

BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD AREA DEMS

January 12, 2024

MINUTES

Vice Chair, Emery Pence called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm

Roll Call:

Present: Chair: Debbie Rosenman (via zoom), Vice Chair: Emery Pence, Recording Secretary: Corinne Shoop (via zoom), Corresponding Secretary Dave Goodman, Trustee: Nessa Fuller and Trustee Rakesh Ramakrishnan (via zoom). Absent: Treasurer: Libby Dzurka

The agenda was accepted as posted without objection.

There were meeting minutes approved as the last meeting was the election of new officers.

Chair Report: Vice Chair Emery Pence

Vice Chair, Emery Pence, gave his report as Chair Debbie Rosenman was not present but attending by zoom. He acknowledged that we as a club suffered a huge loss in the last election and the next four years are going to be very challenging for everyone. He encouraged everyone not to give in to any urge to withdraw but to continue to remain engaged in whatever means possible. The Club is going to continue its efforts to provide opportunities to remain engaged and reach out to our community.

Treasurer's Report:

The Vice Chair gave the Treasurer Report in the Treasurer's absence. There are two accounts: the general account and the PAC account. The general account is used to pay expenses to operate the club. We encourage donations to both accounts, especially in an election year.

New Business:

Guest speaker:

Ed Sarpolus, Executive Director of Target Insyght:

Mr. Sarpolus began his presentation with an introduction and a brief discussion of his background. He started his business in 1973. He works in county, state and national campaigns. He is retained by entities and individual candidates.

His overall assessment of the 2024 election results is that the democrats stayed home. He also explained the impact of having strong candidates at the top of the ticket and its impact on the candidates all the way down the ballot.

He also discussed the importance of name recognition and the candidates getting out in public and canvassing and introducing themselves to the voters. He also believes that social media cannot replace face to face interaction. He also noted that candidates do not do well if they go negative before the voters know who they are.

He offered opinions as to the top of the Oakland County Ballot; Dave Coulter has little name recognition and a high disapproval rating. This impacted the candidates lower on the ballot because he did not add to the ticket. He also noted that the local candidates went forward with the national message that failed to resonate with the Michigan voters.

As far as the Presidential race, the Harris campaign was run by the donors and not the candidate. She needed more time for the public to get to know her. There are still some segments of the voters that did not like the idea of a black woman president.

He believes that in the upcoming governor's race Benson will have to make some overture and amends to gain the Black vote in Detroit as she approved the data that was used to redistrict Detroit and the Black leadership in Detroit will hold that against her.

Mike Duggan's decision to run as an independent will present unprecedented problems and he does not believe that Duggan fully analyzed this decision.

He took questions.

Good Welfare

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Attendees-

Doris Applebaum (ZOOM)
Howard Baron
Mitchel Blum-Alexander (ZOOM)
Nancy Burmeister
Chris Chanko
Lois DeBacker
George Dilgard
Nessa Feller
Oscar Garner
Dave Goodman
Rebecca Hayes
Anne Honhart
Miriam Imerman
Rob Kalman
Chris Kaye

Deborah and Ralph Koziarski
Danni Kurepa (came with Lisa Peers)
Sheldon Larky (ZOOM)
Lawrence Lombard
Mark Ludwig (Speaker)
George Magulak
Danielle Mallon
Shadia Martini
Victoria Middleton
Lisa Peers
Emery Pence
Linda Pence
Rakesh Ramakrishnan (ZOOM)
Debbie Rosenman (ZOOM)
Myles Rich
Ed Sarpolus (Speaker)
Marvin Schiemann
Corinne Shoop (ZOOM)
Matthew Smiley
Craig Spangler
Steve Sussman (ZOOM)
Anne Treash
Sandra Thake
Dani Walsh
Gail and Mike Whitty
Paul Williamson
Allen Wolf (ZOOM)
Steve Wolock (ZOOM)
Linda Zlotoff
(46 attendees)