



Meeting Minutes, June 15, 2023

- I. **Welcome New Members:** Glenda Stainback called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. She welcomed everyone and any new members. Daniel Dena of Huntington Woods was attending his first OPHWROT Dem Club meeting.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Don Jones made the motion to approve the agenda, and Laurie Lisi seconded it. The agenda was approved.
- III. **Approval of May Meeting Minutes:** Laurie Lisi made the motion to approve the May Minutes, and Kris McLonis seconded it. The Minutes were approved.
- IV. **Guest Speakers**
 1. **State Sen. Jeremy Moss and State Rep. Jason Hoskins: Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act Expansion:** Rep. Hoskins could not be with us this evening, and Senator Moss spoke on his behalf as well. Senator Moss misses his former district, but he loves his current district. His and others' priorities have been worker's rights, tax relief, reproductive freedom, and the expansion of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include equal protection under the law of all rights. It is important to be loud and clear re: LGBTQ+ rights and protection of the highly vulnerable trans community. Promises were made, and promises have been kept by the State Legislature because of the Democratic majority, which we all have to work to keep. Senator Moss ended his remarks by saying that the Detroit Chamber of Commerce has been supportive all the way with this bill. And the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island began flying a Pride Flag on June 1 for Pride Month.
 2. **State Rep. Helena Scott: Making Juneteenth a State Holiday:** House Bill 4457 has been passed by the House and will go to the Senate soon. Juneteenth will be celebrated in MI just like other state and federal holidays. She provided a

historical perspective on Juneteenth; history matters. It is important to speak truth about the past and the present. We have come a long way, but we still have lots to do to inform people about the history of slavery and its repercussions to this day. There is also legislation coming re: DTE issues, and input is needed from the constituencies. Rep. Scott re-introduced **Greg Humphries**, who often speaks on her behalf at our and other meetings.

3. **Carla Wallace: Juneteenth Celebrations in Oak Park:** This celebration of Juneteenth, the third for OP, will take place on June 18 on the Community Center grounds. It will include a one-mile walk at 9:45 AM (registration at 9:00 AM), and local art displays, arts and crafts, a band, and, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, a program that will honor local students, fathers, and elected officials and performers.
4. **Daniel Dena: Juneteenth in Huntington Woods:** This celebration of Juneteenth will take place on June 19 from 6:00-8:00 PM outside of the Rec Center. It will include music, a program with a keynote speaker (Professor Ollie Johnson, Chair of the African American Studies Department at WSU), information and books for children especially focused on Juneteenth, and much more.
5. **Genean Joshua: The ROT Juneteenth Celebration** will take place on June 17 with a speaker and program (details TBA). A fireworks celebration will occur on July 1 (details TBA).

V. Treasurer's Report (Nina Dodge Abrams)

As of May 31, 2023

Checking Account Balance - \$1,524.36

Savings Account Balance - \$1,101.02

Includes interest of \$.09

(April 30 amount was inaccurate.)

As of June 15, 2023

Checking Account Balance - \$1,770.04

(This includes Act Blue deposits and withdrawals, membership fees, payment for space, and Juneteenth donation, and a grant of \$500 from the Oakland County Democratic Party)

VI. Vote on name change: A vote on three options was taken both from in-person attendees as well as those online eligible to vote: 1. Democrats of South Oakland County (DSOC), 2. South Oakland Democrats (SOD), or 3. keep the current name.

VII. Committee Reports (Committee Chairs)

Program Committee (Barry Lepler): Upcoming meetings and guest speakers and events. Notices will be sent out before each date to members: July 20, 7 PM in ROT (actually in Ferndale), Saving Our Democracy (Jocelyn Benson, Mallory McMorrow, MI State Reps, and the Voters Not Politicians Director); August 16 picnic in Shepherd Park. 5:30 PM to nightfall, with keynote speaker US Rep. Haley Stevens and other speakers (volunteers needed to help with the planning and also the day of); September 21 Candidates Night (details TBA).

Voter Mobilization (Laurie Lisi): texts have been sent to current PDs to see if they will run in 2024.

Communication (Laurie Lisi): volunteers are needed to promote the July 20 meeting via text and email; the new name of our Club will necessitate a new domain name and more, so a lot of work ahead.

Community Service Committee (Aarolyn McCullough): a blood drive is being planned for the Fall; new ideas are welcome and encouraged.

Membership Committee (Concetta Pellerito/Lucinda Kiels): getting lists up to date is the priority, and we need more callers for events, etc.

ByLaws Committee (Carla Wallace): the new name must be approved by the MDP, and that is a process. So, our old/former name stands for a while.

VIII. Announce results of vote: Glenda announced the results: **DSOC 17; SOD: 8; OPHWROT Dem Club (3).** The new name will be **DSOC: Democrats of South Oakland County.**

IX. Elected Officials' reports

Some elected officials spoke under IV. In addition, we heard from **OP Mayor Pro Tem Julia Edgar** about a variety of new millage proposals to support the city's improvements—renovation of parks, a new community center, new senior residences, etc.

X. Unfinished business: None

XI. New business

Don Jones spoke about a new bus stop project for the Community Service Committee.

Judge Jaimie Horowitz spoke about a new job corps program and a way to increase access to driver's licenses. She is also proud of the strides made re: mental health issues.

XII. Good and Welfare

Esther Allweiss Ingber mentioned that there will be an article in the Detroit Jewish News about the new dog park in OP with a mural dedicated to the memory of Idan Phillips.

The meeting was adjourned by Glenda at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Roz Schindler, Secretary