

**Plymouth Area Democrats
May Meeting, Plymouth Senior Center
May 17, 2017**

Substitute Secretary – Emma Van Ness

Joyce – Welcome – notable attendees. Approval of minutes

Notable Attendees:

Steve Rand

Susanne Smith

Sue Ford

Erin Cotton

Catherine Mulholland

Bill Bolton

Marilyn

Martha Richards

Fran Taylor

Fran Taylor –motion to accept minutes, accepted and approved

Ray Jones– appeal for first responders –CERT volunteers, need additional people to volunteer for emergency response team for medical reserve corps. Associated with FEMA.

Martha Richards – Veronica Barbossa needs help, Joan Turley will be riding in Pan-Mass Bike Challenge to raise funds for Veronica. Looking for sponsors

Emma – Treasurer’s report – \$3767.36 balance, few transactions

Joyce– Labor Day Fair –reports reserving town commons for Labor Day Fair, in the works. Doing outreach to different towns, we will be asking for volunteers to help in outreach.

District 9 Update: Joyce – report on Select Board meeting in Ashland, voted in favor. Bipartisan push. Ashland accepted. Might be a primary but we don’t know. No primary, general election on July 18th (primary date if no primary). Sept. 15th general election if there is no primary.

Sarah – Communications – event calendar installed – next step submitting events. Resources page – email us. Local organization, activist tools, asks for ideas to help us.

Train the Trainer Program – ASDC – we can run program here after next week.

Emma – Blog editor – give us posts, we need them.

Legislative Update –

Susanne and Steve:

Susanne – update on criminal activity in Statehouse, vote didn't go through to dismiss Fisher, but he later resigned under threat of perjury. We need good candidates, push for turnout in 2018, in between year –liberals don't turn out, we need to stop that – reach out to friends in BELKNAP COUNTY.

Education – bill to give Edelblut more power was moved to study committee along with funding

Kindergarten bill passed House, in finance committee

Questions about School Choice – NPR series on school choice

Lead poisoning bill – passed house, in finance committee

Still no Commissioner to Head of Department of Environmental Services – looking for someone who is qualified

Steve Rand – Fisher resignation, may be a special election, we need to be involved.

SB3 – attempt to seal monopoly on the vote, killed redistricting, same-day voter registration designed to intimidate (need to read and sign – literacy test component) also an after-action to check to see if someone is domiciled there.

Comes to House on June 1st, need to reach out to Republicans to tell them that the democratic principle is based on people being able to vote. Fraud claim is false.

We need PEOPLE POWER.

Joyce– Upcoming Events

June Meeting – 6/21

March in Concord – June 3rd, March for Truth

Progressive Summit – June 17th

Sue Ford – Special Counsel in Russian Probe announcement – Robert Mueller to run Independent Investigation

Fran Taylor – Health Care Bill in Senate – Medicaid cuts to schools, Special Ed – if money is cut, the cities and towns will have to pick up the funding. They won't. Make calls.

Steve Marchand – Introduced by Joyce, starting his campaign. Principal of SRM Consulting. Small businessman, selectboard in Portsmouth, Mayor of Portsmouth, ran for Senate, Governor.

Passed clipboard for mailing list

47th place he's spoken at – marathon at a sprinter's pace. Time of urgency.

Reagan – 1976, ran against Ford, close but he lost. Underrated, shifting of tectonic plates in politics. Looking for a cause around which to rally – what it means to be a Republican.

Jimmy Carter – transitional president not transformative president.

Exciting moment – takes light to push out darkness, people are looking for light.

Must be thoughtful, analytical, passionate, resolute – passion has been replaced by resolve.

UNH – Spoke to 100 businesses – data points – what matters:

1. Public education – draws talent, mission statement – best state to start a family and a business – need to get young, fast. Pre-K through 12. Equal opportunity.
2. Infrastructure – New Hampshire doesn't invest in NH – bridges, roads, rail, electricity (didn't say N. Pass – modernize the electric grid) Solar, wind – economy subsidizes it. Drinking water. Interview-ender. Need clean water.
3. Reversing the opioid crisis. Not criminal, not 28 day solution.
4. Culture of entrepreneurship – 80% of jobs come from new businesses. Tax credits are a race to the bottom. Need positive value added, not bribe businesses who will leave when term is up. Not one company said Right-to-Work made a difference. Companies want to pay strong wages. Didn't say to cut business tax.

How do we pay for it? Reversing the tax cut that they didn't ask for.

Generation that cherishes inclusive values –

Immigration – immigrants are the solution, we are great because of immigration; we are open for business whether you're from Quebec or Syria.

LGBTQ rights – good for business, economy – can't discriminate against large swath of youth

Health care – WWII, employee-based health care system. Benefits added to capped wages. #1 inhibitor to entrepreneurship is benefits (Milton Friedman!) need to free up capital through health care.

Family background – mother has heart attack at 39; no insurance, \$40,000. Bankrupt families – #1 reason for bankruptcy. Security and health insurance keep people tethered to employers.

AHCA is not health care policy. Part 1 of two-part tax cut. Savings on the back of Medicaid. Would add 134 million dollars to property taxes. Current admin would pass it to state level.

Wife is an ex-Republican. Knows that she's not a Republican after voting for Clinton in last election. Lots of NHites who are Democrats but they don't know it yet. Have shared values. Need to pick up seats in House, Executive Council – need to be bold colors in 2018.

Q and A session –

Martha – how do we get young people to come back to the state?

How do we keep young people here? But also how do I recruit young people to come to the state? Pilot program with three degrees – education, nursing, computer science. Grant to provide companies talent in-state. Co-op w. training, student debt relief. Public education is the basis of everything else. NH has abandoned the idea of scale – cities and towns are on their own. Opposite of good NPA policy. Need communities to collaborate, listen to businesses and what they need. California example. Non-enforceability of non-compete clauses.

Income Tax Pledge Question – he won't "take the pledge" to not create one. We need additional revenue. We can deliver these services in a more efficient way. We need additional revenue. 1. Business profits tax. 2. Legalize and tax marijuana. 68% of NH residents support legalization of marijuana. Marchand says 39 million in revenue per year – Monitor says it is 60 million. 3. Gas tax – we need it for bridges and roads.

Price it out.

Where did people get the idea that a property tax is not a broad-based tax? Mel Thompson – Bill Love.

How can we create affordable housing for young people? Density is your friend. Floor-area ratio.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34.