

46th District Democrats Executive Board meeting minutes
Olympic View Church, Seattle WA
May 1, 2007

Attending: Scott White, Betty Means, John Webber, Janet Miller, Jan Ames, Chad Lupkes, Bernadette Laqueur, Stan Sorscher, Barbara Whitt, Justin Simmons, Javier Valdez, Dean Fournier, Sylvia Haven, Gerry Pollet, Sarajane Siegfriedt

Absent: Pat Emerson, Donna Boysen.

Scott White called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

Chair's Report: The 46th District will prepare a banner incorporating design features from innumerable comments and suggestions. Suzie Sheary sent us a thank you note for the financial support we've given the King County Democrats.

State Party Report: Janet Miller described how King County Democrats pulled together an impressive proposal, and presentation for the state convention under a tight schedule. Nevertheless, Spokane will be the host in June 2008. Janet described a video prepared by the Spokane delegates that was very persuasive (including a binding promise of ample amounts of beer).

Janet explained the debate between caucus and primary formats. Dwight Pelz allowed a complete floor discussion on this subject at the State Party meeting. In the end, the vote went 119-42 in favor of caucus. John is on the WSD Rules Committee. The Committee proposed the 2008 Delegate Selection Plan (a set of rules) to the entire WSDCC. He reported that the proposal for the primary was debated extensively in the Rules Committee but was not included in the Committee proposal by a vote of 10-17. John Webber thought a key argument in favor of caucus was that it is better for organizing and party-building. The WSDCC adopted the proposed Delegate Plan by a large margin. The 2008 Affirmative Action Plan was also adopted.

John talked about how I-872 was working its way through the courts. John expects the Republicans to turn down the primary, too, although they may elect some delegates in the primary. DNC rules require delegates to be chosen either by caucus or primary, but not by a combination.

Javier Valdez said the FEC auditors have completed their work on their audit of the 2004 coordinated campaign. Dwight Pelz expects the FEC to issue their findings in about 9 months. The State Party Executive Board approved the State Party's personnel policies at their January meeting, which document vacation, sick leave, duties and other rules regarding staff employees. At their April meeting, some minor revisions were made, including clarifying that staff could hold leadership positions in County or LD organizations, and be Precinct Committee Officers.

John distributed the impeachment resolution passed by the State Party.

Janet and John represented us at the Quarterly WSDCC meeting in Bellingham, over the weekend of April 27-28.

King County Report: Chad Lupkes brought a copy of endorsement procedures. A new transit package will be brought up for a vote. The summer picnic will be July 28, in Lower Woodland Park starting at 3 PM. The picnic is partly a fund-raiser, with a suggested donation. Chad explained some details about the decision to hold the State Party convention in Spokane. Gerry Pollet and Chad discussed the merits of Bellevue, Seattle, and Spokane as potential sites. Chad asked Dean Fournier to review the King County bylaws when they come out.

Treasurer's Report: Jan Ames passed out the Treasurer's report. Donna Boysen asked Jan to bring several items to the Board's attention. The items are footnoted in the budget handout. Scott went back over the

history of the 46th District's donation to Maria Cantwell's campaign.

Betty Means asked about the budgeted line item for campaign contributions. Scott wants to hear the Finance Committee's recommendation before we make a decision about that item. That should happen at next month's Executive board meeting.

Justin Simmons asked about having a union printer print the Demogram. Scott and Jan believe our credit with Kinko's has been consumed, and Scott said we would make the switch, soon.

Membership Report: Betty said we now have 405 members. Dues money is still coming in. The 46 hundred club is at 38, and we have 51 at the \$46 level. This is ahead of the levels from the last election cycle. Javier prefers a mailing to "A" and "B" voters in January 2008, because that timing would be good for publicizing the precinct caucuses.

Janet has been invited to test the new voter file system.

Program Report: Gerry Pollet passed out a draft agenda for the Candidate's Forum on May 17, 2007. The agenda showed offices and candidates totaling 147 minutes of nominal speaking time. The agenda includes a 30-minute dessert potluck fundraiser prior to the formal meeting. The candidates will also be invited to bring food. No other business will be on the agenda, except a Treasurer's report is required.

Gerry posed several procedural questions:

Earlier start time? People drift away if the meeting runs long. The Board voted by show of hands to start the meeting at 6:30.

Do we allow surrogates? After extended discussion on this point, pro and con, the Board voted by show of hands not to allow surrogates.

If a candidate is not eligible for endorsement, is he or she welcome? To be eligible, candidates must fill out our questionnaire, and must not be members of another party in the past year. By a show of hands the Board voted to invite all candidates, whether ineligible or not.

Gerry said one of the questions in the forum will refer to the candidate's party affiliation. Gerry asked for volunteers to help prepare the questions for School board, City Council and Port, and Gerry also wants volunteers for the three offices and for publicity. Justin, Janet, Gerry, Jan, Scott, Barbara, Chad, Sarajane, Stan, Bernadette volunteered for the 4 subcommittees.

To be clear, the general consensus of the group was that, when we hear candidates for partisan offices, we would not invite candidates who are not eligible for endorsement.

Preference of the order in which the offices will be presented - School Board first, port will go second, and City Council third.

Justin asked how many candidates have expressed interest in coming? Scott has had inquiries from campaign staffs already.

Committee Reports: Bypassed in the interest of the late hour. Scott reminded everyone of the goals we agreed to in the offsite.

Demogram update: Scott has identified a union-shop printer. Chad asked if the printer will fold, apply the labels and handle the mailing, too? Scott will investigate. We will keep our Kinko's account for other jobs that come up from time to time.

Good of the Order:

Survey: Betty received a few surveys in the mail. She will prepare a report of the responses. We should get

more after the Demogram goes out.

Poll workers: Sylvia is still looking for volunteers to help with the polls. She has asked civics classes to find students who are 16 years old or older to serve as poll workers. Chad suggested an announcement on 1090 AM.

Pea patch: Sylvia recommends everyone look at the pea patch at NE 130th and 5th Ave NE.

Hanford Cleanup: Hearing and celebration meeting starting at 5:30 at the Mountaineers, Monday June 4.

Ballot issues: Scott expects ballot issues - parks levy, RTID, transit - in the primary and the fall general elections, so we may need a forum for those issues, too.

An appreciation dinner was held for Karen Marchioro the 3 night before the WSDCC meeting in Bellingham.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Minutes by Stan Sorscher