



## Meeting Minutes, May 18, 2023

- I. **Welcome New Members: Mary Ann Fontana**, filling in for **Glenda Stainback** as she recovers more fully, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and then welcomed new members and especially John Conyers III, who is running for Congress, challenging Shri Thanedar: ConyersforCongress.com; jc3@conyersforcongress.com
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved.
- III. **Approval of April Meeting Minutes:** The April Minutes were approved.
- IV. **State of our Public Schools**, discussion moderated by Barry Lepler:  
**Ferndale Schools Superintendent, Dr. Bobbie Hayes Goodrum:** Bobbie was a special education specialist with previous administrative and leadership experience in California. She is especially proud of the passage of a bond to offer more opportunities with regard to facilities, arts, academics, athletics, acceptance, and more.; and greater diversity within the district; faculty and staff commitment. Challenges include budget, adequate funding, cost of living increases, polarizing politics, and creating more diversity as students need to be able to see themselves in their educators.  
**Berkley Schools Superintendent, Scott Francis:** Scott was a special education teacher with Troy district administrative experience over curriculum during the pandemic. He is especially proud of what the staff provides for the students; extra- curricular activities and academics; parent involvement; funding opportunities, including for new technologies. Challenges include the budget, adequate funding, and the social and emotional well-being of students.  
**Oak Park Schools Superintendent, Angel Abdulahad:** Angel came from Iraq to the US in 1982 and settled in Oak Park. He has held several positions, including as superintendent of the Madison Heights District, leading to his current one. He is especially proud of the facilities available for students, the excellent teachers, and the quality of

instruction. Challenges include ways that the school districts can collaborate, budget, greater funding for teachers, and teacher shortage.

## V. **Treasurer's Report: Nina Abrams**

OPHWROT Democratic Club Treasury for April 30, 2023, as of May 16, 2023:

Checking Account Balance - \$1,526.99  
Includes Membership Dues of \$165.00 (4 deposits)  
Includes Expenses of \$51.79

Savings Account Balance - \$1,000.93  
Includes interest of \$.09

## VI. **Committee Reports**

**Name Change Presentation:** SOD: South Oakland Democrats OR DSOC: Democrats of South Oakland County; a vote will be taken at the June 15 meeting.

**Events:** August Picnic (details TBA); September Hear the Candidates (details TBA)

**Community Service:** the goal of this committee is to be visible doing positive things—e.g., blood drive; Juneteenth walk

**Voter Mobilization:** this committee needs more people.

**Communications:** no update at this time.

## VII. **Elected Officials Reports**

**Rep. Regina Weiss:** more work needs to be done in many areas; increase needed in investment in education, including the special education budget; setting goals is necessary regarding the education of media specialists, nurses, paraprofessionals, and other support staff that are key positions in all schools.

**Rep. Natalie Price:** priorities include universal free breakfasts and lunches in schools; accessible five-day a week pre-school at state level. We have educators making decisions about education, and that is ideal.

**Greg Humphries, for Rep. Helena Scott:** she is the chair of the Energy Committee, which is developing a task force for dependable energy; she has created bill that makes it possible for kids to be tested for lead.

**Mayor Marian McClellan, Oak Park:** she is running for mayor again, unopposed; there are two open Council seats with 3 running; a zoning change has been good for business; improvements in park areas are great for residents; there are more and more OP restaurants; Jack Lessenberry is completing the OP book that Marian's late husband Keith was working on.

### **VIII. Good and Welfare**

Democratic PDs of OC at Pride: June 3 (Ferndale); June 25 (Berkley Pride)

Juneteenth of OP (June 18) and HW (June 19)

July 20: RO Twp. at the high school: Saving Our Democracy with SoS Jocelyn Benson

**The meeting was adjourned by Mary Ann at 8:43 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roslyn Schindler, Secretary