

# Geauga County Democratic Party Combined Executive & Central Committee Meeting April 4, 2022

**PRESENT:** J. Carson, D. Pavella, T. Carson, J. Dickinson, J. Eiduke, B. Furman, L. O'Neill, K. Kne, J. Mueller, R. Rood, C. Sekura, C. Takacs, R. Wiech

**GUESTS:** Mary Briggs, Mabel Kopp, Richard Kne, Marla Zwinggi, Erica Wachtler, Tanya Fouts, Matt Carter, Meghan Haas, Kimya Matthews, Rebecca Gorski, Rachel Hazelwood, Keith Brewster, Abby Kovacs, Matt Stout, .

**CALL TO ORDER:** *The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. Meeting was conducted in person.*

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** Minutes from the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved with J. Mueller making the motion and M Kopp seconding. Minutes from the February 7, 2022 Executive Committee meeting were submitted and approved with J. Mueller making the motion and D. Pavella seconding. Minutes of the March 7 meeting were approved with one change to reflect that during the Good of the Order, Cheryl Sekura asked if the party could sell Geauga County flags at the Fair booth.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

*J. Mueller made a motion to approve the agenda; C. Takacs seconded. Motion passed.*

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Janet Carson reported the following:

- We received the insurance invoice for the Headquarters for one-year renewal from Westbend Insurance.
- *L. O'Neill made a motion to approve payment of the policy; J. Dickinson seconded. Motion was approved.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** D. Pavella reporting:

- General Fund Balance: \$15,191.00
- Restricted Fund Balance: \$2,958.00
- Judicial Fund: \$739.00
- April rent is paid.

*R. Wiech made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. K. Kne seconded. Motion passed.*

**CHAIR'S REPORT:** Janet Carson reported the following:

- **Welcome and Overview of the Geauga Dem Party.** Janet provided an overview of the party for the benefit of new members.
- **Redistricting.** The Federal Court has until April 20<sup>th</sup> to decide whether to intervene, only in the event that the Ohio Supreme Court and Redistricting Commission cannot agree on the Congressional and State office maps.
- **Primaries.** As of now, it appears there will be two primaries; May 3<sup>rd</sup> and sometime in August for state level races.
- **Democratic Supreme Court Candidates.** None of the Democratic candidates for Ohio Supreme Court have primary opponents.
- **Ohio Senate Race.** There are two people running against Tim Ryan for the Democratic nomination for US Senate.
- **Ohio Governors Race.** Nan Whaley and John Cranley are running in the Democratic primary.

**BOARD OF ELECTIONS REPORT:** D. Pavella reporting:

- **Absentee Ballot Applications.** The BOE has received 600 applications for absentee ballots for the May 3<sup>rd</sup> primary so far.
- **Overseas Ballots.** Nine overseas ballots were sent today.
- **Pollworkers.** The BOE needs Dem poll workers for the May primary.
- Overseas/Military ballots will go out on Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- **BOE Office Space.** Due to the fact that the Commissioners and the BOE cannot resolve the issue regarding the new office space, it appears they will have to file suit.
- **Part-time Help Needed!** The Geauga BOE needs part-time workers before and after the election. The position requires approximately 20 hours/week.

**EVENTS:** Janet Carson reported the following:

- **No new events**

**WOMEN'S CAUCUS:** C. Takacs reporting:

- Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 12 at the HQ.
- They will be working on postcard campaigns to 400 Geauga County voters who voted for the first time in 2020 to encourage them to vote this year.

**CANDIDATE COMMITTEE:** Terry Carson reported the following:

- Abby Kovacs, candidate for State Representative spoke about her candidacy. She is from Ashtabula and was inspired to run by John Patterson. She is running against Sara Fowler Arthur, and is accepting donation via Act Blue.
- Next Campaign Committee meeting TBD.
- Marla Zwinggi of Like-Minded Geauga County Facebook group announced that the group would be hosting a Zoom call with John Cranley on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Bran Furman reported the following:

- Matt Stout donated a computer for the HQ. Thanks, Matt!
- The new WiFi network is set up.
- The Secretary files are on Google Drive.
- The Xerox printer is on the network.
- All Zoom meetings are recorded and put up to the Geauga Dems YouTube Channel.

**HEADQUARTERS:** Mary Briggs reporting.

- Mary is handling the HQ duties while Anita is recovering from surgery.
- We need volunteers!

**SCHOOLS/EDUCATION:** C. Sekura reported the following:

- Cheryl submitted a comprehensive summary of legislation related to education and schools.
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**MEMBERSHIP:** C. Sekura reported the following:

- We have 99 members as of today; 28 are Platinum members.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- Janet said she was approached by a group of doctors offering to do a Hot Topic about COVID. She asked for feedback on whether we want to do this.
- Mary Briggs announced the first ever Pride event in Geauga County, which be held on June 18<sup>th</sup> at Chardon Square.
- Mary Briggs also announced there will be a Juneteenth Celebration on June 19<sup>th</sup> at the Chagrin Falls Park Community Center.
- Bran Furman expressed that Americans' attitudes about democracy and what we do here effects matters worldwide as we are seeing with the Russian attack on Ukraine.
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**ADJOURNMENT:** *D. Pavella made a motion to adjourn; J. Dickinson seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 PM.*