

## Antrim County Democratic Party

Minutes November 15, 2018

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Chairperson Veronica Welter. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. No attendance sheet was available. Twelve people were in attendance.

### Report of the Chair:

- A brief report on the recent mid-term election was given. The effects of gerrymandering resulted in two republican voters for every one democratic voter. The Democrats were successful in getting out the vote; there were more Democratic voters than in the last several elections. Thanks were extended to precinct delegates who worked from Labor Day until the election to help with this effort. At least 58 individuals worked either from the Elk Rapids office or from the home of Joel Saultz near Bellaire. Our local results were not as successful as those at the State level.
- Veronica commented on a conference call with Brandon Dillon, Chair of the State Democratic Party, in which he said that the Democratic vote was the largest since 1936. The question remains: How does northern Michigan develop successful campaign strategies?
- Veronica received a call to action from Indivisibles to protest the firing of Jeff Sessions. About 200 people marched.
- All the democratic candidates for University boards, the State Board of Education and one State Supreme Candidate, Megan Cavanaugh, were elected.
- The results of Proposition 2 (gerrymandering) will not take effect until the 2024 election.

**Report of the Vice-Chair:** no report

**Report of the Secretary:** no report. The minutes submitted by Jill Spencer were approved with corrections. The campaign fund balance was corrected to read: \$2182.05; the administrative fund balance was corrected to read: \$1055.89; the location of the office of Bob Leddy was corrected to read: Saginaw.

**Report of the Treasurer:** Craig Passon provided the following information to the membership:

- There was no change to the balance in the Administrative Fund. It remains at: \$1055.89
- The campaign fund recorded both donations and expenses for the color ads placed in local papers. The balance in this account is \$2940.05
- Next year is a non-election year so any donations will help to build our funds with fewer expenses.

Motion by Myrna Holland to accept the Treasurer's report. No second was recorded but the membership voted to approve unanimously.

**New Business:**

- Communications: the new website is up and running. All the posts made to Facebook and all the emails sent by the chair are also placed on the website.
- Women Dems: Myrna Holland reported that the planning is going on for the program for the next year. The group is looking for new members and also hoping that some of the members will step into leadership roles. The January meeting will hear from an aide from Senator Peters' office; the February meeting will be a follow-up to the Women's Wave Walk in Washington D.C. on January 19, 2019.
- Food Drive report: The latest food drive was held on November 2, and 3, 2018. A total of \$4455 and a significant amount of groceries were donated to local food pantries. In 2018, a total of \$12,860.20 was donated to the following pantries: Bellaire, Elk Rapids, Mancelona, and Ellsworth. Members were concerned that the Democrats are not getting recognized for this effort. It was reported that articles with pictures are placed in the local papers. It was suggested that another strategy might be to place posters in the pantries that list donors including the ACDP.

Two questions were raised during these reports:

1. Is there an effort to organize a Young Democrats Club at the local high schools? No one is aware of any such efforts.
2. Will there be a Women's Walk in Traverse City? Yes, on the same date, Indivisible is organizing a walk.

**Old Business:** None

**Education Committee Report:** Elaine Miller provided the following information:

- The National Education Association reported that there were 1000 NEA members who ran in local and/or state elections.
- 100 NEA members ran for national offices
- In 5 states staff walked out because of dissatisfaction with conditions.
- Locally, Jeff Leonhardt, former president of the local MEA, retired and then ran for office and won.

During this report it was suggested that one way to groom people to serve as county commissioners is to encourage interested persons to volunteer to serve on county committees. Veronica will try to have county commission committee vacancies placed on the ACDP website.

Motion by Elaine Miller, second by Fred Goldenberg to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Additional notes: At the end of the evening, the members discussed the issue of changing the ACDP meeting days so as to avoid conflicts with other local organizations. It was noted that the County Commissioners' room currently used for our meetings is not available other evenings. We meet in Bellaire because it is centrally located in the county. There is no charge for us to use the County Commissioners' room.

There will probably not be a meeting in December, members will be notified about this.

On December 8, 2018 the Democratic State Central Committee will share any significant information that is presented.

Respectfully submitted

Jill Spencer