

Ravinder S. Bhalla
Chairman

Ilise Benun
Vice President

Phil Cohen
1st Vice President

LaTrenda Ross
2nd Vice President



Keith Furman
Recording Secretary

Rami Pinchevsky
Corresponding Secretary

Gary Holtzman
Treasurer

Peter Biancamano
Sergeant-at-Arms

September 14, 2010

Dear Honorable Committee Member:

I hope you have enjoyed your summer with family and friends. With the start of fall and the November elections right around the corner, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on our activities as a party and ask for your involvement in future initiatives and events.

Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee had its first meeting in late June, where we had a discussion of our goals for this coming year, the formation of committees, the November elections, and related items. I am attaching our Meeting Minutes for your review.

November Election: Congressman Albio Sires and Undersheriff Frank Schillari

Our next meeting of the Committee as a whole will be in October – look out for more details shortly. The two main Democratic candidates on the November election ballot in Hudson County, Congressman Albio Sires and Undersheriff Frank Schillari, will be invited to attend the meeting. I have already spoken to both Congressman Sires and Undersheriff Schillari, and they have indicated a strong interest with meeting with the Committee Members in Hoboken to discuss ways we can get out the vote and support their candidacies in the November election.

Save the Date – October 14th HCDO Annual Event with Senator Menendez

The Hudson County Democratic Committee will be holding its annual fundraiser on October 14th at Henry on the Hudson – Harborside Financial Center – Plaza II, from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Ticket price levels are \$1,000 (VIP) and \$125. The Featured Guest will be United States Senator Robert Menendez. The Congressional Honorees attending this event are Congressman Steve Rothman, Congressman Donald Payne and Congressman Albio Sires.

If you are interested in attending this event, please let me know as soon as possible.

Hoboken Democratic Party

Standing Committees We have established the following standing committees:

Voter Registration: The purpose of this committee is to increase the number of registered Democrats in Hoboken and educate residents about the importance of registering as a Democrat in Hudson County. Committeepersons Ines Garcia-Keim and Gretchen Brigden have graciously agreed to co-chair this committee, and Joseph Branco has agreed to serve as a member of the Committee. If anyone else is interested in serving on this committee, please let me know.

Communications Committee: The purpose of this committee is to enhance existing communications technologies and strategies. We currently have a website (www.hobokendemocraticparty.com) which can be used as a vehicle to provide information and hear about concerns from residents, among many other possible communication tools. One of the goals of this committee is to optimize the use of this website for communication purposes.

The current members of this committee are Jason Maurer and Keith Furman. If anyone else is interested in serving on this committee, please let me know.

Political Education Committee: The purpose of this committee is to provide a platform for residents to interact with local, county, state and federal officials on matters of public interest. One interesting idea that came out of our Executive Committee meeting was for the Hoboken Democratic Party to sponsor quarterly public forums, where we invite our elected officials – from U.S. Senator, Congressman, State Senator, State Assemblyman, Freeholder, and Mayor – to come together and meet with residents in Hoboken. This would provide a great forum for elected officials and the public to engage in an interactive dialogue about matters of concern in Hoboken.

This is a committee in formation. If anyone else is interested in serving on this committee, please let me know.

Other committees

We can always create additional committees based on the needs and interests of the party. Please let me know if you want to propose the formation of a new committee.

State Funding for Family Planning

Ann Graham, a Vice-Chair of the county party, alerted me to an issue regarding state funding for family planning. Specifically, Governor Christie has eliminated \$7.5 million in his budget for family planning and women's health clinics throughout the State. In June, the State Senate passed a bill restoring the funds which Governor Christie then vetoed. Senator Loretta Weinberg and Assemblywoman Linda Stender have launched a campaign to override the veto - the Senate will vote on September 20th and the Assembly after that - assuming the Senate overrides.

This is an issue that has a major impact on women's health across the State of New Jersey. Women's health clinics provided 136,000 uninsured people with health screenings and

Hoboken Democratic Party

birth control last year, including 70,000 breast exams and more than 60,000 gynecological pap tests. With increasing unemployment and decreasing access to health care when no health insurance is available, more and more uninsured women rely on these clinics.

I have contacted the offices of our State Senator, Brian P. Stack, and State Assemblyman, Ruben Ramos, regarding this issue. Fortunately, both Senator Stack and Assemblyman Ramos have indicated their support for state funding for family planning. I would urge all of you to contact other state representatives in Hudson County and New Jersey to ask for their support for this important issue.

Website and Future Communications

As neighborhood leaders, it is important for your constituents to have direct and easy access to you, in order bring matters of importance in your neighborhood to your attention. For this purpose, we would like to place on the Hoboken Democratic Party website (www.hobokendemocraticparty.com) the names, ward/district, contact phone number and contact email (if applicable) for each Committeeperson. If, for whatever reason, you do not want this information on the party's website, please let me know **no later than September 22nd**.

I would also like to know the most convenient way for you to receive information from me. This letter is being sent out either by email or hard mail, depending on my knowledge of your preferences. If you would prefer to receive future communications in a different format, please let me know.

I thank you for taking the time to review this correspondence. If I can be of assistance to you or the residents of your Ward and District in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me at 201-647-6090.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Ravi S. Bhalla
Ravi S. Bhalla
Chairman

Enclosure

Ravinder S. Bhalla
Chairman

Ilise Benun
Vice President

Phil Cohen
1st Vice President

LaTrenda Ross
2nd Vice President



Keith Furman
Recording Secretary

Rami Pinchevsky
Corresponding Secretary

Gary Holtzman
Treasurer

Peter Biancamano
Sergeant-at-Arms

6/28/10: Meeting of Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes by Keith Furman, Recording Secretary

In attendance at the meeting:

Ravi Bhalla, Chairman
Ilise Benun, Vice-Chair
Philip Cohen, 1st Vice-Chair
La-Trenda Ross, 2nd Vice-Chair
Keith Furman, Recording Secretary
Rami Pinchevsky, Corresponding Secretary
Gary Holtzman, Treasurer
Peter Biancamano, Sergeant-at-Arms

Meeting started at 7:09pm

The meeting began with a welcome statement and review of the agenda by Chairman Bhalla

Vice-Chair Cohen gave the Executive Committee an overview of history of the committee over the last few years.

Chairman Bhalla discussed goals for the year, which included:

- Voter registration drives and expanding number of registered Democrats in Hoboken. As of November, out of 36,140 registered votes in Hoboken, **15,369** are registered democrats. The goal was to increase registered democrats by at least 500 by November 2010.

- Outreach to candidates on Democratic line in November including Congressman Sires, and Undersheriff Schillari to offer support and coordinate with other municipal party organizations. Chairman Bhalla will reach out to both to schedule meeting with Executive Committee and Committee of the whole.
- Chairman Bhalla will be mailing all Committee members shortly.

The Executive Committee discussed upcoming redistricting and is looking into forming an ad-hoc committee to investigate the impact.

Updating and utilizing the current website was discussed.

Treasurer Holtzman gave an update on the Committee's finances. We have approximately \$3600 in the bank. The goal is to have some fundraisers in the upcoming year to help fund the committee's activities.

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be with Sheriff candidate Schillari.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm.