



**Bethlehem City Democratic Committee – February 13, 2023, Meeting
(Northampton Community College Fowler Center Rm 114)**

February 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Approve prior minutes – Minutes approved for January 2023

Minutes approved for October 2022

Treasurer's report -- Approved.

Candidates/Official: 2-minute limit/ 4-minute limit for state-wide candidates

Dan McCaffrey (Supreme), Deborah Kunselmen (Supreme), Timika Lane (Superior), Jill Beck (Superior), Bryan Neft (Commonwealth), Stephen Baratta (DA), Terry Houck (DA), Tara Zrinski (NC Controller), Ken Kraft (NC Council), John Irons (LC Commissioner at Large), April Riddock (LC Commissioner).

County/State Chairperson reports: 3-minute limit

- Northampton County – Matt Munsey – announced a Budget Task Force – another meeting at the end of March. Petition kickoff at American Legion in Palmer Township this Saturday.
- Lehigh County – Lori McFarland – County wide petition events – go to the website for new dates. Putting petitions on front porches is illegal. Will be supporting state endorsements.
- State – No report.

Subcommittee Reports: GOTV, Voter Registration, Communications, Fundraising (nothing new)

Speaker: Norman Bristol Colón (Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Wolf administration): outreach to Latinx community.

- It is Black History month – Austin Davis is the youngest LT Governor in the nation.
- Growth of Latino population – largest ethnic minority group in the US. 20% of the US population. 51% of growth. A Social Justice agenda is a purview of Democrats. Most recently brown people in cages, brown people put on buses and planes – actual definition of human trafficking. As the population grows, brown influence should grow. Largest minority voting block in the country. We must make sure that voting ability is protected. 1.1million Latinos in PA. With LGBTQ and African American populations, it is a big block. We need pay equity, housing security. We are allowing gentrification to push out Latino community. Latino community is 25- to 27-year-old median versus 40-45 rest of the population. Hate incidents targeting Latino populations are on the rise. Democratic Party needs to work on this – we need to save the soul of our nation

by protecting the most vulnerable. By 2060, Latino will represent 28% of the population. “Where Latinos succeed, Democrats succeed.”

- Problem of Spanish Hate Radio Stations: Targeting with disinformation in Spanish. Combatting through the Spanish Community – 64 percent identify as Democrats – 34 percent as Republicans. Need Democratic inclusive community driven message.
- How can we better approach trying to include Latino community? Must address diversity within Latino community. Democrats must deliver consistent with immigration, with issues of interest to the community – ensure that our message is family driven.
- Need to recruit Latino candidates. We need to be inclusive. We need to do a better job.

Old Business

- **Seeking new Secretary** – Patrice Teltser has volunteered!! She was voted in.

New Business

- **Results of PA House special elections** – Steve Samuelson. Democrats have a majority in the House for the first time in 12 years. Education is a priority in upcoming sessions.
- **Other election related races or issues** –
- **Petition drives:** Upcoming Petition events in February. with LV4All - Sunday Feb. 19 12-4 and Saturday Feb 25 10-4 at Steelworker. Petitions start at midnight 2/14. Be careful to have the right petition sheet for your county. Due on Tuesday March 7. Give to Ben or bring to the March 1st LV4ALL meeting. List of super voters from Lehigh – Lori McFarland; Northampton -- Patti Bruno.
 - Must be the township or city in which you pay taxes.
 - Dates on petitions must be in chronological order.
 - All petitions must be 2 sided.
 - On the back the person who collected the signatures must fill out requested information for the signers.
 - Can't fill in for people.
 - Can't leave part of address out – no ditto marks.
 - Full names.
- **Advertise monthly meetings:** BCDC in Bethlehem Press, LV Live, Morning Call, etc. Generally the feeling is yes – certainly in calendar sections.
- **Budget request for NCDC** - Palm cards, QR codes/business cards, signs. We requested approximately \$1300 from the NOCO Democratic Committee.
- **Fundraising ideas** - Puerto Rican Beneficial Society, Godfrey Daniels (pre-primary), Cocktails and Candidates (The Edge) - post primary? Michael Laws suggested a 70s

Party at Black Caucus event in June. We need help – please volunteer to help with fundraising and events.

Member Forum

Victoria Opthof-Cordaro-- and Laura Ray – Citizens for Responsible Development. municipal waste treatment plant – talked about landfill having requested rezoning of 270 acres of Lehigh River watershed. Easement to Lower Saucon Township decades ago was just acted upon so now owned by Lower Saucon. . Mayor and council can direct their solicitors to participate in the conditional use hearing in Lower Saucon Township to enforce easements on the property the city still holds. Can prevent the destruction of the 270 acres. Leachate runoff gets pumped off down to the water treatment plant, which is not geared to handle non-biological waste such as chemicals, asbestos, pharmaceuticals, radioactive material – a million gallons. That is the current size. All the trees will be removed. Runoff will double. Conditional use hearing is February 27th. City should come up with conditions – to put on Lower Saucon Township. At risk is tax investment in the National Heritage Trail and Corridor and the health of the river and its recreational uses.

50/50 and Jan. 6 Report Book Raffle

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted by Johanna Brams