

LIVONIA DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Minutes
May 9, 2007

Call to Order

The meeting was opened at 7:30 pm by President, Pat O'Neil

Review of Minutes of Last Meeting

Linda Curry briefly described the last meeting which primarily consisted of the Livonia School Board Candidate forum and short presentations from Joan Gebhardt and Brian Broderick, candidates for Schoolcraft College.

Election of Secretary

Pat reminded those present that last week Linda Curry had been temporarily appointed club secretary. The election was conducted by a show of hands and unanimous support made it official.

Reports

- Treasurer
 - President Pat provided the treasurer's report as Alan was on vacation. There were no expenses and \$345 dues were collected in April. Hats and T-shirts are still available.

- Committees
 - Linda Lieder reported that a small crew from LDC as well as a pack of Cub Scouts did a good job of cleaning up John Stymelski Veteran's park on Saturday, May 5.

- President
 - Pat observed that our April meeting had good attendance. Tonight's meeting, on the other hand, had only 4 board members and 5 additional members. Next month's meeting will have a speaker from the Democratic Party and perhaps we should call people to remind them to attend. Some in attendance thought tonight's topic (discussion and a straw poll regarding the current Democratic candidates for president in 2008) was not of much interest to people yet and that it would be a more interesting topic closer to the election.

Presidential Straw Poll

Pat initiated the process by suggesting that after group discussion about each candidate we would take a vote. Our first choice candidate would receive 2 points and our second choice would receive 1 point.

Frank started by commenting on each candidate's major focus. He suggested the web site www.political1.com for reference. Next, Pat began to comment on his perception of the focus of each candidate. Before he finished, it was suggested that we change the process and prioritize the issues we'd like the candidates to address and then analyze which candidates were focusing on our top issues. The group agreed and a brainstorm list of the following issues was created:

LIVONIA DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Minutes
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- End the war
- Fiscal responsibility
- Health care
- Energy/environment/global warming
- Campaign finance reform
- Protecting jobs
- Foreign relations
- Workers bill of rights
- Education
- Insurance regulation
- Ending poverty
- Department of peace
- Middle class prosperity

In order of importance, the following issues were chosen as most important by those present:

1. End the war
2. Health Care
3. Energy/environment/global warming
4. Education
5. Department of Peace

Many comments about the issues and the candidates were shared, followed by a straw poll. The results are as follows:

Edwards	9 votes
Biden	6 votes
Gore	4 votes
Clinton	2 votes
Clark	1 vote
Obama	1 vote
Richardson	1 vote

It was observed that the current front-runners in the race were not our top choices.

Update on Democratic Activities

Pat alerted the group that a Democrat may be running for Mayor in the next Livonia election and we should think about what we can do to lend support.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business

LIVONIA DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Minutes
May 9, 2007

Richard suggested that we publish the meeting minutes to all members. This seemed to be agreeable to everyone.

Richard suggested that we run a campaign for new members or to renew current members. We could offer a hat or t-shirt for those who sign up. Pat said that the executive board has discussed this idea. A group will meet to pursue this suggestion.

To add some fun and interest, it was voted and passed to run a 50/50 raffle and to raffle a shirt and hat at each meeting. Linda Lieder will organize this for the meetings.

Hats and t-shirts will be made available at the meetings for those who wish to purchase them.

Linda Lieder announced that her subdivision was having a garage sale June 15 & 16. She offered to have a table for items donated as a fund raiser for our club. Contact Linda to donate items.

Linda Lieder invited everyone to join the peace group who would be visiting McCotter's office in Laurel Park on Friday at 4:15. This is part of a National event occurring at all congressional offices around the country seeing support for the proposed Department of Peace.

End of Meeting

Pat adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Linda Curry
Secretary