

Bonhomme Township Democratic Club

Notes from meeting May 11, 2017

Speakers:

Bill Otto spoke about his experience as a candidate in the 2nd district race against Ann Wagner. Though he thought he had a clear path to victory, he was not successful. He had a good message, lacked the massive money Ann Wagner was able to generate from banks and corporate business. He noted that since some Republicans ran unopposed, they were able to give their funds to Ann's campaign (a problem that happened in other districts as well). He is taking a look at the future, but is undecided about running again at this time. He encouraged all to call/write Wagner and let her know that her constituents disagree with her votes/positions.

Mark Travers and Tim O'Sullivan gave a presentation about their new organization, "Strong Blue." It is designed to provide expertise for Missouri Democratic candidates. They noted that the Democratic party hasn't mounted credible campaigns in many legislative districts. Especially for candidates new to campaigning, they plan to provide assistance, with marketing, organizing, communications, messaging (website/social media), and fund raising by offering deep discounts for their services. They encourage candidates to discuss "values" rather than issues. See examples on their web site <http://strongblue.us/>.

Other Events:

Recent events are showing new Democratic party momentum:

April 29th - "Show Me Change" led by Deb Lavender, designed to offer instruction in building Democratic organizations.

May 3rd - Steve Weber, new chair of the MO Democratic Party, spoke about the plans to strengthen the effectiveness of the party. A large crowd attended the meeting at the Oak Bend Branch Library. His experience includes three terms as a MO Representative and he is in the process of visiting Democratic organization around the state. The party has hired new people to re-vamp communications and the organization. The web site, <http://missouridemocrats.org/> and Facebook page will be primary sources of information.

May 9th - "Where's Ann?" - about 275-300 people attended a town hall meeting at the Des Pere Lodge designed to highlight her failure to meet with constituents and her association with corporations at the expense average constituents. The event was organized by Missouri 2nd District for Change. More information is available on their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MO2ndDist4Chg/>

West County Democrats meet the 2nd Monday of each month starting at at 9:30 am. At United Food & Commercial Workers, Local 655 300 Weidman Road, Ballwin, MO 63011. Their website also provides good links to many issues and organizations: <http://www.westcountymocrats.org/>.

The Lafayette and Queeny Townships are merging and plans to focus on encouraging candidates to run in local school board, city councils, and municipal elections. They also plan to reach out to Bernie Sanders followers.

Club business:

Bonhomme Township will be working with the Jefferson Township on future events, such as picnics and public parades.

Next Meeting:

The next Bonhomme Township meeting will be June 8, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Kirkwood Community Center. It will include representatives from the city and the Democratic National Committee who will hold a "listening session."