

**Plymouth Area Democrats
October Meeting, Plymouth Senior Center
October 18, 2017
DRAFT**

PAD Board members present: Joyce W, Susan M, Francesca D, Emma V.

6:05 Francesca called the meeting to order and welcome the group.

Francesca asked about selling balsam wreaths as a fundraising effort. Selling price would be \$29.00 each. The wreaths are two sided, with no bow, 24 " in diameter. Look for announcement online, newsletter, etc. (Cost is \$19.00)

Free Speech Zone!

Emma reported on the Free Speech Zones at PSU. Emma established a Facebook page and a Speakers Corner Project. This invites ANYone to come to the Free Speech Zone to use speak, sing, recite, pass thing out, etc. Emma did the first "speak out" last week. The videos will be posted on the Facebook page. WE NEED PEOPLE to do this! It is simple! You have an idea. You have five minutes. You go, have a friend take a photo or video. You post the photo or video on the FB page. Simple! Easy! Kids see us! The Facebook world see us! Show that free speech is important and powerful! DO IT! (check out the FB page for rules... no covered faces, etc.)

Sue Ford

Updated the group on the school voucher bill that will be in committee later in November. If you want additional information, please contact Sue Ford.

NH Peace Action

Annual Fundraiser is November 4 in Concord! Tickets \$40. Pre-order, \$50. At the door. See the website to reserve your spot.

Treasurer's Report

All PAD members who would like financial information should contact Joyce or Emma.

Erin Cotton

Statewide the party is working very hard with special elections. Three of the five recent Dem wins switched the seat from red to blue. There are three more special elections coming up November 7. If you are interested in helping out on-site or on the phone, please contact Erin.

PSU Negotiations

Rebecca Noel and Jeremiah Duncan updated the union's efforts to negotiate in the collective bargaining with PSU.

The top concern is "workload". Outside the classroom, preparation, grading, advising students, and serving student needs and requests and this work falls on the too-few tenured faculty. "We are seeking a fair workload which allows more time to mentor our students."

Transparency and Clear Expectations will help the faculty and the administration will eliminate misunderstandings.

Shared Governance – the Administration has refused to include this language in the agreement.

Fair salaries – "We are significantly behind other faculty throughout the NH University system. We would like to seek parity with other faculty at other institutions."

Jeremiah Duncan updated the group on the negotiations. "We have made a fair amount of progress. Our relationship is collegial. We have had some progress recently on workload. There has been concern about inequity across campus and through our bargaining process, this is becoming more clear. The American Association of University Professors is helping teach us how to bargain. We are working on the low hanging fruit; the hard stuff (salary) is yet to come."

Our work is for tenure-track professors only. (Emma offered that about 50% of the faculty are tenured track.) The Teaching Lecturers (adjunct professors) have their own functioning union agreement.

Feliz Ruhm

Feliz made a presentation about Refugees.

A refugee is a person who leaves his/her country due to persecution.

Asylum Seeker is a person is first is a refugee and moves across international borders seeking protection. We are NOT required to accept the AS, though while the process is underway, they are classified as a refugee and provides minimum.

People are using Refugees to imply that criminals are coming. We not accept anyone with criminal histories.

Ms. Ruhm presented recent proposed “Muslim bans”, versions 1, 2, and 3.

She continued to explain the “vetting” process.

In sum, the President’s proposed ban does NOT reflect the actual incidence of conviction of terrorism. In fact the countries that have produced the greatest percentage of the 40 TOTAL conviction are from Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, etc. In fact 0.00062 of all terrorism activities were refugees from the countries that the President is trying to ban.

The next general meeting is November 15. Please plan to attend!

Francesca closed the meeting at 7:24.

