

BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD AREA DEMS

March 18, 2025

MINUTES

Chair, Debbie Rosenman called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm

Roll Call:

Present: Chair: Debbie Rosenman, Treasurer: Libby Dzurka, Corresponding Secretary Dave Goodman, Trustee: Nessa Fuller and Trustee Rakesh Ramakrishnan.

Absent: Vice Chair: Emery Pence and Recoding Secretary Corinne Shoop

The agenda was accepted as posted without objection.

The February meeting minutes approved as posted and without objection.

Chair Report: Chair Debbie Rosenman gave her report

“What a crazy busy time this has been! I imagine most of you are here tonight because you are as concerned as I am about what is happening in our state and our country. Thanks for taking the time to be part of our BBADEMS community. We want you and need you and are here FOR you!

We have a small team of club members who are now working together to build our club’s strategic plan for moving forward this year and next. It will include actions, communication and fundraising to meet the goals we have set forward to build our community and win upcoming elections. Stay tuned to learn more as we roll things out.

Hopefully, you are reading our bi-weekly newsletters to see about actions you can take to “fight back” against the Trump/Musk agenda. All kinds of actions are planned! They are also posted on our Facebook page. Speaking of social media, we welcome the help of Jim Weber, who stepped forward to help with our posts on Facebook and Instagram, create an account on Bluesky, and grow our presence on social media.

Yesterday, I was part of a small group of local activists who had an in-person meeting with Senator Elissa Slotkin. She is ready to fight back and is working with others on

a plan to do just that. She asked for our help in one area, in particular. She urged us to post daily about people who are affected by the current cuts, and mostly who WILL be affected by potential Medicaid cuts. We want those stories. We will post them for others to share. She also urged us to engage with actions in the Republican congressional districts. I will include one in John James' district in this week's newsletter.

Want to speak out for the less fortunate among us? We have an action on Thursday, April 10th we hope you will attend. We want to bring as many people as possible to the Oakland County Commission meeting on Thursday, April 10th at 7:00 p.m. in their auditorium in Pontiac. We intend to stand up for the growing homeless population in Oakland County and insist that our Oakland County government do more to help these folks. To keep this on the down low, we are NOT putting this action in our newsletter. If this is something you might be interested in, sign up on the clipboard on the check in table and I will reach out to you beforehand. There is power in numbers!

We also have a Road Cleanup on Saturday, April 5th at 4:00 p.m. in our designated section of Maple Rd, between Inkster and Franklin. We welcome all the help. There is a sign-up clipboard for that too. This is super easy and a good way to give back to the community.

Again, thanks for being here tonight, everyone.

Treasurer's Report:

Libby Dzurka gave the Treasurer Report. There are two accounts: the general account and the PAC account. The general account is used to pay for expenses to operate the club. The PAC account is used to support political activity, especially the voter guides and precinct delegate activities. We encourage donations to both accounts, especially in an election year.

Precinct Delegate Liaison Report:

Paul Jacobs gave the report as Amy Voigt was unable to attend.

"While the election cycle does not really get underway until 2026, over the next several months, I will send information to help you stay informed and connected

with the Democratic voters in your community through the newsletter titled: *'Voigt's Precinct Delegate News'*. At the Michigan Democratic Party Spring Convention, we were told that Precinct Delegates are some of the most important people in our elections, and I am looking forward to helping you get the word out about supporting and electing Democrats in 2026. We will need to recruit even more precinct delegates for 2026. Now is the time to talk to people you know to encourage them to step up! As the teacher in me would say, see me after class if you are interested.

We would like to increase our mailing list: We know there are countless people in our communities who are looking for our club. Although YOU are on the mailing list, we want to make it easy for others to join.

In 2025 we are going to be doing things a little differently: We will be more active in our communities, engage more of our members and PD, actively fundraise, and help you all become more involved because if this isn't the time to be involved- WHEN IS?

We have an easy way for you to help friends and neighbors join our mailing list: A QR Code is now available for your use and to share with your friends.

New Business: Guest Speakers State Senator Jeremy Moss and State Representative Noah Arbit

Jeremy Moss

Senator Moss began his presentation conceding his dismay and disbelief that we are back to dealing with the chaos of the Trump presidency. In Michigan, there are some codified protections due to the actions taken on the past state legislature:

Reproductive Health is now protected by legislative measures and the passage of Proposal 3

The core components of the Affordable Care Act

The Expansion of the Elliot – Larsen Act

Attorney General Dana Nessel is participating in several lawsuits challenging the acts of the Trump administration.

Michigan citizens are pushing back as Michigan will be disproportionately affected by the Federal Trade Tariffs proposed by Trump.

The Democratic Caucus continues its efforts to get the 9 bills passed in the previous legislature that sits on the GOP Speaker of the House's desk to the Governor's Office. A lawsuit to do that has been filed.

Senator Moss emphasized the importance of everyone showing up and making their dissatisfaction known to the Republican House. This includes attending town halls in red districts and other venues to make your voice and displeasure heard.

Noah Arbit

State Representative Arbit advised that we cannot lose hope. He believes that the Democrats have responded to the Trump administration by defending every institution that he is attacking. State Rep Arbit believes that we need to listen to the people and acknowledge that there are a majority of the voters that agree with some of Trump's opinions. It is important to listen to all sides and not continue a polarized dialogue that was unsuccessful in the last election.

He encouraged everyone to listen to Erza Klien's podcast. It is an interesting discussion of the current state of the Democratic party. He asks the question: Action v. Inaction: Who are you fighting for?

He ended with the opinion that we need to be the party of reform. We lost the 19–29-year-old voters. He believes that we need to moderate as a party and connect with the moderates in our party and the independents.

He also stated that the focus should be shifted to global issues and not fall prey to the divisive "facts" set forth by the right. His example was the trans athlete debate that has become a center piece of the GOP agenda. There are only 2 such athletes in Michigan and this argument or position were used as a tool to distract from the issues that really impact the majority of the state. He believes that the Democrats took the bait and lost focus on the big picture. This is not an agreement with the

GOP on this issue, only an acknowledgement that it is not an issue that needs to be a litmus test.

We need to reinvigorate the voters and enforce the idea that every vote matters.

Questions from the attendees:

- Major questions about why Moss voted against the tipped wage when the citizens had brought the issue to the legislature
- Moss defended himself and stated the Senate Dems were split on this issue 45/55.
- Issues can be shades of grey. They did increase the minimum wage to 15% and the minimum percentage of the wage in tipped workers from 35% to 50%
- Moss stated that he listened to many workers in the industry that were in his district, and they were all against raising the wage to 100% for fear of losing tips and resulting in a lower overall pay rate.
- Arbit had the opposite view of Moss
- Arbit also opined that Dems have a problem with branding. He believes that most Dems believe in capitalism and free trade.

Both agreed that MDP and local clubs need to lead the effort from the bottom up. Most Americans are not politically engaged. That needs to be addressed.

Good and Welfare

NEWSLETTER!! A reminder to sign up and review the newsletter to stay up to date with everything that is happening and for opportunities to engage with your community.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Attendees-

Doris Applebaum
Noah Arbit
Gerrie Barclay
Howard Baron
Judy Bateman
Gayle Bialick
Nancy Bliss
Nancy Burmeister

Susan Butkovich (ZOOM)
Chris Chanko
Maureen Christensen
Callie Diz (ZOOM)
Libby Dzurka
Nessa Feller
Wendy Friedman
James Gardner
Gary Gerson (ZOOM)
Lori Goldman
Dave Goodman
Shelley Handren (ZOOM)
Jody Harrington
Eileen Harryvan (ZOOM)
Doug Helgren (ZOOM)
Anne Honhart
Miriam and husband Imerman
Jay Inwald
Paul Jacobs
Katie Kirkpatrick
Rena Kirshenbaum
Terri Koller (ZOOM)
Linda Laderman
Carrie LeZotte
Lawrence Lombard
Carolyn Lowe
Catherine Martin (ZOOM)
Jennifer and husband Matlow
Chris McKenna
Max Mondshine
Jeremy Moss
Fred Newton
Michelle O'Connor (ZOOM)
Julie Pais (ZOOM)
Traci Richards
Debbie Rosenman
Andy Ross (ZOOM)
Anne Ross
Tracey Rowens
Linda Samuelson
Arturo Sanchez
Doris Schey
Harriet Shakir
Cynthia Shaw
Patricia Sheren
Claudia Sills (ZOOM)
Gene Simms (ZOOM)
Craig Spangler

Sandra Thake

Don Ufford

Pauline Whitworth Smith

Steve Wolock

Allen Wolf (ZOOM)

Leslie (ZOOM)

49 in person +15 on ZOOM= 64 attendees