

## **Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee**

### **March 19, 2024, Meeting**

*The Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee was held both in person and online via Zoom.*

Hilary Bacon Gabrieli called the meeting to order.

#### **Membership Matters**

##### **February meeting minutes approval**

Rob motioned to approve; Diane seconded.

February minutes approved.

#### **Member Nominations**

##### **Associate member**

Kelly Zeilman eligible to be voted in as associate member.

Rob nominated Kelly to be eligible to be associate member.

Kathleen seconded nomination.

Approved to make Kelly an associate member.

Anna Wilinski is eligible to be nominated for associate member.

Diane nominated her.

Motion to make Anna eligible to be voted for associate member in April approved.

#### **April Meeting**

April meeting needed to be moved to 9 April to comply with the rules to vote for officers at Community Church.

Urged members to attend in person for the voting.

To confirm vacancies by 9 April (Kenzie and Rob looking into the 20-year members).

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Current balance as of 3/19/2024 is **\$7,823**. \*Goal is **\$10,000** by election.

Member 2024 dues are due (in March); 8 members paid so far for 2024.

Considering holding fundraisers.

*Ward 5 website has a link to pay for membership (Act Blue.*

*If not able to pay full amount, contact Bob and/or Rob or Hilary.*

## Guest Speaker

### State Auditor Diana DiZoglio

#### Update on proposed audit of state legislator

1. While progress is made for the ballot question, the audit is conducting the audit.
2. After the audit is completed, the results will be public information (including what documents were requested and which documents were/were not provided.

#### Update on other Audit office activities

1. An audit of Mass Health found \$85 million is being spent on out of state residents getting care outside MA.
  - a. The findings are not the fault of the individuals, rather processes that could be improved. So, payment is going for services not needed and to residents who move out of state
  - b. Noted that auditing wasted spending like this and fixing the problems enables the money to be moved to fund other needs in the state.
2. Financial review, efficiency, and effectiveness
  - a. Found local mandates are put in place by the state to local municipalities, but not funded. Example: to support early voting, towns need to have the ballots, etc., but are not funded by the state.
  - b. The audit is gathering insight about what is/is not covered by the state, and advocating for the local municipalities for the state to cover needed funding to support state mandates.
3. Audit team is looking into liquor licenses, as well as into Uber/Lyft.

#### Answers to questions:

1. Question (from Rob) asked about if/how the State Audit office is working with Erin Tieran on fiscal transparency (Sunshine agenda).
  - a. Answer: The State Auditor's office is working together with Erin's team.
2. Question about the Auditor's office plans for auditing the MBTA.
  - a. Answer: In addition to the current audit, request made to have a permanent MBTA audit unit.

## Future Scheduled Speakers

*April Meeting: State Senator Will Brownsberger to update us proposed new Gun Laws.*

## **2024 Caucus**

### **Caucus update**

- Elected 11 female and 7 male delegates.
  - If interested in being a male delegate, contact Bob, Hilary, Rob, or Shari.
  - Delegates, need to pay by end of March; urged to book hotel room now.
- MA Democratic Convention, June 1st in Worcester.  
Need to reserve rooms if going early (overnight May 31st).

## **Other Items/Events**

### **Guest speakers**

- Contact Mark with any ideas about guest speakers.

### **2024 get involved!**

- Volunteer opportunities—handout.
- Reviewed options such as postcards, phone banking.
- Links to all activities are on the website.

### **Media support**

Joshua Calianos is leading the subcommittee. Contact Joshua with any ideas.

### **Upcoming events**

- Biden standout upcoming in Boston.
  - Trip to Scranton, PA, to provide support.
- Shoutout to Jonathan Cohn.  
Annual Chinatown Banquet, 28 March, with Mayor Wu Empire Garden 690 Washington St.  
Ward 5 is purchasing a table. Reach out to Rob, Bob, or Hilary, if interested.

Motion to adjourn meeting.  
Motion to adjourn approved.

## Attendance

<b>Members</b>	<b>Guests</b>
<p data-bbox="186 384 475 667"><u>In Person</u> Hilary Bacon Gabrieli Rob Whitney Mark Mantell Katherine Judge Anna Wilinsky Kelly Zeilman Katherine Gallivan</p> <p data-bbox="186 716 505 1182"><u>Online</u> Sharon Hucul Kenzie Bok Diane Barry Bob Binney Sharon Durkan Patricia Amend Sandra Singer Lucy Rivera Kristen Mobilia David Crossman Jay Livingstone Sharon (Shari) Franzetta</p>	<p data-bbox="776 768 1089 909"><u>In Person</u> Shiela Murray Mary Garippo Marilyn Petitto Devaney</p>