

LIVONIA DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2008

Call to Order

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by President Patrick O'Neil.

Candidates

Three candidates each made a brief presentation highlighting their qualifications and requesting the vote of those present.

1. Jennifer Rutkey for State Representative, 19th District
2. Joan Gebhardt for Wayne Count Commissioner, District 12
3. Ronaele Bowman for Wayne Count Commissioner, District 12

The primary will be August 5.

President Pat O'Neil proposes promoting the Democratic Party in Livonia

It is one of the goals of the Livonia Democratic Club to make Livonia a city where Democrats can get elected. Usually we work for specific Democratic candidates. Pat suggests that another approach is to promote the Democratic Party itself. We should tell the voters why our party is better for them than the Republican Party.

We should challenge the Republicans in three areas they have always considered their strength and point out that they have failed in each area.

- Economy
- Military
- Abortion

Our goal would be to increase the number of voters who choose the Democratic Party over the Republican Party by contrasting the differences between the two parties.

Pat suggested some fund raising activities to help pay to print materials to hand drop or mail in the city.

Discussion included views that it would be better to reach out and seek a bipartisan approach with Republicans vs. highlighting the differences. Others felt that it would be helpful for those unsure about the differences between Democratic and Republican agendas to explain it for them.

Pat asked for the membership to consider his suggestion and read his more detailed explanation in the Weekender email. We will further discuss it and vote on it at a later date.

Book Discussion - The Conscience of a Liberal by Paul Krugman.

Pat said that the plan had been for him to give a review of the first 1/3 of the book and Alan Baum, club treasurer, was to review the remainder and lead discussion by those present. Sadly Alan's father passed away this week and he could not be at our meeting.

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Pat highlighted some main themes of the book and Linda Curry read several paragraphs regarding tax history, unions and the impact of WWII on wages.

Several present had read the book and a lively discussion followed.

Announcements

- The Livonia Democratic Club Garage Sale will be held on May 30 and 31 in conjunction with Alan Baum's neighborhood garage sale. Please bring your donated items to Alan's house as soon as you are able. Let Alan know you are coming in advance by calling him at 734-422-0546. Volunteers are needed to work during the sale.
- The June general meeting will feature candidates for the U.S. Congressional race.
- The July meeting will be a picnic at Pat's house.
- Richard Miga informed the club that on June 26-29, 2008, the Detroit Windsor International Film Festival (DWIFF) will be held in Detroit and Windsor. He asked that everyone support the festival and attend at least one of the unique movies that will be shown. He will list more information on the LDC web site and suggested looking at the festival web site dwiff.org.
- Bob Moreo announced that the Livonia Jaycees have a fundraiser called Livoniaopoly. They are creating a Livonia-themed monopoly game and selling advertising on the board. It will be on sale at the Livonia Spree and other venues around town. Please support this good cause.

Reflection on the Book Discussion

Pat asked how everyone felt about the book discussion this evening. Sam suggested it was a good thing to do at the second half of the meeting after general business items were conducted. All comments seemed to be very favorable.

Straw Poll

Ellen Sullivan asked for a show of hands who would vote for Barak or Hillary if the primary were held today. Interestingly, the count was 10 for Hillary and 10 for Barak.

End of Meeting

Pat adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Linda Curry, Secretary