

46th Dems Executive Board
Olympic View Church
March 2, 2010

Attending: Chad Lupkes, Sheila Kohls, Shanna Sawatzki, Jason Sawatzki, Kathryn Lewis, Barbara Whitt, Stan Sorscher, John Webber, Janet Miller, Peter Shapiro, Sylvester McCann, Erica Minshull, Sarajane Siegfriedt, Dean Fournier, Javier Valdez, Betty Means, Gerry Pollet (by phone).

Chad Lupkes called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Minutes from last month will be ready soon.

Chair's Report. We now have 852 entries in Constant Contact. Chad requested past reports from the PDC. He received copies of C-3 reports back to 1996. Chad is also entering names from caucus records back to 2000.

Sgt at Arms. Barbara Whitt appreciates the help she's getting with food and logistics for the meetings.

Elections. Javier Valdez and Jason Sawatzki will lead the Elections Committee. An article on elections will run in the Demogram. Dean Fournier will draft rules for the voter guide. Janet Miller suggests we check with PDC about rules that might apply. PCO filings will be online - no charge. Discussion of process for identifying candidates and filing.

LAC. Sarajane Siegfriedt reported on Lobby Day, which coincided with two large demonstrations, and was also one of the cutoff dates, so the Legislature was very busy. Sarajane talked about a bill for a state bank, funded with state funds. North Dakota has operated a state bank for decades. Jim McIntire testified against a state bank. The House and Senate are writing budgets with cuts and new revenues. The Clean Elections bill needs support in the Senate.

Finance. Stan Moffett is on vacation for two weeks. Kathryn Lewis went through actuals in the budget. Kathryn brought up fundraising. Last year we hosted a barbeque. Other ideas are movie night, selling branded items, and a special event for donors.

Program. Gerry Pollet called in for his report. Lessons learned from the January meeting - using Global Warming as topic was a winner. Gerry said he liked the connection between theory and action. The speakers went over their allotted time. Discussion of the invitation to Dow Constantine for the March General Meeting, and preparation of questions we should ask at the candidate forum.

Membership. Betty Means announced we have 314 members at this point. Betty sent out appeals by US mail and email.

Platform, Resolutions and Bylaws. Dean said the Platform is finished and posted on the web site. The Rules are also posted. PCOs and members will get hard copies in the US mail. No caucus resolutions were submitted. Resolutions can be brought to the caucus. Shanna and Javier will prepare a flyer for PCOs to canvas their precincts, encouraging people to attend the caucus.

Outreach. At the January General Meeting, Peter Shapiro asked for volunteers for outreach to the labor community. Dusty Hoerler stepped forward. The 34th District has used lists from labor to identify possible PCOs. Dusty is a member of the Pipefitters' union, and is active in Sound Alliance. Dusty had ideas about getting community groups together for a brainstorming meeting. He may draft an application for the Cole Committee to do that.

Sarajane mentioned labor priorities in the platform. Sarajane would like to promote labor history and maybe invite the labor chorus. March 24, Chad and Peter will meet with Benjamin Lawver, Lily Codega-Wilson, Dusty Hoerler and maybe some others to consider ideas for outreach.

Betty would extend the outreach to environmental groups, human rights, social justice and faith groups.

Raymond T. Cole. Governor Lowry met with Chad, Jan Ames and Betty. Jan has notes. Mike Lowry wants to change the tax structure. A suggestion was made to sponsor a speakers' forum. David Domke will meet with us, soon.

Caucus Committee. The committee will meet tomorrow to go through logistics for the caucus. Chad wants to collect up-to-date information from people who attend the caucus. We will have voter registration forms for new voters and changes of address. Discussion of Platform, Rules and Call. We can choose over 40 delegates and 40 alternates.

State Party. No report.

King County. Erica Minshull took highlights from the King County meetings. The census will mean about 77 precincts will be redistricted. Peter Shapiro's precinct is being reviewed. Mike Snyder is having a positive influence on the process. Candidate interviews are scheduled for June. King County needs a new finance chair.

New business. Sarajane asked about endorsements. For instance, what are we doing about the State Senate race? John proposed that the board and organization remain neutral until after the nomination and endorsement is decided. General agreement to remain neutral, without making any announcement or notice regarding the State Senate race." We expect to see how members vote on endorsement.

We have a policy on use of our resources by candidates. The Rules committee will add language regarding fairness in the voters' guide.

John referred to an email he had sent, proposing rules for how the E-board would take positions and issue letters and statements. John asked that the proposal be referred to the LD Rules Committee for drafting. Most had not seen the email, and wanted a discussion before referring.

Last month, we agreed to send a letter to Ken Jacobsen about a bill in the legislature. The letter and Ken's response will be added to the minutes from last month's meeting.

Sarajane asked about the situation, in general, where the Executive Board takes a position on a narrow vote. As a rule, it is good practice for Board members to agree to support any group decision, even if the individual took a position in opposition.

Discussion about where to draw that line, in an official capacity, as opposed to speaking as an individual.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM

Minutes by Stan Sorscher