

46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats Executive Board meeting minutes  
Olympic View Church, Seattle WA  
July 3, 2007

Attending: Scott White, Betty Means, John Webber, Janet Miller, Bernadette Laqueur, Stan Sorscher, Dean Fournier, Chad Lupkes, Mike Thompson, Pat Emerson, Donna Boysen, Gerry Pollet, Sylvia Haven, Sarajane Siegfriedt, and Barbara Whitt

Absent: Justin Simmons, Jan Ames, Javier Valdez

Chair's report: Scott White thanked everyone for good preparation for the endorsement meeting, which went well by all accounts. Pat Emerson said the District Attorney part of the meeting was very good. John Webber observed that attendance was strong throughout the meeting - people were not leaving early.

Gerry Pollet wanted an understanding that the Executive Board rules should be respected at the meeting. Gerry said he would discuss this with Justin Simmons directly, but Gerry thought it was not appropriate for Justin to challenge the rules regarding the deadline for candidate questionnaires during the meeting. If we agreed to the rules as a Board, Gerry feels we should stick with the decision of the group.

State Party Report: John Webber sent out 7 emails about the State party meeting in Tri-Cities. John drew attention to his email on caucus planning. Dwight Pelz will be special guest speaker at the July meeting to discuss Dwight's "Challenge of the Chair." The Primary is scheduled for Feb 19, 2008. Chad Lupkes, Scott and others went to the Howard Dean fund-raiser. Barbara Whitt did a lot of work for the Progressive Caucus, setting up and provisioning a picnic dinner Friday evening in the park across from the host hotel.

Janet Miller mentioned Ed Cote's report of the DNC meeting. It is possible that Howard Dean would be replaced as national Party leader. The campaign machines may be looking for a change. Dean's 50-state strategy might conflict with conventional wisdom during the election, if the nominee's campaign strategy reverts to "battle-ground" tactics, pulling back from states that are not close. Janet discussed an issue over access for disabled voters. The next meeting will be September 28-29 in Wenatchee.

The Washington Democrats' delegate selection plan was conditionally approved by the national organization. Florida's primary is "too early" which could result in a challenge to all Florida delegates.

ML King County Report: Sarajane Siegfriedt passed out a sample ballot for the primary election to give the general idea of how the ballot will be laid out. Many candidates spoke at the King County meeting.

Brad Larssen entered the race late for King County District 6. He is getting all his paperwork in order for a write-in campaign. Chad was recognized for his work on the ML King County Dems web site. The picnic fundraiser will be Saturday July 28th, 3 to 6 p.m., and Sarajane encouraged everyone to go, and support the KCDCC. ML King County has 1041 PCOs.

Chad explained "the Diebold" thing. Dwight is urging ML King County to adopt a plan including lots of new Diebold counting machines. Suzie Sheary thinks the KCDCC should have a say in any plan for King County voting processes. Diebold counting machines are not certified.

Scott pointed out that counting machines are not voting machines. ML King County has used Diebold counting machines for many years. Diebold is basically the only bidder that can supply our counting machines. The Federal Elections Commission must certify machines. If machines flunk the certification, they would be returned to the supplier with no charge. The County cannot use machines that are not certified. The County must buy machines before they are certified. The 36<sup>th</sup> District Executive Board opposed to this plan.

Chad believes slower machines could work, but the results would just take a little longer to post.

Janet said our old Diebold machines were very repeatable in the Gregoire recounts. John said the hand-counts agreed with the Diebold counts.

Stan Sorscher asked, why the Democratic Party needs to endorse buying Diebold machines, if it looks like an inevitable conclusion? Scott said vote by mail is good government and will push up voter turnout. The County Council must approve the appropriation to buy new machines. The appropriation vote is a little murky, and the Democratic Party wants to be sure the vote-by-mail plan goes through, which requires new machines.

Scott said the Republican Party opposes vote-by-mail and wants everyone to re-register to vote. If the momentum toward vote-by-mail is disrupted, things could go badly at election time.

Janet distributed a resolution to support buying new electronic tabulating machines. **Motion** by John, and seconded to accept Janet's resolution. John proposed amending the action to make it clear the Council must buy and test the machines in time for the election. Janet accepted John's change. Chad asked to say "testing certification and use in time for the 2008 elections." **Motion passed** unanimously. The motion will go in the Demogram and brought up for a vote at the General Meeting. However, the motion will be communicated to the County Council, Suzie and Dwight immediately, because the Council will vote soon.

Treasurer's Report: Donna Boysen is back in the country. Donna passed around a financial report. The accounts are in good shape. The endorsement meeting brought in some money.

Scott said he polled at the General Meeting about skipping the August General Meeting. Literature would be available for PCO's to pick up July 28. Janet usually sends out emails and makes phone calls when the literature is available. **Motion** made and seconded to skip the August meeting. **Motion passed** by voice vote.

Membership Report: We have 454 voting members. Four years ago we had 303. The 4600 club is at 43 (21 in 2003) . Friends of 46<sup>th</sup> is at 55 (35 in 2003).

Program Report: Dwight will speak at our General Meeting on July 19 on "Challenge of the Chair," which is a program to register new voters and turn them all out to vote.

Discussion Items: Scott reminded everyone of our work plan from the retreat. Mike Thompson thanked Scott for his help keeping Mike pushing forward on the Community Outreach Committee. Scott expects to have caucus sites identified by Thanksgiving. Bernadette Laqueur will work on PCO recruitment with help from Margaret Shields.

John outlined Dwight's vision for the caucuses. Dwight wants the event to be well organized, planned, and staffed, to make a good impression on voters. Each precinct caucus would have at least two and maybe three trained volunteers, including the convener. This requires many more volunteers than we have needed in past cycles. Volunteers will recruit some caucus attendees into a voter registration team for the precinct. WSD had Democrat ID'd voter lists. The State Democrats' objective is 110,000 new Democratic voters for Gov. Gregoire.

Scott asked us to keep the work plans in mind as we go into the caucus planning.

Slim Jim's went to the printer. The printer had a business issue over the work order. Sarajane will take the order to a printer in Ballard. We approved \$300 for the work.

Demogram Update: The Demogram should be ready for folding in a week or so.

Blue Wave Clean-up: This event will be Saturday, July 28 - the same day as the ML King County Dems' picnic. Sarajane suggested cleaning up Woodland Park before or after the picnic.

Good of the Order:

Pat Emerson recommended registering voters at the hemp fest. Hundreds were registered last year at the hemp fest.

ML King County confirmed Sheril Huff as the new elections chief.

Dean Fournier printed the Platform Committee work plan. He passed copies around.

Stan reported on a lobbying trip to see Dave Reichert.

Sarajane gathered signatures for Washington Public Campaigns for clean elections

Chad described about a meet-and-greet for the presidential campaigns.

Scott reminded everyone of Bill Barbee's remark at the last General Meeting - that we should avoid negative remarks about Democratic candidates, and we should keep our sights set on defeating Republicans.

Sarajane said she saw Michael Moore's movie Sicko, which she thought was very powerful. She talked about the power of messaging.

David Domke will speak at the KC Legislative Action Committee meeting on Sunday July 15 at the Greenlake Library from 2 to 4 PM.

Barbara Whitt demonstrated an elegant and clever gizmo she made to hold up the banner.

Meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

Minutes by Stan Sorscher