

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SOUTH DAYTON DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 7pm

Location: Wright Memorial Public Library, 1776 Far Hills Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45419

Present: Alison Benford, President; Kim Senft-Paras, Vice President; Tim Benford, Treasurer; Larry DeGuire, Secretary; approximately 55 members in person; 5 members joining via ZOOM

1. **Call to Order.** President Benford called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance.** Members assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Welcome.** President Benford welcomed members to the meeting with brief comments:
 - a. A moment of silence was observed to honor former President Jimmy Carter.
 - b. Dr Art Jipson was introduced as the meeting's speaker. Dr Jipson is an associate professor of sociology and criminology at the University of Dayton.
4. **Speaker.** Dr Jipson presented to the meeting on the topic of extremist groups, focusing on white racial extremism and extremist groups in Ohio. Highlights of the presentation included:
 - a. An overview of extremism.
 - b. Highlights for how extremism develops:
 - i. Radicalization and mobilization to violence.
 - ii. Misinformation, disinformation, and conspiracy "narratives".
 - c. What can individuals do to prevent extremism:
 - i. Combat misinformation
 1. SIFT method for media literacy: **S**top, **I**nvestigate a source, **F**ind better coverage, and **T**race non original content
 - ii. Community violence prevention
 1. Whole of society approach.
 2. Individuals should be "upstanders".
5. **Continuing Comments.** President Benford offered continuing comments following Dr Jipson's presentation
 - a. Thanks to members who attended the holiday dinner.
 - b. Thanks to members who donated items to the Saint Vincent's Womens and Childrens Shelter.
 - c. The club received thank you notes for donations to the Foodbank and to Miami Valley Meals.
 - d. President Benford acknowledged the passing of two long-time SDDC members.
6. **Donation to WMPL.** President Benford recommended that the SDDC donate \$200 to the Wright Memorial Public Library Foundation to thank the library for allowing the SDDC to meet in the library:
 - a. This donation was moved by Carol Finley.
 - b. The motion was seconded by Vanessa Portis-Reed.

- c. The donation was accepted through unanimous consent of members assembled.
7. **Constitutional Changes.** President Benford presented the proposed changes to the SDDC Constitution:
- a. No changes to the dues or constitution have been presented since 2014. The meeting approved raising the annual dues to \$15/individual and \$20/family.
 - b. Member comments included:
 - i. Do checks need two signees for the SDDC funds to be accessed?
 - 1. Treasurer Benford clarified that is not a requirement.
 - ii. Is there a way to increase transparency in the expenditures of the SDDC?
 - 1. Treasurer Benford reminded members that the expenditures are a matter of public record through the Montgomery County Board of Elections.
 - iii. Minor changes to the proposals were suggested and agreed to through discussion with present members.
 - c. Carole Finley motioned to accept the changes to the constitution as presented
 - d. Vanessa Portis-Reed seconded the motion.
 - e. The changes to the constitution were accepted through unanimous consent of members assembled.
8. **Officer Elections.** President Benford began the process of electing new officers for the SDDC. She offered brief personal comments on behalf of the outgoing executive board:
- a. President Benford and Treasurer Benford took over the SDDC in 2019, growing the club by focusing on education, advocacy, and philanthropy. President Benford expressed personal thanks to the steering committee, the other officers, and especially Treasurer Benford.
 - b. President Benford shared that she is comfortable handing her “baby” over to Rose Lounsbury and the rest of the new executive team. She proceeded to read a statement on Lounsbury’s behalf.
 - i. Lounsbury regretted being unable to attend the meeting.
 - ii. Lucy Ann McKosky moved to make Rose Lounsbury the new President of the SDDC.
 - iii. The motion was seconded by Pam Perilman.
 - iv. Lounsbury was elected to the presidency by unanimous consent.
 - c. President Benford thanked the assembled members and opened the floor for Uriah Langmeyer, standing for nomination to be the Vice President, to make a personal statement.
 - i. Langmeyer shared a bit of his background, having moved to the area in 2020. He has a background working with the Red Cross as a disaster volunteer, having been deployed for three months in 2017, and community educator. He is currently a park technician at Cox Arboretum. Langmeyer expressed deep appreciation to the long standing volunteers of the SDDC for welcoming him in. Politically, Langmeyer was most recently the photographer for Rose for Oho and is now the “newsletter guy” for the Montgomery County Democratic Party.

- ii. Vickie Hamilton-Smith moved to make Uriah Langmeyer the new Vice President of the SDDC.
 - iii. The motion was seconded by Carole Finley.
 - iv. Langmeyer was elected to the vice presidency by unanimous consent
- d. President Benford again thanked those assembled and brought Zak Lutz to the floor to offer his personal statement upon standing for nomination to be the Treasurer of the SDDC.
 - i. Lutz shared he is originally from Cincinnati, having relocated to Dayton about two and half years ago. Lutz thanked the outgoing executive committee for their tireless work. He shared that Carole Roe pushed him to support the SDDC, and he has known her well enough to trust that if she says to get involved, it's for a good reason. Lutz is a lawyer and works primarily with the disabled and homeless in Dayton.
 - ii. Carole Roe moved to make Zak Lutz the new Treasurer of the SDDC
 - iii. The motion was seconded by Deb Mustard Gibson.
 - iv. Lutz was elected by unanimous consent to the role of Treasurer.
- e. President Benford thanked Lutz for his willingness to step into the role, those assembled shared a chuckle as outgoing treasurer Tim Benford literally sat down following Lutz's election. Benford opened the floor to Maggie Denlinger, standing for nomination to be the Secretary of the SDDC, remarking that the median age of the executive committee has been reduced by over forty years.
 - i. Denlinger shared that she has lived her whole life in Washington Township and is a senior in high school. Denlinger shared thanks to the volunteers of the SDDC for all the good they put into the community. She shared briefly about her volunteer commitments and some of her experience in local politics. Denlinger concluded that she is looking forward to rolling up her sleeves and getting to work within the SDDC.
 - ii. John Ferrara moved to make Maggie Denlinger the new Secretary of the SDDC.
 - iii. The motion was seconded by Kim Senft-Paras.
 - iv. Denlinger was elected by unanimous consent to the role of Secretary.
- f. President Benford thanked Denlinger for her eagerness to get involved. She then introduced Karina Provost, standing to become the Communications Chair. Benford expressed her excitement to have a young, creative voice manage social media, as the group just has a Facebook page.
 - i. Provost shared that she lives in Kettering with her husband, father, a disabled veteran, and her dogs. She expressed that after Trump's victory in 2016, she had an unopened bottle of champagne. She began to get involved in local politics, at the time in Las Vegas, especially focused on advocacy for reproductive rights. In this last election cycle, Provost was an operations director for Sherrod Brown's senate race. She expressed that she has found a home in Kettering and wants to protect it. Provost finds that good communication is key to advocacy, and she is excited to get to work.

- ii. Lynn Cooper moved to make Karina Provost the new Communications Chair.
- iii. The motion was seconded by Uriah Langmeyer.
- iv. Provost was elected the Communications Chair unanimously.

9. Treasurer's Report

- a. Treasurer Benford thanked the 22 members who have paid their dues for the year (2025):
 - i. Dues for this year are \$15 for an individual and \$20 for a family:
 - 1. Treasurer Benford noted that this nominal increase was approved at the November 2024 meeting, to help counterbalance the fees (ActBlue & Stripe) collected on online payments.
 - ii. Members can pay their dues in one of two ways:
 - 1. A check or exact change handed in at a SDDC meeting or
 - 2. Via southdaytondems.org at the Donate tab.
- b. The purposes of dues and donations are to support local Democratic candidates, charities, and the SDDC events, with approval by member vote.
- c. The current finances of the South Dayton Democratic Club are as follows:
 - i. The SDDC US Bank account balance stands at \$8,264.21:
 - 1. The Becky Koop Memorial Candidate Fund stands at \$5,900.00
 - 2. The general fund balance is thus \$2,364.21.
- d. Maggie Denlinger motioned to accept the treasurer's report as presented.
- e. The motion was seconded by Vickie Hamilton-Smith.
- f. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

10. Member Comments. President Benford opened the floor of the meeting for member comments:

- a. Lynn Cooper thanked the members assembled for their support in her candidacy for the Montgomery County Clerk of Courts.
- b. Carole Roe made a brief comment on the two Democrats who have filed paperwork to run for Governor and Secretary of State in 2026:
 - i. [Amy Acton](#) for Governor.
 - ii. [Bryan Hambley](#) for Secretary of State.
- c. Those gathered cheered as a member shared the news that the Supreme Court refused to offer an injunction to prevent President Trump's sentencing for his felony convictions in New York.

11. Arrangements for the Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 26th at 7pm at the Wright Memorial Public Library.

12. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by President Benford at 8:35 pm.

Maggie Denlinger
SDDC Secretary
10 January 2025