

Culpeper County Democratic Committee

Culpeper Police Dept. Community Room

9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024

1. Call to Order, 9:34 a.m.
Five first-time visitors introduced themselves.
2. The agenda was approved unanimously on a motion by Jan Fitts, second by Anita Street.
3. Six new members were accepted: Diane Evans, Carol Kauffman, David Lee, Katie McCormack, Elizabeth Strawderman, and Diane Martinez. They bring the total to 130.
4. The October minutes were approved unanimously. (Jim Restel, Suzanne Ross)
5. The treasurer's report was approved unanimously. (Carolyn Walker, Jim Restel)
6. Chair's Comments and Report
 - a. Mary Jo urged us to stay engaged for the work ahead: reaching Democrats and others who agree with our message but didn't vote.
 - b. She thanked "the family of advocates here," a record meeting turnout. (We needed extra chairs.)
 - c. We've been in our new HQ since Aug. 29. We're open six days a week. Come visit.
 - d. Many CCDC members attended the NAACP's Freedom Fund banquet in October. The event raises scholarship money.
 - e. PoliTalk was held in October.
 - f. Kim and Steven Jones attended the Chamber of Commerce breakfast this week.
 - g. Our Voter Protection Team witnessed pre-election procedures in the Registrar's Office, and all went properly, often without a GOP representative present.
 - h. CCDC hosted Cindy Vindman and Sara Ratcliffe for tea on Cindy's sweep through the Piedmont for Eugene Vindman's congressional campaign.
 - i. Eugene Vindman came to crowd-canvass on Oct 30.
 - j. CCDC hosted a group of visiting British journalists interested in American elections.
 - k. We'll have an election debrief in early December and get into the weeds. Suzanne Ross noted that Virginia did its job, delivering its electoral votes for Harris, electing Vindman, and re-electing Sen. Tim Kaine.
 - l. The bylaws committee will meet in December.
7. Committee Chair Reports
 - Vice Chair of Community Operations; Communications/IT Committee – Ed Dunphy was away.
 - Chair, Events/Social Committee – Marilyn Dunphy was away. She and Cara Matthews organized the morning-after brunch at HQ. More than 50 people came to commiserate, laugh, and eat.

- Vice Chair & Signs Chair of Precinct Operations – Roger Gorg & Steven A. Jones
 - Bring in signs. We'll recycle them.
 - Votes are still being counted. Member Tracy Neely, chief of the Culpeper Board of Elections, said the results will be certified Tuesday. She said new Registrar Melissa Hart, a 16-year veteran in the office, did an excellent job.
 - Culpeper saw an influx of new voters, especially young people
 - CCDC and the Coordinated Campaign worked well together.
 - Roger thanked the hard-working office staff, who kept signs going out and volunteers signing up.
 - We had 78 volunteers sitting outside 10 precincts and 38 volunteers serving as officers inside the polls.

- Report from Matt Borja with the Coordinated Campaign
 - Democrats and Republicans increased their numbers. Culpeper shifted 5 points to the right in 2024.
 - Raw vote totals went up by 4,000 votes for the Democrats. Kaine netted 7,000 new votes across the four Piedmont counties; Vindman was 1,000 down, unsurprising given his predecessor's popularity.
 - He thanked everyone who worked so hard, knocking on 11,000 doors, and calling 10,000 voters: "We left it all on the field." He singled out "Kamala Captains" Katie McCormack, Anita Street, Laura Adler, and Larry Geisting.
 - He said we need not only to resist the maga movement but also to hold Vindman accountable because "we have issues to solve and solutions to raise."

- Carolyn's 2025 Membership Report
 - Membership is biennial; the \$50 dues are annual and due in January for all members who joined before Oct. 31, 2024.

- 8. Rice Wagner said the next PoliTalk will be held 1-3 p.m. Monday, Nov. 18, at the library. It's a nonpartisan discussion of issues that concern participants, with opinion supported by data and sources. In five meetings so far, 21 people have participated. Possible topics this month: the election, immigration and citizenship requirements, term limits, a Supreme Court code of ethics, and isolationism.

- 9. On everyone's behalf, Alison Howard thanked Mary Jo for her leadership during a very hard year – her energy, patience, and kindness. A standing ovation ensued.

- 10. Adjourned 10:40 a.m. for informal discussion

Next Meeting: 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024
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