FAUQUIER COUNTY DEMOCATIC COMMITTEE

November 20, 2018 monthly meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm.

Opening comments from co-chairs: The co-chairs thanked everyone for all the incredible time, effort, and donations made during the campaign season. Even though Leslie Cockburn and Vangie Williams did not win, we are happy that so many Democrats did win seats in the US House of Representatives.

There will still be many postcard writing opportunities, especially with the upcoming State elections.

Secretary’s Report: A motion to accept the minutes from the October meeting passed. There are 111 members. The Secretary also reminded attendees that January is dues time.

Treasurer’s Report: A motion to accept the Treasurer’s report, subject to audit, passed.

New business. The co-chairs led a discussion about holding a primary or a caucus to select the Democratic candidate for the 18th district House of Delegates. Currently, two candidates have announced to run. The conversation covered many opinions about the pros and cons of both methods but more appeared in favor of a primary rather than a caucus. A primary gives voters more time to vote rather than limiting voters to a few hours attending a caucus. The issues and decision will be made via a committee of chairs from Democratic committees in the 18th district. Because Fauquier has the largest number of Democratic voters, our co-chair Kathy Marmet will chair the committee. We expect to have further discussion at the January 2019 monthly meeting.

Additional discussion focused on what was good and went well with the campaigning this fall and what could be improved. Already identified are (1) how to get entrance to senior apartment buildings in order to canvass residents of these complexes; how to deploy volunteer canvassers to less covered areas; how to eliminate duplicate knocking on doors; improve strategy behind canvassing.

The Committee has requested written input with observations and suggestions of what appeared to go well and areas that might need improvement along with suggestions of what that improvement could look like.

There are many officers open for election in Fauquier County, including school board, county supervisors, clerk of court, soil and conservation. Everyone is encouraged to help identify potential candidates that FCDC can endorse and assist.

A workgroup to look at current people who might run and which seats we should encourage a candidate we can endorse to run was formed - David Wiedenfeld, Chris Bonner, and Nigel Ogilvie.

Linda Pranke reported on the status of redistricting. She reported that State Senator Jill Vogel supports legislation that districts be compact and contiguous. A state constitutional amendment with bipartisan support- One Virginia 2021 - will be on the ballot in 2020. The amendment would establish an independent bipartisan commission to lead redistricting. Senators Warner and Kaine support this amendment. Go to OneVirginia2021 web page and sign the petition.

Fauquier Indivisible will continue postcard writing at McMahon’s restaurant every other Wednesday. Please go to their fb page for dates and times.

The League of Women Voters is also actively supporting the Virginia legislature voting for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). To move forward to next steps in becoming an amendment to the Constitution, 38 states must vote for the ERA. Virginia will the that 38th state. Contact your state senator and representative and ask them to support the ERA.

Candidate time: Leslie Cockburn thanked all of us for all we did to support her campaign. It was a strong campaign and made great strides in closing the point gap by getting out many voters throughout the entire 5th. People are ready to keep going from what they reached this year and others have been inspired to run for office.

Jessica Foster from Remington, state district 88, is running against Mark Cole. Foster operates a criminal defense law firm in Manassas.

Laura Galante - 18th district, hopes to be selected as the Democratic candidate to run against Michael Webert. Galante operates an international cybersecurity business.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Treusch

Secretary