow, newly elected State Senator and Majority Whip**, joined Jeremy to continue the conversation. She mentioned that, while the House and Senate are now blue, they are slim majorities: 56/54 in the House and 20/18 in the Senate. She indicated that several factors helped Dems succeed: work of VNP, candidate quality, financial resources, door-to-door campaigns, huge voter turnout where it counted. Strategic planning is required to continue to build on trust and to build a year-round operation of offices across the state. PDs' roles need to be expanded, more trust of voters is needed, more consistency in work of PDs and empowerment of them across the three cities would be helpful, sharing of information among Clubs is important, and introspective discussions need to happen re what we did right and what we can do better. It is important to lean into Dem priorities more—LGBTQ rights, voting rights, repro rights, etc. We should not be fearful to be more assertive and call out disinformation and lies. We should get out of our bubbles and into the field more, bringing more people into the fold to support and help us.
- V. **Rep. Haley Stevens** spoke about Nancy Pelosi and her decision to leave leadership of the party in Congress. She has made way for a generational shift. Haley is excited to be a Dem from MI and about MI midterm results. Key now is how we will move forward with our progressive, liberal agenda related to energy, the environment, gun control, and other critical issues.
- VI. **Dennis Nordmoe**, a Club member, offered some thoughts on what we can do better for 2024: improve the Mini-Van list, improve door-to-door assignments to not be too far apart for those walking, fan out more into areas not currently

covered well, get more Dems registered, grow the base in voter-rich areas, invest scarce resources in the most effective way possible, increase personal contacts and use them effectively. **Barry Lepler**, a Club member, also offered thoughts on what we need to do better for 2024. Above all, he emphasized voter turnout throughout Oakland County to improve results. Vince Gregory, a state senator, died within the last month. He had been an excellent advocate for our values.

VII. Charlie Cavell expressed his happiness at the community effort to get Dems elected. We need to advocate for social and economic justice issues, especially those that affect the working poor, who make up 43% of the population of Oakland County.

VIII. Sharon Baseman announced an event honoring Rep. Brenda Lawrence on Friday, November 25, 6-10 pm, at the Shenandoah Country Club. **Mary Ann** mentioned the Oakland County Democratic Party Convention, on Saturday, November 19, 11 am, in Madison Heights. Finally, the OPHWROT Dem Club Holiday Party will be at Berkley Coffee, 14661 11 Mile Road, on Thursday, December 15, 7-9 pm. **Mary Ann adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roz Schindler