

Portage County Democratic Central / Executive Committee

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Meeting Minutes November 17, 2011 5:15PM – 5:58PM
Italian American Society
644 S. Chestnut St.
Ravenna, OH 44266

Members attending: 39
Guests attending: 6
Office Holders: 10

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM by Chairman Stephens with 39 members attending. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Buz (Bob) Davis.

The Chair recognized Chris Smeiles – Chris announced that he will not be running for another term as Portage County Commissioner. He wanted to thank everyone who helped him throughout the years with his campaigns.

Minutes Approval

A motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 22, 2011 was made by Audrey Kessler and seconded by Frank Hairston. The Minutes were approved without discussion.

Treasurer's Report

General Account

Balance on hand as of September 15, 2011	\$14,166.89
Income	\$ 1,250.00
Total	<hr/> \$15,416.89
Expenditures	\$ 4,162.61
Balance as of November 17, 2011	\$11,254.28

Restricted Account

Balance as of September 15, 2011	\$ 1,806.45
Income	\$ 3,488.69
Total Income	<hr/> \$5,295.14
Expenditures	\$1,189.13
Balance as of November 17, 2011	\$4,106.01

OLD BUSINESS

Report on Issue 2 Campaign (SB5)

Brad Cromes, our Ohio Portage County Issue 2 Coordinator, reported that Portage County had a 62% no vote which was above the state average. Brad just wanted to thank everyone on the victory.

Report on HB 319 (Congressional Districts)

The ODP is going to referendum the gerrymandered congressional seats proposal that the Republican Party has created. Ohio has gone from 18 to 16 congressional seats. The Republicans have created 4 districts with all the democratic voters they could gather and 12 solid Republican seats for the rest of the districts. Our only alternative is to referendum HB319. Bob Davis has petitions that need signed. Chairman Stephens asked that each precinct committee person get a petition from Buzz Davis. We need at least 10 signatures per precinct committee person. We only have 49 days to get them to Columbus.

Elect of Democratic Central Committee Secretary

As indicated at the last meeting our secretary, Pat Nelson, had to resign due to county policies of her new job. Anyone on the committee interested could apply. Chairman Stephens received one request from Lori Evans. Chair Stephens stated at the last meeting that he would take nominations from the floor for this position but not for the Treasurers position in January. Kathleen Chandler nominated Lori Evans for the remainder of the term as secretary and Frank Hairston seconded the motion. There were no other nominations from the floor. Having heard none and pursuant to our constitution Lori Evans was unanimously elected Secretary and sworn in for the remainder of the term.

NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENTS

The Chair acknowledged receipt of applications for appointment as the Central Committee Persons for the following persons:

Michael Cooper	Nelson Township A
Cecil (Jim) Moore	Windham Village B
Arthur Scott	Streetsboro City 3-C

The Chair again accepted a Motion of approval for the appointment by hand vote of the applicants for appointment. The vote was unanimous. The Motion had been made by Cindy Greene and seconded by John Kovachich.

Treasurer's Vacancy

The Chair reported that Steve Shanafelt will be vacating his position as County Treasurer effective December 30, 2011. State law and our constitution require that a meeting to appoint a successor treasurer must be held at least 5 days after but no later than 45 days after the position is vacated. Notice is now given that the meeting to appoint a successor treasurer will be on January 5, 2012 at

5:15 pm at the Ravenna Elks. It is very important that all committee members attend this meeting to elect our Successor Treasurer.

Public notice of this meeting will be placed in the Record Courier and also on the website. Any person applying for appointment to the position of Portage County Treasurer must submit a written notification to the secretary or chairman of the party. Written application can be by email, mail, or personal delivery. All applications must be received by 5 pm on January 3, 2012. All candidates will have an equal opportunity to speak to the group prior the voting process on January 5, 2012.

Election will be by ballot. To vote, committee member must print the name of one candidate, then print and sign their name on the ballot. Ballots will then be counted. If there are 3 or more candidates, the person receiving the least amount of votes will be eliminated. The voting will continue until a single candidate has received a majority of the votes. PC Prosecutor Vic Viglucci volunteered to help count the ballots. All ballots will be retained and available for review for 90 days after election.

Vic Viglucci made a motion that the unofficial notice of the January 5, 2012 meeting to elect the successor treasurer, including the requirements necessary to apply for the position, be sent on December 15, 2011. Official notice will be sent on December 30, 2011. Both notices will be sent by email and regular mail to all committee members. This information will be published in the Record Courier and posted on the PCDP website. Motion was seconded by Gary Horning. John Thomas commented that any candidate for treasurer must also file a completed petition with the Board of Elections by December 7, 2011, to be elected to this countywide position. John Thomas also asked that the notice of the meeting of January 5th be sent to County weekly newspapers and newspapers of general circulation in the county. Chairman Stephens agreed to notify the media of this information. Motion was passed unanimously.

Audrey Kessler has been kind enough to help us work on our web site. All notices of meeting will be on the web site, along with our minutes and the constitution. Anything you would like on the web site i.e., fund raisers etc., send to the office.

Please sign petitions before you leave.

EVENTS

Federated Democratic Women are having their Christmas auction this Saturday at the Italian American Society admission is \$10.00. See Leota if you would like to give an item for auction.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 PM on a Motion from Victor Viglucci.

