

46th Democrats Executive Board
Olympic View Church
Tuesday, December 30

Javier Valdez called the meeting to order about 7:15 PM

Attending: John Webber, Sylvia Haven, Chad Lupkes, Javier Valdez, Jan Ames, Gerry Pollet, Sarajane Siegfriedt, Mark Saporito, Betty Means, Janet Miller, Donna Boysen, Dean Fournier, Pat Emerson, Bernadette Laqueur, Barbara Whitt, Stan Sorscher, and Matthew McSheehy.

Holiday Party Wrap-up.

Javier Valdez was very pleased with the holiday party. Turnout was good, people had a good time, and the food was wonderful. Congressman McDermott and Mayor Nickels spoke briefly. Other elected officials were also present.

Javier thanked Bernadette and Gerry for helping with the silent auction. John Webber asked that at future parties, the silent auction items be more prominently displayed. We might get better bids if items are noted generally by the MC, and if a roster of silent auction items is available to guests." Rob Dembowski and Lynna Song were happy to host the event, and would be able to host it in the future. Many people expressed their appreciation for Rob and Lynna's hospitality.

The auction went well and almost all the items were bid. Some of the bids were very high. Other sources of income were individuals sponsored the event and some paid at the door. A little over \$4500 came in from the event. Javier sent out a reminder letter before the event which helped get good turnout.

Treasurer's report. Donna has nearly closed the books for the year. Our carryover for the year is a little under our budgeting target, but over the \$5000 target we had set when working out campaign contributions. A few more adjustments may be made before we have final figures.

Sarajane Siegfriedt said the League of Women Voters will be publishing their pamphlet, "They Represent You" soon, and we should get our \$200 contribution in promptly, to get listed as a sponsor.

Endorsement for King County Elections Director. At the November General Meeting, we were asked to think about endorsing a candidate for the newly created elected position. The election will be February 3. We could post something on the web site, and send out emails. We didn't budget for a mailing. Shana Sawatski is gathering volunteers to walk neighborhoods to work turnout. Ballots will be mailed around January 12, and our General Meeting is January 15. Gerry Pollet prefers an effort that builds identity or recognition for the 46th District organization. Bernadette reported on a meeting where some of the campaign elements were presented. This off-cycle election could be won with a small vote total, so an organizational push could be very influential in setting the outcome.

Motion by Janet Miller, seconded to allocate up to \$1000, pending details about what we might do to support this campaign. **Motion passed** by show of hands.

Direct action organizing. Chad Lupkes reported on a meeting to consider a campaign for direct action organizing. Kathryn Lewis and some Obama organizers are planning another

meeting.

Reorganization Meeting - January 15, 2009. Javier passed out the Demogram, which includes an agenda for the Reorganization meeting. A Bylaws change would remove the requirement that candidates for certain offices be PCOs. If the change is approved, then any member can run for any office.

Javier explained how we will endorse and credential PCOs [mostly write-in winners] whose elections were questioned for not making the 10% threshold. Janet wants Javier to confirm that this process will meet state standards. PCOs will vote on our candidates for State committee members, and Janet wants to make sure our representatives can pass any challenge at the state level. Javier will confirm this with David McDonald.

The General Meeting will then shift to an endorsement meeting. The rules will be an updated copy of the rules from our last endorsement meeting. Members from 2008 can vote if they pay their dues at the meeting. New members cannot vote until 21 days after they pay their dues.

Donna Boysen said she does not intend to run for Treasurer. She recommends a friend of hers who is a retiree who may want to run for the position.

Membership Report. Betty Means and Janet estimate that we have roughly 80 paid members, not including PCOs. We should make a strong pitch to join at the General Membership meeting.

State Party. John Webber says a couple of positions at the State level may be challenged. The Chair and first vice chair may be contested. Dwight Pelz had challenged us to increase our voter registration. Betty asked if we could find a number to see how we performed relative to that challenge.

King County Report. Sarajane sees an intention to pick a strong candidate for the King County Elections position. Chad is first vice chair of the King County Party. Sarajane and Steve Zemke co-chair the Legislative Action Committee. Agenda items will include repeal the three-strikes law, and sunset tax exemptions. February 16 will be our legislative action day.

Program. The new Board can set up something for February. Chad has heard interest for an advocacy fair and we have a pending request to hear from school board members. The advocacy fair could help coordinate people in the legislative action day.

Good of the Order. John Webber asked for endorsements in his candidacy. Sylvia Haven will mock up a handout for the elections director vote. Jan Ames expressed our appreciation for his leadership, and presented Javier with a card and gift from the Board. Javier spoke about his experience and continuing support for the organization.

A candidates' forum is set for next Sunday the 11th at 2 p.m. at the Labor Temple downtown to hear candidates for the WA State Dems Chair position. Justin Simmons will be co-moderating the forum. It is being sponsored by the WA State Dems constituency caucuses and the Metropolitan Democratic Club.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.
Minutes by Stan Sorscher