

46 Dems Executive Board
Olympic View Church
March 11, 2008

Attending: Dean Fournier, Sylvia Haven, Jan Ames, Gerry Pollet, Pat Emerson, Chad Lupkes, Sarajane Siegfriedt, Janet Miller, Mark Saporito, Javier Valdez, Stan Sorscher, Donna Boysen

Excused: John Webber

Javier Valdez called the meeting to order at 7:19 PM.

Membership Report: Betty Means reported that as of March 3, we have 644 voting members, including unpaid PCO's. In 2004 we had 436 at this point. We have 54 Friends of the 46th and we're above the 2004 level regarding 4600 club members, too. People who donated at the caucus may still be counted as members. About 3000 Demograms were mailed out with remit envelopes.

State Party Report: Janet Miller had nothing new to report. The State Party office is buzzing with data entry and other activity. Javier thinks they are almost done.

King County: Sarajane Siegfriedt sent out notes from the meeting. The King County convention may have up to 10,000 delegates. The County party is considering West Seattle High School. Governor Gregoire will speak at the event. Suzie Sheary is working on the rules. The platform committee is working on a process to go through the resolutions without losing attendance of the delegates. No hand-written late submissions will be accepted.

Dave McDonald will talk about DNC rules regarding caucuses versus primary. Another notable resolution calls for an even-handed US approach to the Israel - Palestine peace process.

Program Committee: In March, Peter Goldmark will speak for about 30 minutes. Our 3 state legislators will talk about the session, which just ended. Resolutions we've passed regarding the current legislative session can also be raised as questions for the legislators. Dean Fournier thought the Clean Elections resolution would be a good one to discuss.

In April, the voter registration challenge committee would like an orientation session for new members, delegates and for committee sign-up.

Other ideas:

- We might invite Port Commissioners to talk about the audit, and management of the Port. Possibilities are Gael Tarleton, Lloyd Hara, Alec Fisker, and State Auditor Brian Sonntag.
- We could schedule a discussion of Magnuson Park development, and clarify the situation about whether the 46th Democrats have endorsed one plan or another. Magnuson topics might include wetlands, privatization of the big hangar, soccer fields, lighting, etc.

- Bitter Lake sidewalks continue to be an issue in that neighborhood.
- Sand Point low-income housing. (106 units are under construction)
- State Party Challenge - voter registration training.
- Big program on 520 bridge replacement.
- Clean Elections (also known as Voter-Owned Elections) - Seattle will go forward with a local option.

After some discussion, the Board reached a consensus for bringing the Magnuson Park situation to the April General Meeting. A fall-back would be the Port discussion.

In May, we will have a candidates' forum. Javier will set up a sub-group to organize the forum, so Gerry can step aside from that program event. Javier recognizes that the organizers, and question developers are not all endorsed supporters of Scott White.

June is the endorsement meeting. No meeting in July.

Treasurer's report: Donna passed out an activity report and a budget. The caucuses in February generated about \$22,000 in income including mailed-in funds. Expenses associated with rental caucus meeting sites were about \$8,500; expenses associated with mailings, supplies and copying were about \$4,000. Caucus income reporting was handled carefully. We could not use the reporting rules for "low-cost" fund-raiser or anonymous contributions. Donna used sign-in sheets to assign names to cash received. The reports were completed and submitted on time to the PDC.

Donna introduced the 2008 budget, and a projection for 2009. The table also showed previous years' amounts to show the election cycle. Donna went through the income line items and expense line items. The revenue assumption for 08 is conservative in light of the amount raised at the District caucus during the last presidential cycle. Given the assumptions used for 08, we could apply around \$13,000 toward campaigns.

Javier and Gerry explained some of the rules regarding how campaign contributions can be used within the district, by the state party, and from one district to another, and still comply with all the rules.

Janet proposed we support the Principal's discretionary fund for schools where we hold caucuses. The fees we pay for schools go to the School District, not the schools. Janet thought \$150-200 would be a good number for 12 schools we used. This would be in the \$1500-\$2500 range.

Sarajane proposed contributing to the Lake City Food Bank and getting a plaque commemorating the donation. **Motion** by Pat Emerson to forward budget to the membership. Seconded. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Apparent conflict of Interest: Justin Simmons has asked Javier to discuss whether Gerry would have a conflict of interest or an appearance of conflict by being both a candidate and a member of the Executive Committee. This was the subject of several messages and conversations before the meeting.

The 46th Democrats have had candidates serve on the Board before. In the past, Peter Steinbrueck was nominated to the Board, when he was a candidate for City Council. Peter was elected to the Board and the City Council. When Scott stepped down as Chair, recently he was encouraged to run for another position on the Board. Gerry did ask Javier to run the candidates' forum, since that would clearly be awkward. Gerry believes the Board is active and would provide oversight to prevent inappropriate actions. In other Districts, candidates for office continued to serve on the District Boards, although District Chairs normally step down when they run for office.

The Chair is more sensitive to conflict of interest problems. For instance, candidates normally ask the chair for time to appear at meetings. If a District chair ran for office, then an opposing candidate would be in an awkward position, asking the Chair for a place on the agenda to speak at a District meeting. Also, the Chair has a message on the front of each Demogram with a picture. The 2nd vice chair, Gerry's position, does not schedule candidates to speak. Nevertheless a program chair should be careful to remain fair and neutral. Gerry said as long as he has been program chair, he has not endorsed candidates, personally, until after the candidates' forum, to avoid an appearance of bias.

Several Board members said they have changed their minds back and forth on this question, over the last few weeks.

Chad said he thinks serving on the Executive Board is a good way to groom new candidates. The Executive Board is one platform or stepping stone that new people can use to start in the political process.

The consensus of the Board was that Gerry does not have a conflict or appearance of a conflict of interest by reason of his serving on the board while being a candidate.

Chad reviewed some of the arguments and potential problems that have been part of the discussion, prior to the Board meeting.

Gerry and Janet do a great deal of work for the District. Janet said she was very unhappy to see her integrity questioned in some of the emails that preceded the Executive Board meeting. Several Board members expressed appreciation for Janet's and Gerry' work, and expressed confidence in their integrity.

If the entire Executive Committee suggested and approved each program, it might be advisable to merge the Program Committee with another committee and to focus committees on goal oriented work.

Separately (and not in relation to Gerry) several Board members felt that Board members should not speak against Board consensus decisions when the issue came before the membership.

Caucus post-mortem: Javier thanked Janet, Bernadette Laqueur, Jan Ames and others for their tremendous effort. The response Javier got was mostly positive with a few grumpy messages. We trained at least 300 people. The Obama and Clinton campaigns trained many others, which helped, overall.

The State Party website crashed which was confusing to many voters.

Janet would like to collect reviews from site coordinators regarding capacity of the schools, and what went well and what did not work out.

District Caucus: Javier has arranged for the gym, cafeteria, and the auditorium at Ingraham for the District Caucus. The caucus rooms need to be big enough for the Obama and Clinton delegates to down-select delegates to move on to the LD meeting. Javier intends to limit speeches by candidates to keep the meeting moving.

Dean gave a quick update on the Platform Committee. The rules committee has not met, yet. Janet asked Javier to find volunteers from the Obama, Clinton and other campaigns for the credentials committee. Janet will send the 2004 rules to Javier, Jan, Sarajane, and Dean. We might need to rent one or two high-speed printers.

Javier wants a site coordinator. Mark eagerly agreed to help with that.

We looked at the "Call to Caucus" for the 7th LD caucus on May 1, 2008.

The Congressional Caucus is May 17.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:35 PM.