

Program Committee Meeting December 13, 2005

7:30 – 9:30 PM Minutes with agenda

with notes on roles for executive committee members for January Issues Forum

Present: Dana O'Day; Bev Marcus; Sara Jane Siegfriedt; Chad Lupkes; Gerry Pollet -- Scott White had arrived one hour early and had to leave; Pat Emerson phoned in. Notes by GP.

1. Intro's and review of agenda: notes will be taken and sent to Chad to post.
2. What Program Committee covers and how it relates to other committees:
 - a. discussion of relationship to Legislative Action and Platform/Resolutions, and discuss adopting a clear, agreed upon goal for how programs relate to advancing the Platform and supporting Legislative Action
 - b. Added: relationship to Community Outreach Committee

Discussion:

Goal of programs for past 3 years has been to expose electeds and others to our platform and seek to have them address platform as relates to their topic/job and hold accountable when there are differences. A different view of this would be to expand it to have input to actions coming from legislative committee and for input to Platform (similar to having program on Instant Runoff Voting, which was desired to provide input for platform and resolutions).

Suggested and agreed that the Outreach Committee get feedback from other groups about issues of concern which we would build some of our programs around. Get input, for example, from neighborhood councils. Discussed how relevant input from business community groups might be – not a consensus.

Discussed if the issues forum should be the basis of legislative action - see below
Transformed into discussion of future programs (see 4 below)

NEW IDEA to Present to Executive Committee: Every month legislative action or platform committee will propose 1 Action for the month to be published in the Demogram and Web Demogram; i.e., a monthly sample letter or email; phone call to generate one simple action from many of our members. We can use the website with the excellent tool created by Chad for easy email contacts.

3. January Issues Forum for January District Meeting: Adopt a workplan with goals:
 - a. Recap discussion from Exec Committee with goals – possibilities identified included – others may be added, or changed tonight:
 - i. Issues Forum should identify updates or changes to Platform: *Agreed goal.*
 - ii. identify potential priorities (maximum 2) for legislative action with what level and if resolutions by District are appropriate: agreed goal.
 - iii. identify program suggestions: from above.
 - iv. Use for identification of up to 3 topics for further issue forum to aid in Platform development and resolutions at an evening meeting between the Precinct Caucuses and the Legislative District Caucus. Idea is to allow for greater in-depth development and discussion. Agreed.
 - v. Recruit people to legislative action committee: Agreed new goal.

b. Identification of breakout groups and facilitators/recorders at Issue Forum:

We determined that 8 breakout groups should be held, which combine several of the areas of our Platform. Each area should have one or two facilitators from the Executive Committee or active committee members. Facilitators will: identify and record changes suggested for the Platform and encourage use of resolutions for those items that are of a more transient nature than the Platform; identify 2 potential priorities for legislative action; identify any program suggestions.

Prior to the Issues Forum on January 19, the facilitators or program committee will meet, if needed, on the Tuesday evening the 17th.

Every facilitator is requested / urged to contact one or more of the leading advocacy groups/ lobbyists for their issue area to ask what their legislative agenda is; what their priorities are for the coming year; and, ask if they will be organizing people to come to Democratic precinct caucuses with resolutions. (having the above on paper will be useful). The facilitator will encourage the issue forum breakout group to consider if we should have those proposals in our platform, make them one of our two legislative priorities for that issue (bear in mind that some groups will only have state legislative priorities while others will have federal – and each of our issue areas should only recommend a total of two priorities for the legislative action committee).

Facilitators will encourage volunteers to shepherd issues through the legislative action and outreach committees – we are looking for liaisons.

Facilitators are responsible for notes – we will not be attempting to do report backs with chart paper (as we did last year) – just a quick report back on top two priorities and any suggested major platform changes.

The Executive Committee will have copies of each platform area reproduced for the breakout groups (not the entire platform).

The 8 issue areas and facilitators identified to date are:

SaraJane Siegfriedt	Human Services
Bev Marcus	Election Reform
Dana O’Day &	Civil & Human Rights; Law and Justice
Janet Miller	Education
	Foreign Policy
	Labor & Economic Justice
Chad Lupkes & Gerry Pollet	Environment, Energy & Transportation
	Health

We ask that Executive Committee Members sign up for the remaining slots – and try to have two for each of the likely larger groups. Scott and Gerry will probably need to be the ‘floaters’ keeping people on time, answering questions, welcoming latecomers...

Based on the Issues Forum and the number and types of resolutions / Platform suggestions from the Precinct Caucuses, we will determine what are the 3 issue topics for the meeting before the Legislative District Caucus.

4. Future Program Ideas: brainstorm, prioritize and volunteers to work together on developing specific programs:
 - a. June Candidate Forum including Judicial Races and a program regarding why Democratic Party and allied groups are not united for action around judicial races the way the Rs and conservatives/business lobby is. Focus on Supreme Court – suggestions inc Sen Judiciary Chair Adam Kline and Gerhard Letzing of Trial Lawyers.
 - b. 2006 Coordinated Campaign Plan and Senate Race Plan and how we will plug in.
 - c. Scott Noble and tax loopholes, reforms needed: (all agreed with this suggestion phoned in by Pat Emerson.).
 - d. Property Rights and other initiatives --- since the meeting, plans have come together for an alternative energy initiative.
 - e. 10 Year Plan to end homelessness – suggested for same program as Tom Rasmussen.

Discussion: what is policy on allowing identified Democrats who are candidates to speak to the District? Noted that candidates are not the same as program – they are offered 4 to 5 minutes. Some felt we should offer more, but tell them it may be cut. Others felt 5 minutes is ample. Must be eligible – declared Democrat, etc...

We discussed the need for clear records and transparency. These minutes will be posted on the 46th Website. This will help anyone interested in an issue forum area contact the right facilitator from executive committee in advance.