

Benton County Democrats Executive Committee

Round Table Pizza

George Washington Way,

Richland WA 99354

12/3/2018

Attendance: Judi Johannesen, Allison Dabler, Micki McKinley, Carl Baker, Carly Coburn, John Harder, Jay Clough, John Masulonis, Kendall Miller, Jeffrey Robinson, Kate Moran, Stan Moon

Meeting to order, 6:43PM

The chair expressed her agenda for the meeting. The first thing was to begin staffing our various committees.

At the January Executive Board meeting we hope to have the new chairs of the committees at the table so we can begin the budgeting process. We hope to be able to present a proposed budget at the January Central Committee.

The other thing to accomplish is that all officers need to provide updated contact information for our database and for reporting to the State.

Treasurers Summary.

Format of the regular meetings. The desire is to make them more interesting and to provide time for regular PCO training. The proposal is to start with the BCDCC business meeting first, break for presentations and PCO training, and then conclude with the LD central committee business meetings.

Discussion points:

There is a risk that the BCDCC meeting would run long and the time for the presentations, PCO training, and LDDCC meetings would be cut short.

Another concern is that presentations and PCO training may raise the need for committee action but technically the committee would no longer be in session to take those actions.

It was suggested that either such things would be considered in the subsequent LDDCC meeting or the BCDCC meeting would not be technically adjourned until after the presentations and training.

Location of future meetings.

The room for E-board meetings at Round Table has been booked for 2019 year. But we don't have a firm location for the main central committee meeting. The committee was polled to see if anyone had a difficulty with the current schedule of first Monday at 6:30 PM.

Discussion Points: Some would like the meeting to be earlier. But others would find 6:00 PM difficult but doable. **Consensus was that 6:00 would work better.**

Turning to the general meeting. From the chair: Shiloh cost will be going up. She heard that Ben Franklin Transit has a good room. **Jay Clough will see if he can make contact with the Transit people about it.**

The PUD is difficult to get scheduled. It was recommended that we get a fixed place rather than moving the meeting around. The Richland Player theater and the Uptown theater were suggested. **Kate Moran offered to check with the Players and the Uptown theaters. John Masulonis will check with the PUD.**

Updated Contact Information. It was decided to ask everyone to provide their information to Micki at [treasurer@bencodems.org](mailto:treasurer@bencodems.org).

Returning to committee organization.

PCO Coordination and Training is a subcommittee under the Organization Committee. Allison Dabler and John Harder will be in this subcommittee.

The Events subcommittee is under the Organization Committee. It should be noted that the scope of this subcommittee is only for non-fundraising events. Fundraising events are executed by the Finance Committee.

The Policy Guide specifies the Candidate Development and Training Committee as one of the standing committees. For brevity, this committee is often called the Elections Committee. In the view of the Chair, this committee not only recruits, vets, and trains potential candidates. It should also coordinate with candidates how best the Central Committee can assist them in their campaigns. Previous members of the Elections Committee have been accused of using their position on the committee in ways that appeared to have conflicts of interest. Remedies such as a practice of recusal when potential conflicts of interest arise were discussed. Jay Clough is willing to continue on the committee but suggested that the local party could be better served if it were chaired by a strong, capable woman. Shir Regev was suggested as a potential chair. **Judi will ask her.**

The Communications Committee is a subcommittee under the Outreach Committee. Given that the Chair is the official voice of the Central Committee, members of the Communications Committee are obligated to respect that. **Carly Coburn volunteered to handle Facebook and Twitter. Micki will handle the website.** Other subcommittees have a need to push out communications to the public such as event announcements. **Judi will be the chair of the Communications Committee.**

The Bylaws and Platform subcommittee is under the Organization Committee. We need a replacement for Chuck LoPresti. Perhaps John Christenson. Richard Badalamente and Kitty Tominey would be good.

Noted that **the Norm Miller dinner should be renamed as the Norm and Shirley Miller dinner.**

Furthermore, the planning for the dinner needs to begin by next month.

Jeff requested that BC appoint 3 representatives to attend the FC meetings so that the two committees are better connected.

There is an issue with our bylaws being in conflict with the State in some details. **Kate and Micki will work on this to develop a proposal for the January meeting.**

New Business.

We need a concerted effort to work with surrounding counties to build organizations that are strong enough to effectively support a winning Congressional candidate. A key element of that would be for the various counties to have mutual liaisons. It was proposed that the Elections and PCO functions of the various counties have connections to cross-fertilize best practices and ideas. The Coordinate Campaign

expanded the use of PCO's to canvass across that board rather than be strictly limited to their particular precinct. Furthermore, move to the concept of constant canvassing in which canvassing is a regular year-round activity than just associated with election times. Ideas for structuring the canvassing activities with trained leadership and continuing mentorship were presented. Our PCO leadership were happy to see this sentiment from the Board. There was some detail discussion of issues concerning the frequency and timing of canvassing efforts.

A point was raised that the BCDCC may need to weigh in on which non-partisan candidates and which issues it may wish to emphasize during canvassing efforts. It's not a higher priority at this time than just getting new voters registered and preferences identified.

Constant canvassing is seen as a way to maintain a grass-roots level of activity that helps more people be involved in politics in general. There was a caution to not set expectations too high initially. It's better to meet easy goals at first and then ramp them up as experience is built.

We need to look beyond classic PCO activity towards fresh ideas.

Liaisons across committees need to be folks that are known, trusted, and respected to be effective.

Our VoteBuilder access needs work, proper access to the voter universe and controlled update capabilities. We should ask for access to statewide voter access and see what that would take.

We need to expand our pool of folks with good data-training in all jurisdictions. We don't want to intimidate our PCO's by expecting them to have a high level of data chops. But we can be realistic about providing them good support in areas that are needed. The state-provided training is being revised.

We entered into a discussion about the status of the Building Fund as a restricted account. The minutes in which action may have been taken to move the fund into the general fund are unavailable. [Secr. Note-We could simply take another action at a BCDCC meeting that would clarify the wishes of the body concerning the Building Fund.] Generally speaking, the rent for a permanent office is prohibitive.

It was asked whether we wanted to consider scholarships for things like Wellstone trainees. The idea is to send someone to Wellstone with the mission to bring back the knowledge and teach our local folks.

Next month, we will be working on budget. This sort of thing needs to be included.

The idea of East-West sister counties was brought up. That program was put in place in the State party in 2013 but there doesn't seem to be much action on it. The Chair of Chairs is the person that makes that happen.

Discussion was brought back to the meeting format. A decision does not seem to have been made. At the end of the meeting, no decision to change the format had been made.