

Benton County Democrats Executive Committee
Round Table Pizza
George Washington Way,
Richland WA 99354

02/03/2020

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

Meeting to order, 6:00 PM

Motion to approve agenda. Seconded, Carried.

We had a guest, Christine Grantham representing the League of Women Voters. They are planning a centennial banquet for August 8 at the Richland Red Lion Hotel. They are looking for donations to support it. They will be honoring local women who have served the community in a significant way. They also are having an essay contest in the schools to help kids learn why voting is important. The size of the donation was a topic of discussion. The LWV did not request any specific amount. They will be having a silent auction and a raffle. We decided to have a discussion of the amount of our support at the February general meeting, authorize the amount in the March E-board meeting, and finally ratify it at our March general meeting.

Jessica needed to leave early so we took the Labor Committee report early in the agenda.

Labor Committee, Jessica Wadsworth – Work is picking up locally, especially in West Richland. The union really wants to put their people to work in the local community as much as possible. We talked about a consolidated list of union contacts. Jessica offered to put one together and mentioned that Kate Moran already has such a list. Jessica will email her copy of Kate’s list to Alisha.

Secretary’s report, Kendall Miller – We have completed our conversion to a secure website. It went remarkably smoothly. We have more badges that we can populate for more people. We have set up a set of folders on the Bencodem Google drive with a folder for each subcommittee. This space can be used for any document collaboration work a subcommittee may need to do. This space is not public and can be restricted at the document level to specific individuals with specific levels of access for each. [] The Secretary will send out invitations-to-collaborate to the respective chairs of the subcommittees. And the Secretary is happy to work with any of these chairs who are not familiar with this technology. There also may be a need for a specific tech session to help folks to use the collaboration space effectively.

We would like to begin to talk about modernizing our website. It’s text based and the home page is really long and there’s a learning curve to being able to find things efficiently. We invite folks to compare our site to other party websites around the country and make suggestions for improvement. Send them to webmaster@bencodems.org. The plan for now is to have an invisible “sandbox” page where we can try different things until we are happy with it. It’s recommended that we approve the minutes of the last E-board meeting.

Motion to approve January minutes. Seconded, Carried.

Treasurer Report, Micki McKinley –

(See Hard Copy) Last month we had income of \$284.98 and expenses of 461.16. Current total balance is \$25,041.63.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded. Carried.

Micki had a question about which subcommittee line item would pay for the button-maker we just received. Judi will work that out with her after the meeting.

Motion to buy business card paper stock and use it to print up some BCDCC cards. No second. No action was taken.

Chair's report, Judi Johannessen – We have booked a venue for our County Convention. It will be at the Richland Community Center in the Activity Room on May 3. We received a reasonable non-profit rate. For the April 26 LD Caucus, the 16th LD will use the cafeteria at Southridge High School. The Chair attended the January State Committee meeting in Vancouver. The train ride was pleasant. At the meeting lots of business was accomplished. Changes to charter, rules, and procedures were made fold the constituent caucuses into the State Party. Each caucus will only have to share the count of its members and the count of PCOs in the membership. Only the names of the officers will be required to be shared with the State Party. Many resolutions were passed. The resolution that Judi was most interested in was tabled. It had to do with making it a state law that all counties elect commissioners by districts rather than at-large. There were some changes to the code of conduct. The big change was that code violations would be handled as locally as possible. John and Judi will be writing an op-ed on how to Primary for the Tri-City Herald. Judi proposed that we set up a site for a voting party at which we help people fill out their ballots on Saturday, March 7. The planning for the Norm Miller dinner will begin soon. The dinner itself will be scheduled sometime in May.

Vice-Chair, Stan Moon – no report.

State Committee Members, Kate Moran. Kate attended the State meeting. There were some parliamentary problems with how the meeting was conducted. A big problem was that the State Chair did not properly observe the practice of neutrality when presiding.

Organization Committee, Allison Dabler not present. No report.

Events, Carl Baker –

There's a protest planned for Wednesday against the Senate coverup. The Secretary is instructed to send out a full-list email publicizing the protest.

The Tri-City Democrats will have their potluck meeting on Friday the 14th. The topic is Representation: How it Works. The program for March will be on disability issues. The Tri-City Democrats want to coordinate better with the BCDCC and 8th LD organizations. Carl was considering a TCD meeting to look at resolutions that are being discussed. We can certainly make space for anything they wish to present in the time between meetings.

Roy Zimmerman is proposing a June 14 concert date.

We are still working on procuring appropriate shelving for our storage. It has been budgeted and we are ready to buy when the shelving is selected. Some folks who helped with the physical labor of the storage

transfer would significantly benefit from a nominal remuneration for the efforts. Rather than have that as a budget item, we will pass-the-hat it this meeting and at the general.

The stuff from the Fair has come. We talked about having more involvement from the LD organizations and maybe asking for more booth space. If the LD's want to do that, they need to decide and allocate funds for it. We are not going to increase our budget to secure additional booth space. Franklin County and the LD's are welcome to share the space we already have.

We talked about adding horses to our parade squad. The idea wasn't rejected outright but it would take some good logistics to make that happen. The horses we do which we have access haven't been trained for parades at this time.

Election Committee, Alisha Victorine – We have been recruiting candidates. We did have an interview with a potential candidate who had not met a basic threshold.

Resolutions and Platform, Kitty Tominey – Kitty presented an example of how a platform plank could be linked to specific campaign emphases or specific accomplishments. The Secretary will help with establishing a collaboration space for PCO's and committee members to work on shared documents. The idea is to have a place for everyone to supply their input so that we don't consume valuable meeting time with lots of details. We want to have that work done before resolutions are presented to the body.

Communication Committee, Judi Johannesen – The committee will be getting information out about the Voting Party time and place.

8th LD, John Masulonis – There will be a Caucus Committee meeting tomorrow night at 7:30 online.

16th LD, no report.

Young Democrats, Sabastian Marichalar written report – We just had their first regular meeting of the year and it went splendidly. We set up our standing committees and we will have a special session this month to approve a 6-month budget. The regular meetings will be on the 4th Thursday of each month. At the January State meeting, I was elected to be the 4th CD representative of the Latino Caucus.

New Business –

Kate Moran had some additional reporting on the Veterans Caucus at the State meeting. The caucus reconstituted itself after the previous set of officers disappeared. They now have a new executive board. They will have an online meeting in about a month or so to pass bylaws.

Unfinished Business – none.

Good of the Order –

Kate went to Olympia for the Tri-Cities Lobby Day. She was able to lobby with one of our representatives in person. Initiative 976 is a sore point with the westside legislators and they are retaliating by cutting funds for transportation projects in Eastern Washington. We pointed out how counter-productive that is because it makes it harder to elect Democrats in Eastern Washington.

Adjourned, 7:39 PM