

MINUTES FROM RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE MEETING

December 1, 2015

The chair introduced the guest speaker, Bud Meyer from Foothills Forum who provided a detailed review of the purpose and evolution of the Forum. A summary:

It's Mission: A catalyst for community engagement, research and solutions. It is Nonpartisan and Apolitical. The group includes Rappahannock volunteers, from-born heres and come-heres, with perspectives working together to gather information on the issues county residents have identified as priorities. In the long term, they will track information and identify solutions that help many people and organizations benefit from the research and the experience of others near and far. They will sponsor & plan community forums for civil discussion, so that people can learn together and decide what they want to do about a host of challenges and opportunities. The forum sent surveys out to 2700 households in collaboration with the University of Va. December 11 was the deadline for the surveys to be returned. The findings from the survey will be provided to the community early in 2016.

Additional information can be found on the Foothills Forum website <http://foothills-forum.org/>, or it's Facebook page and the Rappahannock News website.

The group approved the minutes of October 6 general meeting.

The Treasurer's Report: Ray Boc stated that the current bank balance is \$4,248.05 about \$1200 more than this time last year.

OLD BUSINESS

The Vice Chair, Greg Ludlow provided a debrief of the outcome of the election. He broke down the voting results by Precinct in Rappahannock County the List is in alphabetical order as follows:

Precinct

Amissville: Moore 170 votes (31.19 %) Obenshain 375 votes (68.81%)

Chester G: Moore 59 votes (26.82 %) Obenshain 161 votes (73.18%)

Flint Hill: Moore 136 votes (43.59%) Obenshain 176 votes (56.41%)

Scrabble: Moore 201 votes (43.70 %) Obenshain 259 votes (56.30%)

Sperryville: Moore 267 votes (47.26%) - Obenshain 298 votes (52.74%)

Washington Moore 273 votes (40.56%) - Obenshain 399 votes (59.29%)

If we look at these figures some of the percentage margins are misleading compared to the slight differences in margins of the actual number of voters, e.g. Sperryville only 31, Flint Hill 40, in favor of

Obenshain. The total turnout was 3,080, including absentee ballots, which, based on the 2010 Census for Rappahannock County total registered voters of 5,598, would come out to 55%, not a too bad showing in an off-year election, and certainly better than in 2014, but along with the above voting statistics definitely needs improving on, particularly in certain Precincts and in light of the upcoming 2016 General Election, In the latter regard Barack Obama lost the 2012 General Election in Rappahannock County by a mere 331 votes to the Republicans with the Democrats receiving 1,980 votes, the Republicans 2,311, and Others 53 in a total turnout of 4,344 voters, constituting a turnout of over 75%. That means that 1,254 potential voters never showed up to vote in 2012 based on the 2010 Census figures of 5,598 registered voters in Rappahannock County.

In short both in this years 26th District Virginia Senate election and the 2012 General Election the margins of victory for the Republicans in Rappahannock County do not constitute in my view an insuperable barrier to overcome. However, that is not to say that we don't have a lot of work left to do to put Rappahannock County in the Democratic column in the General Election in 2016. To this end we need more volunteers to launch a multi-pronged campaign consisting of canvassing door to door, mailing, phone-banking, meet and greet gatherings etc, all based on updated County-wide voter information.

He thanked everyone for the efforts they put in to canvass and several noted that because of Greg's good work, we have an excellent template and guidelines to follow for the upcoming Presidential election year. Thanks Greg!!

NEW BUSINESS

The chair announced that the Committee has scheduled the Biennium Reorganization Caucus on January 9. Offers to be elected are Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer. Ross and Greg will run again. Gwen and Ray will step down. Anyone is welcome to toss their hat in the ring to fill any of these positions. The notice going into the newspaper is as follows:

The Rappahannock County Democratic Committee will hold a Biennium Reorganization Caucus on January 9, 2016 at 9:00 am in the Washington Town Hall. Registration and Application for Membership will be held from 9:00am - 10:00am. At 10:00am, Registration will be closed and the Caucus will convene for the election of officers and the approval of the Bylaws for the 2016 - 2017 Biennium. All who are interested in running for office are encouraged to contact the current Chair, Ross O'Donoghue, at 540 987-8019.

A motion was made that we adjourn and was approved by all.

The next general meeting will not be held at the library on January 12, the Caucus meeting substitute for the January meeting.