

46TH LD DEMOCRATS EXECUTIVE BOARD
MINUTES November 1, 2005
Olympic View Church 7:30-9:45PM

Present: Jan Ames (chairing), Chad Lupkes, Sylvia Haven, Jim Mullins, Gail Chiarello, Pat Emerson, Betty Means, John Webber, Sarajane Siegfriedt, Dean Fournier, Justin Simmons (8:04PM), Dana O'Day Senior (8:15PM), Scott White (8:40PM). Absent: Janet Miller, Gerry Pollet, Stan Sorscher, Bev Marcus, Mark Saporito.

DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jan Ames was standing in for Scott White who had a conflict. Jan reported Democrats have a few things to feel good about--Bush is enjoying a 55% disapproval rating; Harry Reid stood up to Bill Frist in the Senate.

STATE PARTY REPORT (John Webber). John said he had no report. The WSDCC will meet at Ocean Shores Nov. 11-12. Sarajane asked if there was any information available on how the DNC is changing the primary system; she's heard some states may be added to the early states.

Nov. 15th DNC HOUSE PARTIES. Betty Means sent out an announcement to E-Board members. Howard Dean will do a conference call at 6:30PM PST. Action item: Betty Means will ask Janet Miller to send an e-mail alert to the Area Coordinators. It will be up to the Area Coordinators to contact the PCOs in their area. One suggestion was that the Area Coordinator host the party and invite the PCOs and ask each PCO to bring one other person. More information is available at: http://www.democrats.org/a/party/a_50_state_strategy/national_organizing_kickoff/

KING COUNTY REPORT (Sarajane Siegfriedt). Sarajane passed out her report which is attached. She noted KCDCC is short \$2,400 representing 2 months of unpaid stipend for Chair Suzie Sheary. The KCDCC is asking the legislative districts for an additional 2005 contribution to cover the shortfall. Discussion of this was tabled until after the Treasurer's report.

KING COUNTY RESOLUTION OPPOSING 2006 STATE CAUCUSES ON SATURDAYS. It was moved and seconded that the 46th LD Democrats Executive Committee respond to the KCDCC resolution by stating that all days of the week should be considered for a caucus date, and the day selected for which the most democrats would attend. Discussion: For the motion: Saturdays are generally easier for most people; driving in the daylight is easier than driving at night. The 2006 caucus dates will apply statewide, not just to King County, and in the eastern parts of the state people sometimes drive 20-30 miles to attend a caucus--nights are very difficult. Although there was huge turn-out at the 2004 caucuses driven by anger at George W. Bush, the anger at Bush may be even greater now. There could be a very large turn-out for the 2006 caucuses. Against the motion: Many Jews are offended at holding meetings on their Sabbath; this important constituency of the Democratic Party should not be disrespected. Motion passed, and a copy should be sent to KCDCC and to the State Party.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Gail Chiarello). The report is attached. The District is projected to end the year with a positive balance of \$3,182. This number represents funds on hand less the necessary and known expenses (shown as encumbrances on the report) of school rental, Demogram costs, and 2005 contributions to the IDF and the Young Democrats.

Discussion: It is the practice of the 46th to "reserve" a \$2,000-minimum carryforward going into the next calendar year; this would leave \$1,182 available for discretionary spending. Of this, some amount will be needed for the Holiday Party expenditures. Betty Means questioned why revenues

(November-December dues) were not also “encumbered.” Gail responded this was a very conservative approach; she didn’t know how much money would come in, in November-December, and wanted to be sure the District had enough money to cover necessary expenses. Betty asked for information about 2004 revenues in November-December; Gail said she would check on this. [NOTE: Membership dues for November and December 2004 were \$1,612 and \$752, respectively.]

King County request: It was moved and seconded that we communicate to KCDCC that we are interested in their request, but we want to see their plan to get back on sound financial footing and their Action Plan for raising funds, before we commit additional 2005 funds. Discussion: Does the 46th LD owe “dues” to KCDCC? The KCDCC calls our contribution “dues,” but in fact our contribution is voluntary. The 46th makes a larger contribution than any other LD. The role of the KCDCC Chair in fundraising was discussed. Many had the impression that under Greg Rodriguez, David McDonald, Karen Marchioro, and other past chairs, KCDCC was in solid financial shape. The motion passed unanimously. [NOTE: Betty Means provides new insights into KCDCC’s financial status; notes on her Nov. 2nd conversation with Suzie Sheary are appended to the Minutes.]

ARRIVAL AND INTRODUCTION OF DANA O’DAY SENIOR. New member Dana had arrived at the Church at 7:30PM but had been unable to find the meeting. She had had to drive home to review her directions! Jan Ames asked Dana to say a bit about herself. Dana had been the York County representative to the Maine State Democratic Committee and worked in the Gore 2000 campaign. In 2004 she was first a Kucinich delegate; then a Kerry delegate. She is a PCO and Area Coordinator and is applying to law school. Dana was welcomed to applause from all present. (Dana’s e-mail is: paleogymnast@hotmail.com and her cell phone number is 206-380-9459.)

Scott White arrives and takes over chairing the meeting.

HOLIDAY PARTY DISCUSSION. It was moved and seconded that the first choice was to hold the party at the Ramada Inn on Sunday afternoon Dec. 11th from mid-afternoon to early evening and the second choice was the Ramada Inn Thursday evening Dec. 8th. Discussion: Options are to hold the party in someone’s home, at the Meadowbrook Community Center, or at the Ramada Inn. The Ramada Inn option should cost \$1,000 or less; contributions from those attending should cover this expense. Gail will send the E-Board information on last year’s costs and income. The Ramada Inn will provide some hors d’oeuvres and a bartender; attendees will bring additional food and wine/beer to share. The group has grown too large to be accommodated in someone’s home; and holding it at Meadowbrook will mean much more work for the E-Board in terms of setting up and decorating. The motion passed. [NOTE: Last year’s Holiday Party at the Ramada Inn cost \$1,194. Revenues equaled \$1,559 (auction items) and \$328 (donations at the door). Net revenue from the Holiday Party was \$693.]

Scott assigned the E-Board to come up with Silent Auction items. Examples would be a restaurant gift certificate, personal services, a boat trip, loan of Sylvia’s kayak, help with computers, a “streetlight serenade” by Justin Simmons, etc. E-Board members are to e-mail Scott a description of their item, contact name, and value of the item.

PROGRAM: The November 17th program will be a “Legislative Preview” with electeds Ken Jacobsen, Phyllis Kenney, and Jim McIntire. January program may include a panel on the fish farming legislation.

TECHNOLOGY and DEMOGRAM UPDATE (Chad Lupkes). The 46th LD website continues to be updated. Chad has heard from the State Party that they go to www.46dems.com for their information since the site is so good. The Demogram deadline is Wednesday Nov. 2nd. This will be a combined November-December "Holiday" issue.

Discussion: Betty Means reported Phyllis Kenney has asked for the District's e-mail list for her own newsletter. It was agreed that there will be an announcement in the Demogram indicating how 46th LD members can get on the mailing lists for the newsletter of all our representatives, but that we would honor our policy of not giving out our e-mail list.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT (Betty Means). The membership report is the same as that given at the October 20th meeting, n=581. Betty would like to send a "re-up" letter out to members in November-December. Scott commented that members will already be getting the Holiday Demogram and the postcard invitation to the Holiday Party; he thought the first of the year might be better. He and Betty will discuss.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/GOOD OF THE ORDER

Afghani Saroukh (Pat Emerson). This has been postponed because of the earthquake in Pakistan, Afghanistan and India. Chad Lupkes announced that the PDCW46 would be holding a fundraiser on behalf of these earthquake victims.

Senate Bill 5787 Fish Farming (Sylvia Haven). Three Democratic State Senators, including Sen. Ken Jacobsen, and two Republican Senators, have introduced an aquaculture bill which would enable commercial fish farms to bypass the entire environmental regulatory process. It appears this legislation violates several principles of the District, the State, and the national Democratic platforms. Several members of the 46th have written Ken Jacobsen seeking clarification on his position and have also written John Webber and Janet Miller, asking them to support a resolution from the 40th LD which will come forward at the WSDCC Ocean Shores meeting, opposing this bill. This is not environmentally-friendly nor labor-friendly legislation. It is linked to the National Off-shore Aquaculture Act being introduced in the US Senate by Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska. Fish farms could be attached to off-shore oil rigs, and, because the legislation exempts these farms from environmental reviews, the oil rigs and oil tankers entering Puget Sound could also be exempted.

Other Announcements: Justin announced the 11th Annual "Bridging the Gap" breakfast sponsored by UW's Multicultural Alumni Alliance, Nov. 5th 8-10AM HUB Ballroom. Pat wanted her objection to the use of the Rainier Club as the venue for the WSDCC Holiday Party entered into the record; it has a history of sexual discrimination. Sylvia announced that the children of her Intergenerational Choir would be signing peace songs on the Al Franken show. Dean announced he and his wife are going to South Africa for the next 3 weeks on an Elderhostel tour. Pat Emerson commented she was giving up viewing "Commander-in-Chief" in order to be present at this E-Board meeting. Chad asked if Scott had contacted any other LD Chairs re their policy on advertising; Scott said he would look into this.

DATE OF NEXT E-BOARD MEETING: Tuesday Dec. 6, 2005. Central item to discuss will be the 2006 caucuses.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Chiarello
Secretary Pro Tem

ADDENDUM: Nov. 2nd phone conversation/e-mails between Betty Means and Suzie Sheary re KCDCC's financial status. Betty wrote to the E-Board:

"I spoke with Suzie Sheary, KCDCC Chair, this morning and, in the interest of historical accuracy, would like to suggest a change in the minutes of our Nov. 1 minutes. Currently, a sentence in the minutes reads: "The role of the KCDCC Chair in fundraising--under Greg Rodriguez, David McDonald, Karen Marchioro, and other past chairs, KCDCC was 'really rolling in money.'" It would be accurate for the sentence to read: "Under former KCDCC chairs such as Karen Marchioro, Alice Woldt, and David McDonald, the county organization was not only very successful at fundraising but also these chairs ended their terms of office with positive bank balances.

Suzie confirmed that during this first year of her chairmanship, she has had to pay approximately \$20,000 in carry-over bills left by her predecessor. According to Sharon Mast, who conducted the audit, those bills were for: printing (\$6,500), website management (\$1,400), copier lease (\$4,500), and additional money to cover back payments to the Labor Temple, the phone company, and the insurance company for liability insurance. Suzie noted that KCDCC financial records are "open," and she would be happy to attend an E-Board meeting or take phone calls to answer any questions we might have about county finances."

Suzie then wrote to the 46th E-Board:

"In the interest of fairness, Greg, Gurine Nordby, Linnea Peterson, and I set up a telephone tree and put out a letter asking for help in October-November-December 2004 to do the fundraising to retire KCDCC debt. We raised \$16,000. In early 2005, we continued to get calls and inquiries about additional bills. Both Greg and I have made substantial in-kind contributions to the County in our attempts to stay in the black. We have both given our all to keep the organization up and running. The main office runs out of my home with a satellite office in the Renton Carpenters Office. I would be happy to attend an executive board meeting and let you see the records, both in MS MONEY and PDC formats."