

Benton County General Meeting
February 20, 2019
6:30 PM
Isla Bonita Restaurant, Richland, WA

Proposed Agenda

7:15 Call to order

7:16 Adopt agenda

7:18 Approve minutes/Secretary's Report

7:20 Treasurer's Report (Micki McKinley), ByLaws Revision

7:25 Chair's Report

- Caucus vs. Primary
- Communications Committee - messaging
- Donations

7:30 Vice Chair's Report

Committee Reports

7:40 Organizing Committee - New PCOs

7:45 Elections

7:50 Events

7:55 Platform & Resolutions

State Committeepeople

8:00 Kate Moran

8:07 Jay Clough

8:14 Old Business

- Meeting Space
- VoteBuilder

8:25 New Business

8:30 Good of the Order

Minutes:

Called to Order by Chair 7:16 PM

Adoption of the Agenda† MOVED/2ND PASSED

Approval of January Minutes. Moved, seconded, and carried.

Treasurer's Report

All the items in PDC case 2603 against the BCDCC were dismissed on January 25, 2019.

We can no longer “pass the hat” for donations at our monthly meeting. All donations need to be made in donation envelopes. Envelopes should be filled out with donor name, occupation, employer, and employer city.

Our books will be audited by a team that include Kate Moran, Stan Moon, and John Christenson.

The treasurer/webmaster is looking for feedback on the webpage. We would like to add a section for PCO activities.

We are still working on proposed changes to our rules, policies, and bylaws. The goal is to align them with the State party bylaws as well as establish expenditure authority in a way that makes filing easier with the Public Disclosure Commission.

Financial Report

Savings

Beginning Balance 12/31/2018	\$7,673.67
Ending Balance 1/31/2019	\$7,673.67

Checking

Beginning Balance 12/31/2018		\$10,871.36
Income		
Monthly meeting - donations		\$47.00
Donation (-0.52 fee)		\$5.23
	Total Income (January)	<u>\$52.23</u>
Expenditures		
Women's March (check #3338)		\$200.00
Micki McKinley - Treasurer office supplies (check #3339)		\$18.77
Watts & Sons storage January & February (check #3337)		\$190.00
	Total Expenses (January)	<u>\$408.77</u>
Ending Balance 1/31/2019		<u>\$10,514.82</u>
	Total Funds	\$18,188.49

Chair's Report

The Platform Committee will have a Listening Session on the issues surrounding the Caucus versus Primary decision for the selection of delegates to the 2020 National Convention. We will need to decide our preference as a local party organization by the March meeting so our State Committeepersons will can take that decision to the next State Committee meeting.

The chair would like some help with the Communication Committee. She wants to do some advertising to get more exposure for our Democratic values into the public arena. Alisha Victorine, Rochelle Dunmore, Doug McKinley, and Allison Dabler volunteered.

The chair reminds the body that donations are welcome, but we need to be sure to use the envelopes provided or sign up for a recurring donation on the website.

There is no Vice-chair report.

Committee Chairs:

Organizing Committee by Allison Dabler.

Allison now has the necessary access to VoteBuilder such that she can provide appropriate access to PCO's. We have been given the list of folks in our jurisdiction who volunteered for the Coordinated Campaign in the 2018 election cycle. The priority right now is to have more registered voters in targeted precincts and more PCO's in general. PCO's are party officials and as such they should stay away from advocating for specific candidates in order to preserve fairness in both appearance and fact. A difficult thing with pushing out VoteBuilder access to new users is that emailed links only have a 48-hour shelf life. It works best when we can work with just a few new users at a time. Please bear with us. Allison's email for this is orgchair@bencodems.org. The Committee is happy to provide lists and so forth for PCO's for whom VoteBuilder isn't a good tool. PCO's can expect an email in the near future containing a short list of people to call for party-building purposes.

There is no Election Committee report.

Events Committee by Carl Baker.

Recent past events were the Women's March in January and Move-on's Presidents Day Protest.

Future Events include Cinco de Mayo activities in Pasco, the Norm and Shirley Miller Leadership Banquet, July 4th Parade, Benton-Franklin Fair, the September Picnic, and the Holiday Party in December.

Carl asked for additional ideas and a fundraising Halloween Party based on a Rocky Horror theme was suggested.

There will be a fair booth setup and repair activity at Kate Moran's garage. After volunteers do a bit of cleaning, we can use her garage into the future as a replacement for our current storage rental.

Another idea was a possible rock concert of some sort.

Platform and Resolutions by Chuck LoPresti.

We have received a resolution for potential consideration called "Seeking Common Ground on Climate Change".

Kitty would like whatever documents are available from the State Party on the Caucus-versus-Primary issue in preparation for our listening session.

State Committee report by Kate Moran.

Kate reported on the activities at the recent State meeting in Olympia. There was a session on the Caucus-versus-Primary issue. Kate is on the Caucus Improvement Committee and has a great deal of more detailed documentation on the issue. She will be providing them to the 8th LD and Benton County secretaries for distribution and publication.

The State Party modified the schedule for the constituent caucuses to place them after the main meeting. In the past, constituent caucuses could meet before and have the opportunity to forward resolutions to the main meeting. With the new schedule, any constituent caucus resolutions would not be considered by the State Committee until the next quarterly meeting. The time before the main meeting was filled instead with training sessions and informational meetings on Caucus-versus-Primary and Tribal Relations. In the Sunday general meeting, new officers were elected for the Washington State Democratic Party. The elected chair is Tina Podlodowski. The vice-chair is David Green. The treasurer is Habib Habib. The secretary is Rob Dolin. The parliamentarian is David McDonald. There were 161 voting members at the first credentials report. Some jurisdictions have not completed their reorganization processes. There are 4 members of the Democratic National Committee, David McDonald, Sharon Mast, Nancy Monacelli, and Juanita Luiz. Three people ran for state chair, Tina, Jason Cauldon, and Rick DeWitt. Rick ran as a parliamentary maneuver to get some time to address the body on another issue. We have a new representative to the WSDCC executive board from the 4th Congressional District, Mathew Tomaskin. He's from Yakima and is part of the Yakama Nation, as well.

Several resolutions were considered. The only resolutions which were considered were those relating to legislation that was currently under consideration by the Legislature. The passed resolutions were Requiring Presidential and Vice-Presidential Tax Returns, Expanding Oral Health Care for All, Restoring Affirmative Action, Tenant Protection, Native American Voting Rights, support for the Right to Restoration Act, support

for Universal Washington Health Care SB5222, Raising Awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People, and Supporting Election Cost Reimbursement for the Counties.

In the Veterans and Military Families caucus, there were difficulties brought about because the caucus had no bylaws. In some caucuses, one must be a member for some minimum amount of time before one can vote in the reorganization meeting. This absence was exploited by an organized group that showed up together and essentially took over the caucus. Only one prior member of the executive board survived the takeover. The rest were new people from this organized group. Many of those elected were good people but the method by which they were elected left a bad taste. But there were folks elected who were neither a veteran nor a part of a military family. The moral to the story is to have bylaws which protect the group from quickly-executed takeovers by organized minorities.

The upcoming State meeting will be in Pasco. Local Democrats will sponsor a event at the meeting that is intended to educate Democrats from other regions about nuclear power, nuclear power waste, nuclear weapons waste, nuclear research, and nuclear research waste. There will be a panel on April 5, with or without official State party sanction, to do this. The panel will include a member of the American Nuclear Society, a member from the Columbia Chapter of Health Physicists, Dr. James Conca, Chuck LoPresti, and some other national experts on these sorts of issues. The format will be an educational presentation on some aspect of the issues followed by Q&A then a presentation on another aspect, and so forth. Kate would welcome volunteers to assist with this effort. There will be a planning meeting on February 21.

Cedar Kennedy (8th LD State Committee Member) explained the changes the State is looking for with the constituency caucuses. There has been a history of tension between the caucuses and the state party leadership. The state's position is that because they pay for the caucuses to have meeting spaces at the quarterly meetings, this should be considered an in-kind donation of the state party to the independent caucus. As such, the party asked for membership lists. Some caucuses did not want to provide such lists. The plan had been to vote on the new policy at the last meeting. But

the body preferred to postpone the action until the next meeting so all the new people would have time to study the ramifications. In a pre-session conference call with the State leadership, the consensus was that there was a great deal of misunderstanding between the adversarial groups. At the meeting, the Rules Committee decided to defer the issue until the September quarterly meeting. In the meantime, there will be more discussions between the caucuses and official state party.

Unfinished Business.

Meeting Space. The chair has toured the Uptown Theater and it looks good for a regular meeting space into the future. The chair asked for an advisory vote on whether we use the theater's A/V equipment or our own. We have budgeted for it, so there is no need to approve the expenditure. There is also a question of whether we want to meet on Wednesday or Thursday.

Motion to use the Uptown Theater A/V equipment. Seconded. Carried on voice vote.

There was a short discussion of whether to change meeting night to Thursday night. Hanford workers have a bigger hardship with Wednesday meetings than Thursday meetings since they have long shifts and Friday is the standard day off. It was brought up that a number of affinity groups have Thursday meetings. An advisory vote was taken between Wednesday and Thursday. The vote was roughly even. The Chair decided to keep the meeting on Wednesday for the time being. She also committed to keeping the meetings as succinct as possible to mitigate the impact on Hanford workers as much as possible. The Chair will contract with the Uptown Theater with that arrangement.

The Chair reported that the DNC and the state parties have come to an agreement about how data will be shared between them. The states will retain ownership of their data but will still be able to capitalize on data efficiencies at the national level. A unity commission was formed after the 2016 election to address problems with conflicts within the party. All of the proposals by the commission have been adopted except one and that remaining issue is being resolved in another way.

The Chair commented that she has found that the Washington political system does a better job of making politics accessible to the general population than many other states with such things as a voters guide and no party registration.

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.