**Lakewood Dems Meeting – 9/24/20**

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Welcome – Dale Miller, Judge Groves, Meryl Johnson, State Rep Mike Skindell, Mike Callahan, Lisa Forbes, Tom Bullock, Jason Shachner, Karolyn Isenhart, William Vodrey, Nickie Antonio, Dan O’ Malley, Colleen Realli, Mary Ellen Kilbane, Andy Santoli, Sherrie Miday

State Senator Nickie Antonio and Dan O’Malley are in the Out for Biden group. They both know Rick Neal from that group.

Nickie introduced Rick Neal and Reggie Greer:

Reggie Grear – The National LGBTQ+ Vote Director for the Joe Biden Campaign. He also served as Deputy Director of Public Engagement at the US Department of Transportation under the Obama Administration.

Rick Neal – Ohio Deputy Coalitions Director for the Joe Biden Campaign. Rick has worked throughout the state with different coalitions including Out for Biden. LGBTQ community is key to winning Ohio.

**Reggie Greer**

* Biden has received endorsements from many LGBTQ groups.
* Biden has pledged to fight for LGBTQ rights including Trans rights.
* Biden’ ticket and platform is the most pro-equality ticket in U.S. History.
* Biden will go to bat for the community. Ensure protections.
* Biden and Harris have make it clear that they are allies.
* Doing events such as an event with Ashley Biden tomorrow night -Bringing forward stories of LGBTQ in the military. Will put link in the chat box - joe.link/DADT
* Need to educate voters on how to safely vote. Need to touch every voter multiple times and answer their questions.
* Remember working on the 2012 Obama campaign – Ohio clinched it for Obama.
* Question from Meryl Johnson: What are you doing to encourage 18 and up LGBTQ to vote for Biden? Answer: Having real conversations with them. Leaning into digital areas to communicate with them.
* On Sunday, did “Black Out” event – shone a light on black LGBTQ. Using an activist who does Ballroom to help get out the vote. Also partnering with Drag Queens.

**Rick Neal**

* Biden/Harris is committed to Equality Act
* Have a great group in Out for Biden including Nickie Antonio and Dan O’Malley
* Created a great video
* Want to lift up the voices of the most marginalized communities including the Trans community
* Trump is taking away the rights of Trans people
* What Kelly Lauper is doing in Georgia – anti-Trans ads. Against including Trans people in sports
  + Don’t believe that their efforts are going to be successful
* Out for Biden doing much phone banking – including Stonewall Dems here and in Central Ohio
* According to a poll released today, Biden is up 5 points in Ohio
* Will be having events next week when Biden is in town. Be on the lookout for announcement of the events. Try to keep calendars open for Tuesday and Wednesday.
* Putting phone bank link in Chat - <https://www.mobilize.us/oh2020victory/>
* Early Vote is the key

Nickie answered a couple of questions about absentee voting

* If you ask for an absentee ballot, you need to fill it out and get it in, preferably by delivering it. Can’t decide to vote in person if you asked for an absentee ballot or else you will have to vote provisionally.

Dale Miller talked about Pennsylvania ruling about “naked ballots”.

* Reminder to put ballot in inner envelope and then outer envelope

Mike Skindell explained further and said if there is a mistake, BOE will reach out to the voter. But they can’t do that if it is too late.

Colleen Clark-Sutton reminded everyone that due to the volume of absentee ballots this year, we probably won’t get the final results for a couple of days

Question about ballots from overseas – voting has started early because of the time delay. Hoping that all goes well.

Question from Maureen Dostal – how is the Biden campaign combatting the misinformation about about fraudulent absentee voting that is coming from Trump and his campaign

* Reggie Greer answered that there is an army of people who are monitoring websites

**President’s Report**

* Erik informed everyone about the successful Biden/Harris sign distribution event
* Erik informed the group about the sample ballots that we are sending out as well as door hangers that will be distributed in Lakewood throughout October
* Erik informed the group about the Board elections coming up. In October will be the Board nominations and in November will be the election. Any voting member can run. Just need someone to nominate you at the October meeting. Two people are not seeking re-election. Anyone with questions about Board positions can reach out to Erik.

**1st Vice President’s Report**

* For the October meeting we will be talking about the importance of the Woman Voter as well as a discussion of the women’s issues that are at stake in this election.
* Please let the Board know if you have any ideas for topics or speakers for future meetings

**2nd Vice President’s Report**

* Everyone on the Board is dedicated to supporting the Democratic candidates, including the local candidates
* Great Democrats running for the judicial positions
* In lieu of the Summer Supper, we will be asking the membership and friends of the Club for donations. A mailing will go out soon.
* Rick Neal and Reggie Greer did not hesitate to agree to speak at this meeting because

**Treasurer**

* Clarified who was attending - doubles
* 139 members
* Ending balance: $10,256.920
* Cindy told some Republican jokes

**No Secretary report as Matt is taking a hiatus until the end of the year.**

**No State or County update**

**City Council Update – from Tess Neff**

* Excited for the Cove Church development
* Ordinance passed recently – can’t paint natural brick without permission from the city

**Board of Education Update – Mike Callahan**

* Remote Learning 2.0
* E-learning platform created
* Recognized the great work of Superintendent Barnes and the IT Director
* Starting Oct.19th, returning to partial or full in-person attendance. Depends on the Covid-19 level for the County
* Parents need to indicate if they want their children to return to in-person learning
* Superintendent Barnes is resuming is listen to the community events

**City Leader Update – Karolyn Isenhart**

* GOTV Cleveland Caravan this Saturday 9/26 - 11-2 - 4 starting points ending in a single car rally - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gotv-cleveland-caravan-tickets-122505957617>
* https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/298059/Virtual Phonebanks for Biden-Harris
* Lakewood will have their own phone banks starting in October
* Have a couple of precincts that still need lit dropping. Let Karolyn know if can do
* Have postcards to do. Let Karolyn know if you can write postcards
* Dale Miller donated 750 stamps. Dan O’Malley, Tess Neff, Tom Bullock and Nickie Antonio have donated stamps

**Political Activisim Chair Update – Jay Ketchaver**

* Vote Forward – write letters to Democratic leaning voters
* Virtual letter writing parties every Tuesday
* Letters go in the mails on Oct. 17th
* Lakewood Dems is donating to the cost of stamps
* Vote Forward site: https://votefwd.orgVirtual letter parties hosted by yours truly: <https://www.mobilize.us/opalmissionvote/event/291478/>

**Book Club Leader – Andree Boyer**

* Next meeting is Oct.13th
* Continuing to ready “Democracy in One Book or Less” by David Litt
* Watching the documentary “The Great Hack” on Netflix about the Facebook-Cambridge Analytics data scandal
* In November, will be reading “Pelosi” by Ann Molly

**For the Good of the Order**

* Dale Miller informed House Bill 242 which puts a moratorium on any local plastic bag legislation

Motion to Adjourn at 8:58 p.m. by Chuck Shaughnessy and seconded by Andree Ross