

Benton County Democrats Executive Committee

Round Table Pizza

George Washington Way,

Richland WA 99354

12/02/2019

Attendance: Judi Johannesen, Kate Moran, John Masulonis, Carl Baker, Kendall Miller, Stan Moon, Alisha Victorine, Jessica Wadsworth, Micki McKinley, Kitty Tominey.

Meeting to order, 6:02 PM

Motion to approve agenda. Seconded, Carried.

Motion to approve the November Minutes. Seconded, Carried.

Secretary's report, Kendall Miller – Requested admin access to the Facebook page. Judi agreed. Also requested admin access to the Twitter account, Micki agreed to provide the password. Proposed some ideas for the website: Frequently Asked Questions page, a Candidates Knowledge Base, a Community Bulletin board with moderation, and a fuller contact list for affinity groups. Judi commented that we need to keep the website focused on the political arena and not go too far afield from that. Possible groups were discussed.

Treasurer Report, Micki McKinley –

We don't have financials at this point because it's too early for last month's bank statement. Only 25 people have purchased tickets to the holiday party so far. We will do another round of invitations on iContact, the Facebook page, and with Twitter. Facebook continues to change its rules. The proposed program was discussed. Judi volunteered to introduce the panel and perform other emcee functions. We discussed various Public Address options. We decided to have a list of important dates for next year on the back with a brief list of future events.

Chair's report, Judi Johannesen – We have still not located a venue for County Convention. Some options have been removed from the list, but other good possibilities were discussed. WSDCC gave us a list of Presidential candidates who will visit the state this month. All candidates will be doing Seattle. Cory Booker on 12/13, Pete Buttigieg on 12/14-12/15, and Andrew Yang on 12/16. Judi will attend an 16th LD meeting on 12/5 in Walla Walla. When our budget gets approved, we will start having ads in local publications. Judi proposed that she and John Masulonis collaborate on an op-ed piece for the Tri-City Herald about the Presidential candidate selection process.

Vice-Chair, Stan Moon – no report.

State Committee Member 1, Kate Moran –

The Washington Presidential Primary is one week after Super Tuesday on 3/10. Some candidates may be dropping out after Super Tuesday. We need to tell our voters to hold their Primary choice until after

3/3 just in case their preferred candidate drops out. Then vote for their second choice and get their ballot in quickly. The next State Committee will be on Superbowl weekend. Since it will be in Vancouver, perhaps folks could take the train to and from the meeting.

Organization Committee, Allison Dabler not present. No report.

Events, Carl Baker – The parade float is structural finished and in service. We just need to plan the decorations for the various events with enough lead time to execute those plans. It was suggested that we talk to Local 598 since they have a good float and may have some helpful ideas for us. The possibility of need for the body to approve some funds for this, but the Treasurer pointed out that there are funds in the 2020 budget if it is approved as planned.

The contents of the storage unit have been triaged. We will be out of the unit by January. The Tri-City Democrats will need to look at what they may want to keep. The computers have been handed over to Micki so she can determine what value, if any, they may have.

Election Committee, Alisha Victorine – We talked about the Holiday Party panel and determined that it wasn't practical to invite any more candidates. Then we moved to the 2020 slate. We are searching for candidates for both the 8th LD legislator positions as well as a candidate for the 4th CD position. Jim Jesernig was mentioned as a potential contact who might be able to recommend a candidate. Mike Lawrence is also a potential contact for recommendations. Doug McKinley was mentioned. Alisha contacted Claudia Colindras Johnson, who said she might consider it later but not for this cycle. We are still open for suggestions and we recognize that it is a late time to mount a good campaign. We need to talk to folks in Yakima to see if anyone from that area is considering a congressional run, like Susan Palmer. Other potential positions include both 16th LD Legislators and Senator. There already are candidates in the pipeline for those positions. Benton County Commissioner positions 1 and 3 will be on the ballot. There has been some reported bad blood between two of the current county commissioners, so there may be an opportunity for having a viable candidate in those races. Perhaps Diane Hand McDaniel depending on her residence address. Kurt Maier was mentioned as a potential placeholder candidate. Next Election Committee meeting is Wednesday, December 11.

Resolutions and Platform, Kitty Tominey – The new resolution on Stranded Assets is ready for signatures by the Chair and Secretary. That gives us a total of 7 that have been submitted to the State so far this year. There may be some resolutions on the work list that include agri-voltaics. There could be some synergy between the University of Arizona, WSU, Walla Walla, and Schreiber & Sons around this issue. The committee continues to be open to ideas and voices for other issues.

In the platform area, we are looking at how we can reduce the current 4-page platform down to 1 page. We are also interested in tracking resolutions progress against platform planks. The idea is to make the platform more useful to our candidates.

Labor Committee, Jessica Wadsworth – The WSNA have not decided to strike yet.

Update from the 8th LD, John Masulonis – Thank you for all the support and contribution to the 8th LD in the effort to mount a good caucus in 2020.

16th LD, Kitty Tominey – The 16th LD executive board will be meeting 12/5 in Pasco. There may not be a regular meeting on the 4th Thursday because of the holidays. There may be some opportunity for some good races this coming year.

Young Democrats, not present.

New Business – We've been contacted by the Mom's Demand Action folks who would like an opportunity to present to us in the near future. We can give them the slot between the meetings on 12/18 or in January.

Micki requested data on how our electoral results have improved this year. Kendall will provide that.

Kate Moran: There are lots of local issues on which we could do a better job of creating awareness. There has been some success on breed-specific language in municipal codes. A current example is the situation with the Tri-cities animal shelter. Kennewick and Richland have promised funding but have not delivered while the current shelter is woefully inadequate. We could allocate time for that at our meetings and add a section on the website for these things. We should also gather links and schedules of the various city councils and school boards so people can get meetings online.

Alisha: The next Racial Equity and Social Justice meeting has been moved to the CUUC.

Judi: We also need to provide publicity and information for the effort to have district representation in the Richland City Council.

Adjourned, 7:24 PM