

PDCC Monthly Meeting 12/13/18

The thirteen members attending shared why each was a Democrat. No formal business was conducted due to the lack of a quorum.

**Chair's Report:** Sam reviewed the current and potential status is for the PDCC.

Maine Dems identified the names of 582 volunteers from the recent coordinated campaign. We were not certain if the volunteers for Golden are already members on that list.

**Treasurer's Report:** Cynthia investigated for a credit union that would better fit our needs at a lower expense. She found the C-Port has three conveniently located sites with Saturday hours and no service charges.

She is also working to construct a clearly organized and accurate financial accounting system. She is also working to more fully understand and then report the Act Blue reports. Has found that C-Port Credit Union as a nice location, 3 of them, Saturday hours, conference room. No service charges. Wants to set up a system that keeps closer track of our finances and expenditures.

**Communications Committee Report:** Elizabeth reported that the Communications Committee (CC) would be meeting at least monthly. She hopes the CC will forge links with other activist groups. This may allow rapid action in response to a threat (such as Mueller being fired). Michael had already set up a calendar of events on the webpage. Perhaps PDCC events may be also listed on the Maine Democratic Party webpage. (The webpage needs to be updated so that all officers have active email addresses.)

**Organizing Committee Report:** Cynthia announced the next Organizing Committee (OC) meeting will be next Tuesday at C-Port 285 Forest Avenue from 6-7:30. Cynthia and Sarah Alexander wrote a draft plan for ideas and goals of the block captain initiative. She wants to committee and the PDCC to focus on long-term goals, tactics and strategies for 2020 and beyond. I time, the OC should have people from each municipal district.

**Issues Committee Report:** Sam met with Issues Committee (IC) members. They discussed enhanced voting rights, specifically Sunday voting. We need to meet with the Portland City Clerk for further information. There are numerous issues associated with voter participation: District lines may be confusing, fewer voting places than earlier years, the city is not allowed to count absentee ballots until election day, lines can be very long at sites, transportation to the polls may be problematic. Several comments were made to improve access: Deputize additional city clerks,

The issue of voter access may be a strong vehicle for the PDCC to connect with other groups such as unions, immigrant community, and other organizations.

## **The Bylaws Committee Report was postponed.**

**Ten Minutes of Activism:** We need to focus on recruitment to increase PDCC membership as well as build alliances for shared action. One way may be to “salt”, that is, attend other meetings, learning their focus and interests. We might attend new citizenship ceremonies. We acknowledge that getting people to attend meetings is a challenge when there is no eminent role for their attending. Focusing on neighborhood associations may be useful. Beth will find the email list of neighborhood organizations and send them to Doug.

Several additional ideas for greater participation and involvement in PDCC meetings were: Coordinating our meetings with other municipal Cumberland County Democratic groups, inviting city, county, or state officials to speak at our meetings regarding our issues, pay attention to what state level committee assignment of Portland legislators and correspond with them regarding issues, consider web conferencing to engage a wider group. Concerns were that previously attendance was less than anticipated for such meetings. State legislators have a very limited schedule and may find it difficult to attend.

**Fundraising:** Sam presented figures illustrating the importance and impact of monthly pledges. Modest amounts from a wider group of participants yields considerable PDCC budget opportunities.

Elizabeth emphasized that fundraising works best if the PDCC were clear about our goals. Specific actions and use for funds are more salable. Cynthia concurred, noting that events and finance work together.

### **Announcements**

Harlan announced the Cumberland County Democratic Committee is considering a fundraising Bowl-a-thon with completion between local Democratic Committees.

There will be a citywide Immigrant Community meeting 4PM next Saturday.

Next Sunday at Bissell Brothers Brewing will have the locker project from 12-7.

Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Doug Lynch

