

LIVONIA DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2009

Call to Order

President Pat O'Neil called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Pat started by articulating his opinion of the three main values of Democrats. They are:

- Valuing American democracy and the rights of individuals.
- Valuing jobs and prosperity for working people - the middle class and working class vs. accumulating wealth in the hands of the few.
- Valuing fairness to everybody and helping those in need.

He then introduced our speaker for the evening, State Representative John Walsh.

Presentation and Q & A with John Walsh

Representative Walsh began by thanking the club for the invitation and saying that he would not have been elected if he did not have bipartisan support. He represents all citizens equally.

He is a 30 year resident of Livonia, moving here with his parents as a high school student. He has been an attorney for 17 years, a city council member, worked in operations at Schoolcraft College and participated in many city committees. He is now a 46-year old freshman State of Michigan Representative. He is learning more about Michigan everyday.

Michigan has a \$1.6 billion deficit. Gov. Grandholm's budget handles about half of that. The budget had proposed \$300 million in savings from education, but that can not be applied if Michigan wants to qualify for the stimulus money being allocated for education. He provided a high-level breakdown and review of the federal stimulus money allocated for Michigan.

His focus is on:

- Public safety
- Getting "shovels in the ground" projects
- Sparking new business
- Supporting manufacturing

Term limits have a negative impact on:

- Relationships
- Knowledge and Experience

Citizens need to lead the change for correcting the term limits.

Mr. Walsh agrees with Congressman McCotter for voting against the stimulus package. He feels that in the long run the economy can fix itself.

After addressing a few questions from the audience, Representative Walsh offered to return and thanked us again for inviting him.

Next Meeting April 8, 2009

Pat will attempt to set up a debate among the school board candidates.

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By-Laws

Pat asked if there was anyone who was not prepared to vote on the by-laws tonight. No one raised their hand. Therefore Linda Curry made a motion to approve the by-laws and Lynn O'Neil seconded. Richard Miga then advised the club to reject the proposed by-laws and listed his reasons. Which were:

- Does not completely define officer succession as in Article 3 Section 5 of current LDC By-laws. (No indication how quickly nominations will be solicited or when a "Special Election" will be called when there is a vacancy. How will vacancy in VP and Treasurer Positions be filled and how fast?)
- Does not include requirement for endorsement committee which was past by membership at February 2009 membership meeting.
- Significantly reduces meeting notification from 5 days to 48 hours.
- Eliminates need for members to submit a signed membership application which provides contact, membership type and interests information.
- Does not indicate that membership meetings will follow parliamentary processes.
- Eliminates standing committees (Membership, Fund Raising, Publicity, etc.).
- Eliminates PAC (Political Action Committee).
- Eliminates requirement for an approved membership meeting agenda by the members.
- Eliminates minimal support of LDC endorsed candidates.

After a brief discussion it was decided to table the vote until the next meeting.

The 50/50 raffle netted the club \$21.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Linda Curry, Treasurer