

HARWINTON

Democratic Town Committee

2019 Review

December

2019

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EVENTS

The Harwinton Democrats advocate for an inclusive and transparent town government that values fiscal sustainability, positive change, and collaborative leadership. We are committed to strong educational opportunities, smart business growth, and preservation of open space. We champion our democratic ideals of community, compassion, and the common good.

Peter's Message

As we come to the close of 2019, I've looked back and feel that there is much many of our volunteers and members of the Democratic Town Committee (DTC) have accomplished. From some of our absolutely amazing fundraisers, organized by Diane Honig, to the many community outreach programs such as the vegetable garden for Harwinton Star, a girls' home here in town, as well as various food pantry drives, organized by Sunny Torres, Franci Knight and Merrill French, to the starting of this newsletter thanks to Rosemary Simko and Giovanna Adams.

Many of our members volunteer their time and energy behind the scenes and well beyond our DTC. I couldn't be prouder to work with this group of people. While we did not have the hoped for outcome on election night, this has just been the beginning. With the Democratic outreach efforts taking place behind the scenes, to Paul Honig crisscrossing the town knocking on every door he could find, we are working on the hardest part of any ongoing campaign: getting more people involved and more people running for office.

There is still so much to do though, and I know that our organization is well on its way to succeeding in future elections. What we need most though is for people to go to town meetings, put themselves out there and serve on boards and commissions, door knock for local candidates and be ever present in our town government. This is the only way we will be able to get our candidates elected in the future and hold our local government accountable.

I would be remiss not to mention Rick Fowler who has been an active and instrumental member of both our DTC and the former lone Democrat on the Board of Selectman. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Rick and everyone who serves on any Board and Commission in our Town. It is not an easy job, but you all do it with heart and integrity.

Peter Brazaitis
HDTC Chair

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Meetings & Gatherings

09

HDTTC Meeting
Harwinton Library
6:30 p.m.

13

Region 10 Board of Ed Meeting
The Learning Center
7:00 p.m.

Quotes:

Freedom is not a state; it is an act. It is not some enchanted garden perched high on a distant plateau where we can finally sit down and rest. Freedom is the continuous action we must all take, and each generation must do its part to create an even more fair, more just society.

~Congressman John Lewis

Presidential Democratic Debate

2019 FUNdraisers Recap

We had a fabulous lineup of fundraising events in 2019 that were fun, delicious, crafty and hilarious! In March we enjoyed Trivia & Tacos Night. Thanks to Chon from Dos Amigos for the delish taco buffet. In April, certainly a highlight was the Lebanese Feast and Cooking Demonstration by Chef George Noujaim at his restaurant Noujaim's in Winsted. Chef George, we can't thank you enough.

We got crafty in May at The Brush & Pallet in Harwinton, creating a custom stenciled wood sign while we sipped wine from The Liquor Lad next door. Thanks again to Carolyn from the B&P and Chris from LL.

The hilarious cap to our fundraising season was a performance by The Capitol Steps at the Warner Theater. We all laughed our stomachs sore, which is good because the evening began with a dessert buffet in the Warner Atrium.

The funds go toward supporting local Democratic Candidate's campaigns and other community projects. I thank everyone who has attended our events over the years. Keep an eye out for our 2020 FUNdraisers; it's going to be a FUN year.
~Diane Honig

Community Projects Recap

The Harwinton DTC made two deliveries to the Food Pantry this year, one in April and the other in early September. The Election Day food drive replaced the planned November delivery. Thank you Sunny Torres and Bruce Baldwin, Franci Knight, Celeste Echlin, and honorary canine helper, Venus Knight for helping with deliveries.

While local Democrats are a small group, we make a mighty impact. The September delivery was the largest the pantry had received up to that point. Happily, on election day voters from all three parties surpassed our considerable contribution. Next year the DTC will have three deliveries planned with the first being held in March.

The Harwinton Star (girls' shelter) garden enjoyed its second year with the hard work from Sunny and Bruce Baldwin, Deb Friedus, Bjorn, Melissa and Scott Broderick. Toiling in a garden is not easy work, especially when you are not harvesting vegetables as your reward. Job well done from the fencing to the marigolds and dill surrounding the garden as pest control.

Special thanks to Sunny Torres and her volunteers. Considerable time and sweat equity go into these projects, and we appreciate their efforts on behalf of our group. ~Rosemary Simko

More Meetings and News



CT Dems Fundraiser

George Jepsen's Home

995 Prospect Ave, West Hartford

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

DTC Summit v2

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wesleyan University

45 Wyllys Ave, Middletown

January

14th

2020

December is a tough month for a myriad of reasons.

For me, mixed in with holiday joy this year is the tension of the impeachment process and the struggle against misinformation. Despite warnings from Fiona Hill about promoting "false narratives" about election meddling, it continues. Tuning it out is not a viable solution.

So while the news beats the drum of our constitutional crisis, I have to remind myself there are sundry bright spots of the season. Wonder and joy come at the most unexpected moments---the mesmerizing float of snowflakes, the coolest holiday card I've seen---a menorah mirroring the NYC subway map, a child's delight to be a sticky mess while decorating a gingerbread house, the crack of the whip in Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride."

The beauty of nature, a designer's creativity, my great nieces and nephews, and classic holiday music are enough to take me away if only for a moment from the ugliness of our political scene. Sometimes the familiar and the unanticipated are just what we need. Here's hoping you all find peace and joyfulness in unexpected places this December.

~Rosemary Simko

Have you got an interesting story, information or an event to share which we can include in the next newsletter? Email: harwintondems@gmail.com