Democratic State Committee Meeting - Lowell
Saturday, September 8
Meeting Minutes

Massachusetts Democratic Party Chairman Gus Bickford called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m. and recognized Curtis LeMay to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Bickford called for a motion to suspend the roll call and for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 28th meeting. Both motions passed. The Chair welcomed everyone to Lowell and recognized the Lowell delegation, including Curtis LeMay and members of the Lowell Host Committee, Judith Durant and the Lowell City Committee, Chris Jenkins and the Greater Lowell Area Democrats, Tom McGrath and the Pepperell Democratic Town Committee, Jen Mieth and the Groton Democratic Town Committee, and V.F.W. Quartermaster Jim Golden, and his wife Barbara for preparing the hall and catering today.

The Chair requested a moment of silence for DSC members and family members that had passed away since the last meeting: Leon Mosczynski, father of DSC member Lisa Mosczynski; James McGowan, father of DSC member James McGowan; Bob Noble, father of DSC member Alicia Gardner; Regina Cassidy, mother of DSC member Robert Cassidy; and the brother of DSC member Bill Bowles.

The Chair introduced candidates for statewide office to address the Committee. Auditor Suzanne Bump spoke to the Committee about her re-election campaign and the importance of the November election. Candidate for Lieutenant Governor Quentin Palfrey addressed the Committee about taking back the corner office.

The Chair recognized Treasurer Paul Yorkis to give the Treasurer’s Report.

Treasurer Yorkis presented the Treasurer’s Report. Alana Murphy made a motion to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Russ Ashton. The Treasurer’s report was approved.

The Chair recognized Secretary Carol Aloisi to give the Secretary’s Report.

The Chair moved to voting on the open DSC seats: one Affirmative Action male seat, and one Gay Male seat.

Two letters of intent were submitted for the Affirmative Action Male Seat. State Representative Andy Vargas of Haverhill was nominated by Kate Donaghue and was seconded from the floor. Clarence Richardson of Waltham was nominated by Diane Masters. The nomination was seconded from the floor. Each candidate was given two minutes to address the Committee.
Two letters of intent were submitted for the Gay Male Seat. Jeremy Comeau of Boston was nominated by Kate Donaghue. The nomination was seconded by Diego Sanchez. Jim Thompson of Beverly was nominated by Brian Corr. The nomination was seconded by Rhonda Bourne. Each candidate was given two minutes to address the Committee.

Voting commenced for the two open seats. For the Affirmative Action Male Seat, State Representative Andy Vargas received 112 votes. Clarence Richardson received 29 votes. For the Gay Male Seat, Jeremy Comeau received 75 votes. Jim Thompson received 64 votes.

State Rep. Andy Vargas was elected to the Affirmative Action Male Seat. Jeremy Comeau was elected to the Gay Male Seat.

The Chair recognized Executive Director Veronica Martinez to give the 2018 Coordinated Campaign report. Martinez spoke of the unprecedented campaign structure of the coordinated and the need for more volunteers. Martinez then introduced Donna Kelly-Williams of the Massachusetts Nurses Association to speak on behalf of the Yes on Question 1 campaign.

The Chair then recognized State Senator Barbara L’Italien to introduce Lori Trahan, Democratic nominee for the Third Congressional District to replace Congresswoman Niki Tsongas, who spoke about her plans to represent the third district after the primary recount concluded.

The Chair welcomed Jim Roosevelt, Kate Donaghue, Dave O’Brien, and Mel Poindexter to report on the recent DNC meeting in Chicago and to give the DNC Members’ Report. Members reported out on the resolution in support of Massachusetts resident Chuck Campion and mentioned the upcoming DNC meeting in Puerto Rico.

The Chair welcomed members of the subcommittees to give a brief report on their respective work:

Amy Kullar and John Bowes gave the report for the Communications subcommittee. They discussed the coordinated rapid response team, the letter to editor campaign, the importance of social media, and encouraging people to motivate others to campaign and vote.

Carol Aloisi gave the report for the Credentials subcommittee. Aloisi discussed the successful credential convention process. Aloisi thanked Veronica Martinez for her support. The subcommittee is coming up with a group to help with guidelines on social media and the challenges of implementing that for the convention. Aloisi anticipated challenges with delegates due to support for Charlie Baker.

Brenda Brathwaite gave the report for the JFK/Scholarship subcommittee and spoke about the students who received scholarships at the 2018 convention. She mentioned recipients came from across the state and expressed a variety of interests in politics. Brathwaite mentioned that having the process begin earlier in the year yielded more applicants and she thanked the committee and party staff for their commitment.

Russ Ashton gave the Senior Outreach subcommittee report and spoke of engaging senior centers in Massachusetts for the midterm elections.

Steve Driscoll gave the LGBT subcommittee report which honored Tom McGrath and spoke about the challenges of the Yes on 3 campaign and the importance of purchasing buttons in support of the High School Democrats.
Norma Shulman of the Women’s Outreach Subcommittee spoke and asked for more signups, discussed the subcommittee’s Facebook page and spoke of the personal importance of electing women.

Christine Tron of the Veterans and Military Families Subcommittee spoke and thanked our hosts. Tron thanked the Quartermaster and described the committee’s efforts to share information with veterans through the subcommittee’s Facebook page. Tron thanked veterans for their service.

Jeremy Comeau and Lisa Stevens Goodnight of the Young Democrats gave the Youth Services subcommittee report. They spoke of their work to engage HSDMA, YDMA and CDMA to phonebank and canvass for the Democratic nominees. Stevens Goodnight acknowledged the attendance of YDMA members and asked that anyone 36 or younger join YDMA. YDMA finalized their endorsement process, was finalizing their canvass schedule and had just completed a large conference. She thanked Jeremy Comeau for his support.

The Chair moved to new business and acknowledged the following candidates in attendance: Ed Kennedy, Dick Howe, Rady Mom, Tom Golden, Senator Jamie Eldridge, Auditor Suzanne Bump, and Representative Andy Vargas.

The Chair invited the following candidates to quickly introduce themselves to the committee: David Robertson, Christopher Tribou, Tami Gouveia, Kevin Tagliaferri to introduce Pat Malone, Jon Santiago, and Rachael Rollins.

The Chair announced new seats for election at the November meeting: Two Disability Male seats to replace David Perelman and Jack Suslak, and one caucus for the 2nd Middlesex and Norfolk State Senate District seat, to replace State Representative Chris Walsh.

The Chair announced the next Committee meeting, to be held on Wednesday, November 14th in the Fourth Congressional District. Exact location to be determined.

State Committee Member Leslie Phillips raised the issue of Democratic members who have supported Governor Baker and asked that the Chair write a letter censoring their behavior and refer the individuals to the credentials committee. Counsel stated that the motion was actually a resolution, which would be forwarded to the resolutions committee.

The Chair proposed a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned 5:03 p.m.