

Benton County General Meeting

April 17, 2019

7:00 PM

Uptown Theater, Richland, WA

Proposed Agenda

7:00 Call meeting to Order

7:00 Approve Agenda (1 min)

7:02 Approve minutes of February meeting (1 min)

7:03 Chair's report (10 min)

- Norm Miller Dinner (tickets & fliers)
- Elections coming up
- Straw poll - meeting place
- Primary & Caucus Schedule next spring

7:08 Treasurer's Report (5 min)

(including funding purchase of a storage shelving unit)

7:13 Adoption of Bylaws changes (15 min)

7:28 Adoption of Policy Guide changes (10 min)

7:38 Adoption of Rules Changes (5 min)

Committee Reports

7:43 State Committee Member Reports (10 min) - State Meeting in Pasco

Kate Moran & Jay Clough

7:53 Elections Committee - Jay Clough (3 min)

7:56 Events Committee - Carl Baker (5 min)

8:01 Communications Committee - Judi Johannesen (3 min)

8:04 PCO Organization Committee - Allison Dabler (5 min) - Appoint new PCOs

8:09 Platform & Resolutions Committee - Kitty Tominey (10 min)

8:19 Unfinished Business (5 min)

8:24 New Business (5 min)

8:29 Good of the Order (5 min)

8:34 Adjourn

Minutes:

Called to order by Chair Judi Johanneson at 7:00 PM

Adoption of the Agenda MOVED/2ND PASSED

Approval of March Minutes. MOVED/2ND PASSED.

Chair's Report

The Norm and Shirley Miller Democratic Leadership Awards Banquet on May 29 is now selling tickets. It will be held at the freshly remodeled Kennewick Red Lion. Tickets are \$75 for adults, \$60 for seniors, and \$25 children and students. There are some scholarships available. Contact Jay Clough for more information on those.

There are approximately 60 non-partisan offices up for local election this fall. The filing dates are May 13-17 and there's only a limited left to call and encourage potential candidates you may know to run for office.

A member interrupted the Chair's report to make a comment. He recommended that we announce that this will be our site at least until the end of 2020. The Chair clarified the details about the length of our current contract and the expectation that it would be renewed in due course.

The Chair commented on the Primary and Caucus schedule for next spring. At the last State Committee meeting, the Hybrid Primary and Caucus method was selected for assigning presidential preference delegates to the National Convention. The Washington State Primary will be March 10, 2020. This will be a week after the California Primary so it is likely that our state and possibly even our region could attract appearances by the presidential candidates. The apportionment of the delegates at the Legislative District level will be determined by the Primary results. The election of individual delegates based on that apportionment will be held at a Legislative District Caucus. This will be a heavy work load for the LD committee's people are encouraged to volunteer and help as much as possible.

Treasurer's Report

We have made the first payment on the fee for our fair booth. We paid for the liability insurance we needed in order to meet in this facility and some other bills. The checking account balance is now \$8,770 and our total balance is \$16,444.

The online payment process is active for the Norm and Shirley Miller dinner and there some forms on the registration table if you wish to pay by check.

Question from the floor: How much does it cost per month to rent this space? Answer from Treasurer: \$100 per month plus a temporary tech charge, which is a good deal.

Motion to authorize contracting with Uptown Theater for this space through the end of 2020. Seconded.

During discussion on the motion, the question arose about the possibility of changing our meeting dates. The chair's interpretation of the concern as applies to the motion is that if we can't go forward with a date change with an extension of the contract, we will not extend it.

Amendment: To empower our chair to find similar accommodations at the same price if need be should a date change make the use of this facility unworkable. Amendment was not seconded.

The chair commented if this motion were to pass, she would negotiate the same rate for this space for whatever date the body prefers. We would survey our membership to find out what date has the highest preference. The options available without colliding with the existing meeting schedules of other affiliated groups would be the third Wednesday or the first Thursday.

The motion was not carried on a count of hands.

The chair commented that we will still informally pursue taking a survey and determine the best way to implement the preferences expressed in the survey results and the chair will also pursue an extension of the contract to as far as the end of 2020 when the time comes for the current contract to be renewed.

From the agenda, there was an item about funding a shelving unit in our storage space. Motion to fund the purchase of a shelving unit for not more than \$200. Seconded.

In discussion, it was pointed out that we need to legally protect our access to items in storage in a private garage should the owner be unavailable. The owner, who was present, agreed to sign an appropriate binding agreement to allow that access.

A member stated that they had a couple of similar shelving units that they would be happy to donate.

The motion was withdrawn.

The order of business moved to the adoption of changes to **Bylaws, Policy Guide, and Rules**. The process used was to look at each of the proposed changes in sequence and note any for which there may be an objection registered. Once the entire document is reviewed, we would go back to the flag sections and debate on the merits of the objection and take a vote on that particular section. When the all the detail changes have been handled, there would be a vote on the document as a whole.

Bylaws

Article IV changes. A member expressed the desire to make a change to item 3 which was outside the scope of the proposed changes. The Chair commented that under the process, objections would only be heard on the proposals since that's what had been publicized. The Parliamentarian noted that the publication of the proposed changes was required by the Bylaws, but the consideration of the Bylaws pursuant to that notification opens up the Bylaws to any change desired by the body at the time of debate. The Chair agreed to that interpretation.

Motion to approve the published changes to the Bylaws as a whole.
Seconded.

There was a misunderstanding that the motion was an attempt to end debate on the proposed changes to the Bylaws. The Parliamentarian ruled that all the motion did was formally place the changes to the Bylaws before the body. The body has the option to offer whatever amendments they desire to the main motion during the course of debate.

The question was called. The call for the question carried.

The main motion was passed on a greater than 2/3 majority.

Policy Guide

Motion to accept the changes to the Policy Guide as published. Seconded.
Motion was carried by a majority vote.

Rules

Motion to accept the changes to the Rules as published. Seconded.
Motion was carried by a majority vote.

Committee Reports

State Committee Members

SCM 1, Kate Moran

The quarterly State Committee meeting was held last week in Pasco. The State decided to use the Hybrid Primary and Caucus method for selecting presidential preference delegates to Legislative District and Congressional District caucuses for eventual representation at the Democratic National

Convention in 2020. Kate summarized the process of how the Primary results are eventually expressed in pledged delegates to the National Convention.

Delegates will be apportioned from the primary by the 15% rule as follows. Each candidate that receives more than 15% of the primary vote is entitled to delegates. If only one candidate meets the 15% threshold, that candidate shall receive all the delegates. If more than one candidate achieves that threshold, delegates shall be apportioned only amongst those who have achieved the threshold. If no single candidate achieves 15%, the minimum threshold becomes half the percentage achieved by the candidate with the largest plurality. Delegates are then apportioned to the candidates within the range of the highest percentage and half the highest percentage.

A number of resolutions were addressed at the State meeting.

The Veterans and Military Family Caucus is in disarray after a takeover that occurred at the last state meeting. None of the officers elected at that meeting returned for this one.

A member asked the State Committee Members whether they would forward proposed state resolutions to local party members. The response was no. They would be happy to talk to you about them, but they need to keep the exact text confidential within the State Committee.

Elections Committee Report by Jay Clough

The committee has a meeting on Tuesday to go over potential candidates and approach and encourage them to run. We have one, maybe two, who will run for Richland City Council, one considering the West Richland City Council, and one for the Richland School Board. Jay will be resigning as Election Committee chair since he will be announcing as the candidate for office in the near future. There will be a meeting at Judi Johanneson's at 5:30. We will coordinate with Rise and Run to help candidates get needed resources for local candidates. Please reach out to your network to find potential candidates. In addition to that, donate and volunteer for good candidates who have already announced.

Events Committee by Carl Baker.

Cinco de Mayo is coming up. We will participate. There will be a parade on Friday, the 3rd. And we will have a booth at the street fair on Saturday. We already have money in the budget for our share of the cost for this. We want people to be in the parade and to staff the booth.

On May 10, the Tri-City Democrats will have Marisol Lister who is active in Planned Parenthood and on Census issues. They will also have at LGBTQ panel put on by Carly Coburn.

May 12 will begin the Substance Abuse Awareness and Prevention Week. There will be a sign-waving event at the corner of Saint and Stevens at rush hour on Monday and Tuesday.

On April 30, the Kennewick City Council will have the needle exchange on the agenda. Supporters of the exchange are invited to attend and wear purple in support.

On June 22, AACCES will have a Juneteenth event. Be watching for information about that on the TriCity Democrats Facebook page.

A member commented that they had difficulty getting the BCDCC website to open from our meeting announcement email. The secretary noted that and will follow up with the member to see if the problem can be replicated. Most other folks are not having a problem.

Communication Committee by Judi Johansson.

We are working with the 8th LD Democratic Committee on a getting a phone number. The rate for just the telephone number is \$26/month. To add mass texting, the rate would be \$100/month. The costs would be shared two-thirds to one-third with the 8th.

Tumbleweird has a calendar to which we can submit events.

Organizing Committee by Allison Dabler

Two new PCO's were appointed by the county Chair. Cigdem Capan to precinct 6240. Rosie Ford to precinct 3104.

Allison has identified priority precincts in which we would like to have PCO's. She is looking for volunteers to call the strong Democrats in those precincts and encourage them to participate for formally in our party meetings and activities.

Platform and Resolutions Committee by Kitty Tominey.

She presented a list of possible resolutions that could be developed. She would like comments and volunteers who wish to work on resolutions. Watch for an announcement of a work session in the next two weeks or so. The session will be focused on prioritizing and fleshing out some future resolutions.

Unfinished Business

More State Committee Member reports from Jay Clough

The Progressive Caucus is pushing for legislation for an income tax for higher earners with no distinction between in rates on investment income and earned income.

Attended the African-American Caucus, there wasn't much attendance there.

Also attended the Asian and Pacific Islander Caucus. At the DNC level there is a suggested percentage of representation by various ethnic groups. They are hoping to have 20 API folks be part of the Washington State delegation to the DNC. But there are hardly that many folks active in the State Party as a whole. Here is an opportunity for more outreach to this community.

Rules Committee meeting was taken up with the Primary v. Caucus issue.

New Business

Motion that when a topic is discussed in the 8th LD meeting and a vote has been taken, that if it is outside the rules of order to call the question to end debate on that topic in the BCDCC meeting. The Chair ruled the motion out of order.

[Parliamentarian's note: In order to inactivate the standard rule for calling the question, the proper action would be to move to suspend this particular Roberts rule before any business is considered in each meeting. Suspension of a rule can be done with a 2/3 vote or by unanimous consent. Should it be desired to make a rule change like this permanent, one would have to encode this special rule into our Rules document.]

Good of the Order

On the 27th, there will be a Bernie Sanders event. The details will be in a Facebook event from Our Revolution – Tri-cities Progressives. There will be multiple sites.

There was a discussion of how event information is propagated through the many websites and social media vehicles under our umbrella.

The Organizing Committee had produced a batch of business cards with most of the sites listed. That batch has been exhausted and they are in the progress of procuring more.

There are also public calendars to which events can be posted.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.