

46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats Executive Board meeting minutes  
Olympic View Church, Seattle WA  
June 6, 2006

Attending: Scott White, Jan Ames, Pat Emerson, Bev Marcus, Betty Means, Janet Miller, David Garcia, Justin Simmons, Gerry Pollet, John Webber, Chad Lupkes, Sarajane Siegfriedt, Sylvia Haven, Barbara Whitt, Stan Sorscher, Dana O'Day Senior

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM.

Good of the Order: Referendum 65 failed to get enough signatures to qualify for the ballot.

Justin Simmons' 21<sup>st</sup> birthday is today (;-) and he was presented a birthday card.

## **Reports**

### Chair's Report:

David Garcia introduced himself to the group. David attended the Hispanic Caucus at the Convention, last week. He enjoys his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Barbara Whitt, is a PCO and supported Howard Dean. She is active in her precinct. Barbara has developed a local network of block captains within her neighborhood.

Scott White reminded everyone that Jim Mullins' spot on the Board is now vacant. Scott noted that Jim was very active and made many contributions to the District organization.

State Party Report: John Webber sent 6 emails reporting on the State Convention. A section on Health and Human Services was included in the platform, largely due to influence from the 46<sup>th</sup> District. The platform was passed, but the process was overwhelmed with material in too short a time. Janet thought many votes against the platform were prompted by administrative and process complaints, rather than content or substance.

Sarajane Siegfriedt compared the Republican platform to ours and thought the two had very little in common. Gerry Pollet said the Republican convention also adjourned without considering their resolutions. Gerry doesn't recall a Democratic convention that got through all their resolutions. We had 190 resolutions (and got to about 10 of them), although the Republicans only had about 20 resolutions.

The Young Democrats wanted to have voting delegates, but that vote failed to achieve a high threshold of "yea" votes, as a proportion of eligible voters, not votes cast.

John thought Maria Cantwell had strong support, although all three Senatorial candidates got broad support.

Betty Means said another purpose of the convention is to build unity and strategize about winning elections.

King County Party Report: The Platform was reviewed for the State Convention. County organizations tend to focus on other aspects of campaigns. A full-time fundraiser was brought in to help the County organization.

Treasurer's Report: Gail Chiarello is out of town, but a report was sent out earlier in email. Our cash position is good for this time of year. Expenses are paid up, although the Demogram goes out tonight, and those costs have not hit the books, yet. Later in the campaign season, after endorsements are made, we can consider making donations to candidates. Sarajane mentioned the Darcy Burner campaign as a potential recipient. Janet Miller likes the idea of contributing to the House and Senate Campaign Committees. We could also focus a little more on raising funds for campaigns.

The Audit Committee found excellent documentation and had a mostly favorable report, with a few minor suggestions. The full report will be in the Demogram.

Membership Report: Betty Means reported our membership level is just short of the same point last year. Reminder letters went out about two weeks ago. Janet noted that to be eligible to vote on August 3, one would need to be a member for 21 days prior to that (July 13). The membership Committee will take the lead in planning the November Holiday party.

Community Outreach Report: No report.

Program Committee Report: David Della and Richard Conlin will finally get to speak at a General Meeting, this month. Jim McIntire, and Hugh Spitzer, a local attorney, will be on a panel to discuss a tax reform package.

Demogram: The material is printed and ready for labels.

Action Committees: Betty/Janet are co-chairs of the Resource committee. Already, 54 PCO declarations are in hand. Janet is analyzing precincts to see where we are covered and not. PCO's must file and run every two years.

Sarajane would like us to walk our precincts, clean up our lists, and register any unregistered voters.

Dana O'Day-Senior would like to see the other co-chair come on board. Without Referendum 65, the campaign's attention is shifting, somewhat.

**Discussion Items:**

Summer Barbeque. Last year, we piggy-backed on the King County Democratic Party picnic. That worked well, and Suzie Sherry is happy to do that again. This would be Saturday, July 29 at Lower Woodland Park.

Membership Dues. Betty prepared a comparison table showing dues structures for the 46<sup>th</sup> District and other comparable districts. Our district runs on the low end in most categories. Dues have been static for at least ten years. The Board agreed to recommend an increase in the "Limited Income" dues from \$3 to \$5. For Individuals, the Board agreed to recommend moving the individual dues from \$15 to \$25, and the Family rate from \$25 to \$35. These categories would be noted as "member" categories.

**Motion** by Sarajane, seconded by Bev, to add a category "Sponsor" to designate non-resident donations, which would not serve as dues for the purposes of voting. That way, Janet can track the funds separately. **Motion passed**, without opposition, with John Webber abstaining.

The new dues structure will be printed in the August Demogram, to take effect for the 2007 dues year.

**Motion** by John Webber seconded by Bev Marcus to add one additional non-member level of sponsorship, "Benefactor at \$500." **Motion passed**.

**Other Business/Good of the Order:**

Paul Berendt has opened up an advocacy and lobbying business in Olympia.

Someone in Nevada has taken the web address, [www.46dems.org](http://www.46dems.org).

Janet liked the idea used at the State Convention to require 100 voting delegates to "second" certain items of business. The interesting thing is that an item of business would not be considered unless a significant part of the body wanted to take it up.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM

Minutes by Stan Sorscher