

BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD AREA DEMS

April 15, 2025

MINUTES

Bloomfield Township Library

Chair, Debbie Rosenman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Roll Call:

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

The agenda was accepted as posted without objection.

The March meeting minutes approved as posted and without objection.

Chair Report: Chair Debbie Rosenman

I can't believe that another month has passed since our last meeting when we were already in disbelief at the damage being done to our county under the current administration. It seems like it has only worsened! That is why I am so glad to see so many people here tonight and on ZOOM. You are taking action by joining us and that is exactly what we all need to be doing!

More than ever before, I urge you to join our club and get on our mailing list. Our biweekly newsletters include a variety of actions you can take, from postcard writing to protests to phone calls to your representatives to attending events. You are sure to find something or many things that you can do. Look on your agenda for many actions as well. Remember what Michelle Obama said, "Do Something!" So, see one of us to fill out a membership form, so you can get our highly informative newsletter emails twice a month.

Amy, our PD Liaison, will also talk about how you can help grow membership in our club even more and an action taking place this Thursday in our community. Welcome Amy!

Precinct Delegate Liaison Report:

At the March BBDs meeting Paul Jacobs (thanks Paul!) introduced the Birmingham Bloomfield Democratic Club QR Code. If you snap a photo of the QR code you can easily share the code with a neighbor or friend, and they can sign up to be on the mailing list for our club. We are considering using a union print shop in Pontiac to print Precinct Delegate Cards; these cards would have the QR code on them to make it easy for PDs to share membership information with friends and neighbors in the BBDs voting area. Two questions with a show of hands: A. Would you be interested in such a card? Or B. is the photo on your phone sufficient?

In addition, there will be a Collective Day of Action in support of Public Schools along Woodward Avenue on this Thursday, April 17 from 5-6:30 pm. Let's gather at Maple and Lincoln on the West Side of Woodward on the Southbound side. This is a pro-public education rally to bring awareness to the harmful cuts and legislation aimed at public schools. Our goal is to lift our voices to protect ALL of our students and ALL of our school communities.

Remember you can always use the 5-star app to contact your senators and representatives. My favorite one to be concerned about now is the SAVE act; a voter suppression act aimed mostly at women. While Senator Slotkin has come out against the SAVE act, here is an easy script to use:

Me: Hello, is this Senator _____ office?

Voice: Yes

Me: I'm calling to ask Senator _____ to vote against the SAVE ACT. It seems that if I do not have a birth certificate that matches my ID, I will be unable to vote. For example, if I do not have a passport or I took my husband's name after marriage, I must prove my citizenship with a birth certificate matching that name.

Voice: Yes.

Me: Will my husband have to prove his citizenship?

Voice: No.

Me: See the problem?

Lastly, PDs I will be sending an update email soon about a gathering on May 7. If you are a PD and you have not received my emails, please see me after the meeting.

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.

Political Action and Student Internship Committee Reports:

Emery Pence is the chair of these committees. He advised that there is a post card initiative taking place targeting older voters that may have been leaning towards GOP but may now be concerned about the present course of the Trump administration. He asked to be contacted by anyone interested.

He presently has 60-70 participants on the student intern mailing list. He anticipates they will become more active by the end of the school year. Please contact him with the names of students that would like to be added.

New Business: Guest Speaker: Alli Kelly, Organizing Strategist, ACLU Michigan

ACLU's current objective is to build a firewall to protect our freedoms; this is taking place on both the state and federal level.

On the Federal level the focus has been on challenging the Executive Orders being signed by the current president. These are written directives from the president that directs the federal government through its agencies to implement his policies; either to take an action or enforce his directive. The ACLU is initiating lawsuits and asking for temporary restraining orders to join these executive directives until hearings can be conducted, and the impact and legality can be evaluated by the Courts.

On a local level ACLU is presently working to protect medical care for transgender youth and passport restrictions. Most recently, the ACLU Michigan has taken action against an employer in Clawson that discharged three employees for defending a transgender co-worker. They are also offering guidance to international students attending schools in Michigan.

ACLU Michigan offers training to individuals that would like to become more involved. It is also encouraging its members to monitor their school boards and local governments.

Good and Welfare

The South Oakland Dem Club is holding an art exhibit, "Resistance Works" on July 13, 2025, at the Articipate Art Gallery in Berkley. Please join us in viewing the art and artists are invited to submit pieces for consideration.

Allen Wolf is working to increase the number of registered voters in Pontiac. Contact him to participate.

Shadia Martini announced her candidacy for state senate. Sarah Pounds introduced herself as the potential candidate for House District #54, which includes parts of our club area.

The next meeting is back at the Bloomfield Township Hall. A speaker from Fund MI Future will be the guest speaker.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Attendees April 15th meeting

Howard Baron
Amy Barron
Carol Beggs
Alec Bender
Nancy Burmeister
Aileen Castelli
Chris Chanko
Maureen Christensen
Mike Clift
Angela Davenport (ZOOM)
George Dilgard
Peggy Dufault
Libby Dzurka
Anita Ehrenfried
Marcia Femrite
Dorothy Flowers
Wendy Friedman
James Gardner
Dani Gillman
Tracey Godderis (ZOOM)
Dave Goodman
Juliet Hentschel
Miriam Imerman (ZOOM)
Paul Jacobs
Chris Kaye
Steffi Keywell
Julie Lichtenberg-Stern
Lawrence Lombard
Marilyn Maher
Danielle Mallon
Catherine Martin (ZOOM)
Shadia Martini
Frances and John McArthur
Chris McKenna
Victoria Mejia
Adrienne Murdah

Fred Newton
Krissy Ortale (ZOOM)
Patti Parks
Emery Pence
Marsha Percefull
Sarah Pounds
Rakesh Ramakrishnan
Eric Raphael
Sherri and Andy Robinson
Nina Robb
Debbie Rosenman
Anne Ross
Stacey Schreiber
Judy Schulz
Harriet Shakir
Cynthia Shaw
Gary Shea
Pat Sheren
Corinne Shoop
Craig Spangler
Marti Szilagyi
Sandra Thake
Emily Tobias
Don Ufford
Roberta Viviano
Amy Voigt
Julie Wagner
Janice Wanetick
Juergen Weisenberger (ZOOM)
Gail and Mike Whitty
Allen Wolf
Mary Wright
Linda Zlotoff
Sharon (ZOOM)

NOTE: Some people did not sign in.

75 people were counted in the room with 7 more on zoom=82