

OAK PARK-HUNTINGTON WOODS-ROYAL OAK TOWNSHIP DEM CLUB

January 20,2022, Meeting Minutes

Respectfully submitted by Roslyn Schindler, Secretary

1) **Mary Ann Fontana** called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. She mentioned several items of importance: we must work to protect the vote, especially with the federal voting rights legislation that was defeated in the Senate; Brenda Lawrence is retiring as the Representative for the 14th CD: we are so grateful for her service and congratulate her. We will miss her, and we will plan something special as a Club to recognize her. Andy Levin is our main event this evening, and we will follow the agenda until he arrives, at which point he will provide some remarks and be open to Q/A.

2) **Andrew Cissell** provided us with a Treasurer's report: If you haven't already paid dues, please do so (\$10/seniors; \$15/all others). We have the following in our treasury: In the soft money account: \$613.14 in the checking account; \$) in the savings account; in the hard money account: \$981.80 in the checking account; \$2904.66 in the savings account.

3) **Andy Levin** (currently the Representative for the 9th CD, and running to become the Representative for the newly drawn 11th CD) gave a substantive presentation, which was followed by a lively, helpful discussion, based in part on questions previously submitted to Mary Ann and questions from the floor, about many key critical issues. Andy talked about his decision to run in the newly drawn 11th CD. Andy has a long, rich family history in what is now the 11th CD. He has been committed to a lifetime of activism: racial, social justice, union, education, human rights, universal health care, peace, and more. He is a progressive and leading that charge in the House on climate change, Israel/Palestine, voting rights, universal health care, and so much more. He believes in relational organizing/relationship building on a 1:1 basis—grassroots organizing. He believes in positive thinking and working hard to achieve goals based on our values and mission. He believes in coalition building across the board, always gathering people to talk to each other directly.

4) **Mary Ann** indicated that the full presentation on **Oakland County's Community Support Initiative**, originally planned for this evening, would not be done as we ran out of time. It will be presented at a future meeting. However, **Laurie Lisi** mentioned that volunteers are needed for this initiative, intended to help us live our values. If anyone has ideas for projects that would serve this goal—such as a blood drive, which was mentioned as one such project (see below)—send them to Laurie.

Our Club collected an SUV full of toys at our Holiday Party in December. The toys were donated to the toy drive held at the RO Township Community Center for TOYS for TOTS. Thank you to all who donated!

We had volunteers at the Forgotten Harvest pop-up food distribution in December and we donated 50 KN95 masks that will be distributed at the next OP vaccine clinic.

Up next: Organize a Red Cross blood drive

There is currently a blood crisis. Blood donations are needed now. A volunteer is needed to take the lead. [How Hosting a Blood Drive Works](#)

5) **Committee reports**

a) **Laurie Lisi** indicated that we have 87 PD slots to fill in our cities. It is key that we fill these slots with engaged PDs and that we approach our neighbors as such to get their trust and buy-in. People are needed to interact with neighbors whether by phone or at doors. A major goal going forward is to protect voting rights. Training for PDs has started; stay tuned. Affidavits are being collected. If you don't want to be a PD, then perhaps you will be a volunteer. We need lots of those also! Link to affidavits (which we can notarize and send to the clerk): https://www.michigan.gov/documents/Aff-ID_Precnt_139901_7.pdf

b) **Glenda Steinback** emphasized that we need much more social media presence. Follow our [Facebook Group](#). Individuals may circulate information on their personal pages, but it is important to be selective with positive information so as not to inspire negativity. View Dem posts, like Dem posts. Do not view or like Repub posts.

c) **Sharon Baseman** directed us to the website: www.ophwdems.org for information. Check it regularly. The State Convention is April 9: its purpose is to endorse various candidates for office.

6) **Elected Officials** reports and comments

a) **Jeremy Moss** will lose some communities when he runs in his redrawn district. He is upset to lose those communities but will continue to be present and collaborating with colleagues in those communities. He is Co-chair of Senate Dem efforts to turn the MI Senate blue.

b) **Mallory McMorrow** will have the communities in her district that Jeremy Moss is losing. She will soon be running in the 8th district vs. the 13th, which she is serving now. She will be the guest at our March meeting to share her vision and values.

c) **Regina Weiss** will be running in the newly drawn 6th district.

d) **Kyra Bolden** will be running in the newly drawn 18th district.

e) **Amanda Shelton** is running for Oakland County Circuit Court Judge. She is looking forward to running as a progressive, gay woman and mentioned that her family would be involved in her campaign. She is not running against an incumbent.

f) **Marian McClellan**, Oak Park Mayor, shared a story highlighting the bravery of police who helped a 70-year-old man back to life after he had stopped breathing; she also shared more of what is happening in Oak Park.

7) **Good and Welfare**

One member mentioned that there will be a protest in front of a women's prison to support the inmates, who are living in conditions that are deplorable. This and other such actions by members of our Club would be welcome, as members feel safe to do so.