

46th Democrats Executive Board Meeting
Olympic View Church
October 2, 2007

Attending: Scott White, Chad Lupkes, Javier Valdez, Jan Ames, Bernadette Laqueur, Mike Thompson, Sarajane Siegfriedt, Betty Means, Donna Boysen, Gerry Pollet, John Webber, Sylvia Haven, Barbara Whitt, Stan Sorscher, Justin Simmons

Absent: Pat Emerson, Janet Miller, Dean Fournier

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM

Scott White announced that Suzie Sheary will chair the next General Meeting at least so far as the election of a new chair.

Scott talked about the Maggie awards.

State Party Report. John Webber reported on the State Party meeting in Wenatchee. Sharon Mast was elected to fill Karen Marchioros' position. Sharon has been an officer in the 41st District, King County Dems, and has held other offices as well. Kathy Bailey from Mason County and, Di Irons and Lila Smith also ran for the position.

Our current DNC delegation includes David McDonald, Sharon Mast, Ed Cote, and Pat Notter

Peter Goldmark is running for Lands Commissioner, and he spoke at the State Party meeting. Betty Means said the caucus training was very good. Javier Valdez talked about fund-raising. Betty explained the timing of the DNC members' terms. Sharon Mast will finish the vacated term: now to end of August '08. The election for all four DNC members will be held at the January '08 WSDCC meeting. The new terms will run from the end of August '08 to the end of August '12.

King County Report. Sarajane Siegfriedt and Chad Lupkes referred to the previously submitted reports. Chad talked about the process used by the King County Democrats' to take positions on various ballot issues.

Treasurers' Report. Donna Boysen passed out copies of the general ledger. Payouts to candidates hit the books this month. "Pass the hat" is running ahead of budget. We will see extra printing costs, and charges for the caucus meeting rooms in the near future. Scott and Donna talked about the timing to get the new budget prepared reviewed and approved.

Donna reserved Olympic View elementary school for 2008 General Meetings.

Membership Report. Betty Means said this month is the end of the membership year. Betty estimates about 470 members - in sync with 2003 in the 4-year cycle but higher. The "prospect" mailing went out yesterday to about 4650 households with the help of several volunteers.

Precinct Caucus Work Program. Scott brought the caucus site locations from 2004. Those sites cover the district geographically, and they are good spaces for meetings. Scott asked for volunteers to reserve the spaces. For schools, you would contact the facilities, block out the dates, then reserve the space with the School District. Community Centers and churches have their own processes. Gerry Pollet suggested we plan for big turnout. We should err on the high side, since we don't want to turn anyone away or disappoint voters. The sites for 2004 were meant to accommodate about 3-4000 people total over the District, and as many as 7000 participated. Javier suggested we try to get about 30 sites. Javier mentioned a letter from the Governor that waives the rental fee for school space. We would still owe for custodian fees.

Scott passed around a sign-up sheet for reserving locations.

Legislative Action Committee. Scott will still be co-chair of the LAC. Sarajane passed out legislative priorities of the League of Women Voters. Scott said the King County LAC priorities will be set in November, and presented to Frank Chopp in December. Scott suggested we narrow down to top issues that are likely to be important in the next legislative session. Gerry proposed a cap and trade system for carbon emissions. Another priority should be limits on what happens at Hanford. Sarajane wants us to support clean elections, particularly allowing local option. Also, Sarajane wants an increase in the housing Trust Fund. Chad likes the Homeowners Bill of Rights (SB 5550 in the last session).

Program Committee. Gerry proposed that the January General Meeting to have a preview session for District members to prepare them for the February caucus. We have two General Meetings left this year - October and November, then January is our last General Meeting before the caucuses. Betty suggested a general caucus overview could be done in 10 minutes. We could still fit in a program on the Presidential candidates. Betty would prefer to have the legislative overview in November, before the 60-day legislative session gets going. Javier sees the November meeting as a recruiting opportunity to get volunteers to work on the campaigns. Scott suggested that Phyllis, Ken and Jim could hold a separate legislative preview, like at Meadowbrook, and the 46th District could sponsor that. The consensus of the group was that in November, we have a Presidential forum to energize volunteers, then in January we have a caucus preview for general members.

For the October meeting, Gerry is planning a speaker from Washington Cease-Fire (gun control). Gerry is interested in questions we might put to the speaker.

PCO recruitment. Bernadette reported that 24 PCO's came for training. She thanked Scott, for his introduction, Janet for her presentation on lit distribution and Chad for introducing the "PCO Tools" section of the 46th Dems website. Margaret Shields talked about how to deal with neighbors in canvassing. Bernadette is recruiting new PCOs for open precincts. Literature should be available on October 13 for PCOs. Bernadette talked about Democracy for America - DFA Night School - which helps people organize grassroots infrastructure.

Demogram. The Demogram will be ready tomorrow, and will go to Barbara Whitt's house for folding, stickers and mailing.

Good of the Order.

Web site: Chad, Gerry and Scott talked about keeping the web site open and fair. We should not appear to be favoring Scott in his candidacy.

Ballot Issues: Scott suggested that Sarajane could prepare something on the issues that were confusing at the September General Meeting.

Affirmative Action in the caucus cycle: John Webber described the State process to be used by LDs to meet affirmative action goals. John thinks affirmative action should include outreach and a mechanism for getting different populations motivated. The Affirmative Action Committees might be able to run an outreach effort.

Caucus managers: John would like to see floor managers from the candidates' campaigns helping organize the caucus meetings. Justin Simmons and Mike Thompson wondered whether this would sway the outcomes. Betty points out that the caucus voters attend to do exactly what the campaign managers would have them do.

Candidates for chair?: Javier said he has decided he will run to fill out Scott's term. Beyond that, he would like to see other candidates. No one else was aware of potential candidates for the October meeting.

Sarajane got a job at the Thunderbird Health Center.

Justin announced the Bridging the Gap breakfast event.

Sylvia announced a shrimp feed at the Northgate Community Center.

Scott spoke about growth, increased membership and improvements that the 46th District has accomplished by working together toward common goals. Scott is proud of the progress and is very pleased with the members and activists in the District. He is happy to have been part of this grassroots-building success. Scott thanked everyone for all their hard work. The Board gave Scott a standing ovation in appreciation for his efforts.

Scott will work with the new Chair to make the transition go well.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.