

Benton County Democrats Executive Committee Meeting  
Online meeting via Zoom

05/04/2020

Attendance: Judi Johannesen, Carl Baker, Kendall Miller, John Masulonis, Ansley Gerhard-Roberts, Frances Chvatal, Stan Moon, Chris Kingsby, Alisha Victorine, Jessica Wadsworth, Kate Moran, Sabastian Marichalar, Carly Coburn, Chuck LoPresti, Doug McKinley, and Allison Dabler.

Meeting to order, 6:32 PM

Agenda:

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Adopt Agenda and Minutes
- 3) Secretary's Report
- 4) Treasurer's Report
- 5) Candidate Endorsements
- 6) Chair's report
- 7) Vice-Chair's Report
- 8) State Committee Members
- 9) Organization Committee
- 10) Events Committee
- 11) Elections Committee
- 12) Resolutions and Platform Committee
- 13) Labor Committee
- 14) Communications Committee
- 15) 8th LD
- 16) 16th LD
- 17) Young Democrats
- 18) New Business
- 19) Unfinished Business
- 20) Good of the Order
- 21) Adjourn

**Motion to adopt the agenda. Seconded. Carried.**

**Motion to adopt the minutes of April E-Board meeting. Seconded. Carried.**

**Secretary's Report – Kendall Miller**

The website was updated as things changed for the delegate elections and our county convention. The minutes for our April general meeting were posted. Notices and the meeting link for the May 3 County Convention Platform meeting were sent out.

**Treasurer's Report – Micki McKinley**

We had a significant amount in contributions this month and a refund from the City of our venue fee for our cancelled in-person convention. We would like to recognize these major donors in some way but will need to contact them before doing so publicly.

We also had expenditures for advertising, the Fair payment, and a candidate contribution.

Savings is unchanged at \$7,677.50 and Checking is at \$13,256.78 for a total of \$20,934.28.

Micki would like to recognize the major donors publicly. We discussed that we should contact them before we put their names out there in public.

Stan brought up a question about the status of the business cards we had found in storage. They are currently in Kate's garage. Kate will retrieve some samples.

### **Candidate Endorsements**

Frances Chvatal is running for Position 1 Legislator of the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative District. The incumbent is Bill Jenkin who is expected to run for the 16<sup>th</sup> LD Senate seat this cycle. Her opponent is Mark Klicker. His resume is in agriculture and is well-known in Walla Walla.

Frances was born into a farming family and grew up to become a nurse. She has had a career in that field. In her professional life she observed that our current fee-for-service model of health care does not properly incentivize patients or providers to do a good job in preventive care. This is a big source of the high costs in our health care system. Hospitals are organized around using elective procedures as a main revenue stream. This has made the economics difficult under the restrictions of a raging pandemic. She has ideas she would like to see implemented on the educational and preventive side of health care and is passionate about finding ways to make changes that incentivize prevention over the generation of need for treatments.

She understands that change happens when even small elements of common ground can be established with the opposition. She also understands that progress is made by combining small steps and persistence.

### **Motion to endorse Frances Chvatal for Position 1 Legislator for the 16<sup>th</sup> LD. Seconded.**

In discussion, questions were asked of Frances.

Q: What do you think about efforts in the state to establish single-payer health care?

A: We're making progress. The ACA was a great first step. One of the best things about the ACA were the mandated services which established the beginnings of a good preventive care regime. We are making progress and I want to continue on that path. With the need for economic recovery, health care funding is going to be a challenge.

### **Motion carried.**

### **Motion to donate \$1000 to the Frances Chvatal campaign. Seconded. Carried**

Ansley Gerhard-Roberts informed us about a Facebook fundraiser for all the 16<sup>th</sup> LD Candidates: Danielle Garbe-Reser, Frances Chvatal, and Carly Coburn to benefit. It will be on May 20 and Ansley is looking for local women to cohost. Please contact her for more information.

Carly Coburn is running for the Position 2 legislator in the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative District. Her opponent is Skyler Rude, who is the incumbent. She has been involved in activism since 2012. She has held several offices in the local Young Democrats organization as well the Franklin County DCC. She has also held offices in the 16<sup>th</sup> LD DCC, the WSDCC Disability and Stonewall Caucuses. She has worked on a several local campaigns and she volunteers for multiple local LGBTQ non-profits and a mutual aid network assisting undocumented and mixed documented families. Her platform emphases are health care affordability and accessibility, affordable housing, and increasing the standard of living for low income and disable Washingtonians.

**Motion to endorse Carly Coburn for Position 2 of the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative District with a contribution of \$1000. Seconded. Carried.**

Doug McKinley is running for congressional seat of the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. His opponent is the incumbent, Dan Newhouse. This virus is going to make things really bad and it will require a massive legislative response. It can be once of those once-in-a-generation opportunities in which a society gets fundamentally remade. We need to make sure it is remade in a Democratic model rather than a Republican model. Our district demographic includes a large number of elderly and our district could see lots of losses. It's imperative that we have a Congress that is pushing as hard as it can to remake society differently than one dominated by billionaires that we have today. This election is a huge opportunity for progressive people nationwide to get in a position that we could move things in our direction. The window of opportunity could be a small as the first 100 days of the Biden administration.

**Motion to endorse Doug McKinley for the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District with a \$5000 contribution.**

**The chair decided to table the motion to endorse until we had the question of whether to waive the background check taken care of.**

**Motion to waive the requirement of a background check for Doug McKinley since he is well-known to the Central Committee. Seconded. Carried.**

**Motion to endorse with the contribution is now the question. Seconded. Carried.**

Doug is having a Town Hall on May 20. He plans to expend the money necessary to get the phone numbers of all the folks who voted in the Democratic Presidential Primary this year. He will be having his volunteers call these folks and invite them to the May 20 Town Hall. This will give experience to the volunteers and provide a message for the calling campaign. He sees it as an experiment to see what kind of crowd he can draw from the less-active voters. If it works out, these town halls will become a near-nightly feature of his campaign. He feels he needs to turn out the infrequent but Democratically-inclined voters in order to win this election. Much of the campaign will be happening through phone calls and the sharing of social media messages. Allison Dabler is the contact for anyone that wants to volunteer. He asked the BCDCC to send out email and post on the website our endorsement and support for his campaign including a link to his website so folks can easily donate if they so desire.

It would be good for the Central Committee to produce a series of emails with each one highlighting and providing details for one particular candidate so the message for that candidate is not diluted.

**Chair's Report – Judi Johannesen**

The Chair has been working to get people to run for Presidential Preference delegates. We did a good job of recruiting a diverse set of delegates in terms of people of color. We didn't do so well with LGBTQ representation. We published a Facebook ad and a Tri-City Herald ad about being delegates. Franklin County will pay for half the ad and the 8<sup>th</sup> LD will pay for the other half. We also placed ads in Tumbleweird before we had the revision of the process. But they were still effective in recruiting delegates. The Chair worked on getting out the vote for the 8<sup>th</sup> LD delegate selection process. We had a successful Platform Convention via Zoom yesterday. And we were able to have enough delegates to fill all the available slots. The Facebook boost was never effective despite meeting all their requirements. [Secretary's note: There is an explanation of the Facebook policy on Washington state political advertising later in the minutes.]

Judi has purchased a personal license on Zoom that enables us to have our online meetings without a time limit. She can set up meetings such that they can be hosted by someone else so she doesn't have to necessarily be in attendance at every meeting.

#### **Vice-Chair's Report – Stan Moon.**

Stan has been doing some calling with Doug McKinley's phone banking system and it really easy.

We have found that because of the political expenditure reporting requirements by the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission, Facebook is not allowing any political advertising for any state or local race or ballot measure in the entire state. Federal races don't report to the PDC so they are not affected by this Facebook restriction. What works on Facebook is for individual supporters to like, comment on, and share posts to the public from their preferred candidates. The campaigns are not allowed to execute their own Facebook advertising.

#### **State Committee Member 1 – Kate Moran.**

There has been a recent announcement by the State Chair, Tina Podlodowski, that there is an issue of how Washington will apportion the remaining PLEO and At-large national convention delegates now that all the Presidential candidates with the exception of Joe Biden have ended or suspended their campaigns. The national rules say that all the delegates must go to Biden. However, the Biden and Sanders campaigns have agreed between them for the sake of unity that these delegates should be apportioned according to the primary results. The DNC has said that each state organization must decide for itself whether they will observe the DNC rules or the unity agreement between the campaigns. The WSDCC Executive Committee will decide how the Washington party will go on this. At this time, the Executive Committee has yet to decide.

#### **State Committee Member 2 – not present.**

#### **Organization Committee – Allison Dabler.**

Allison has been recruiting for Presidential Preference delegates.

She will craft an email for the BCDCC to send out to remind PCO's and potential PCO's to file their candidacy with the Secretary of State during filing week, May 11 through May 15.

#### **Events Committee – Carl Baker.**

Carl has left one of his trailers at Kate's so the cleaning of the storage space there can move forward. There is more shelving and tote capacity coming.

It appears that the virus doesn't transfer well in outdoor settings so we may eventually be able to wave signs on the street again.

The Racial Equity and Social Justice group has been stalled by the virus and in need of a Zoom host. Carl shared his account with them and they may be able to start up again with online meetings.

The Fair payment was made but Carl is dubious that the Fair will happen this year.

The Tri-City Democrats will have another virtual concert on Friday. And they hope to have a chance to chat with any candidates who wish to make themselves available.

Carl asked whether we had a template we could provide to anyone who wanted to print their own business cards. We need someone to make a good design. Micki can do the template. Alisha suggested that we have an organization Avery account in which the standard template could be stored for use by anyone in our organization. The card stock and ink for personal printing may be more expensive for some folks. Having the cards printed commercially is cheaper.

#### **Election Committee – Alisha Victorine**

We don't have any Democrats running for Benton County Commissioner. There is one person who may run for commissioner if they can find assistance with the filing fee. The BCDCC does not help with filing fee on the principle that a candidate who can't secure the funds for the fee are unlikely to be field a viable campaign.

#### **Resolutions and Platform Committee – Charles LoPresti**

Chuck LoPresti reported for Kitty Tominey. She would like to track actions taken and progress achieved on items in the platform. She would also like the E-board to suggest possible resolution topics on which to work in the future. She would like to have a facility on the website by which people could start the resolution process. She likes Zoom even though she doesn't feel like she is proficient at it. She found it useful in committee work on the platform and looks forward to making better use of it in the future. She also would like to get some Young Democrats involved in the process.

We had a good county platform approval meeting yesterday.

#### **Labor Committee – Jessica Wadsworth.**

Construction has begun to pick back up. Hanford isn't back to work quite yet in terms of the building trades. Jay Inslee has put out good recommendations for making workplaces safer under the current conditions. Many workers are comfortable with returning back to work where those recommendations are followed. Some locals have posted material about the history of May Day worker activism. There have been social media and website campaigns by some locals inviting workers to post pictures of them wearing their orange shirts even if they are at home. Jessica will look into information on any boycotts that would help the labor movement locally. She has contact information for the person in charge of the local grocery worker organization.

#### **Communication Committee – Judi Johanessen**

The communications report was contained in the Chair's report.

**8<sup>th</sup> LD representative – John Masulonis.**

The 8<sup>th</sup> LD is supposed to be conducting an audit of the delegate selections, but we are still waiting for materials from the state to do that. Thanks for all the efforts to get the delegate selection done.

**16<sup>th</sup> LD representative not present.**

**Young Democrats – Sabastian Marichalar**

They are still working on their website and their platform and making good progress. YDWA is going to have a completely online convention in May. They will vote on their platform, endorsements in early June and then they will full fledged convention later in August.

**New Business**

Chris Kingsby is the Eastern Washington Regional Field Director for the Coordinated Campaign. He is based in Spokane. He has been with the campaign for 2 months. He is originally from Arkansas and has worked this year for Amy Klobuchar in Iowa and New Hampshire.

The Coordinated Campaign is all virtual on volunteer-based platform. We are doing Zoom calls every week from Sunday through Thursday. We are doing direct voter contact with the people who voted Democratic in the Primary. We are making calls from 5 PM to 8 PM and would welcome all the help we can muster with that. We are rolling out an auto-dialer on May 10 that will make the calling much easier. In testing the auto-dialer made it possible to make 60 contacts in an hour. They also can use texting volunteers if calling isn't your thing. There is plenty of opportunity for people to become engage in the campaign right now. The BCDCC will post Chris's contact information on our website. The auto-dialer and the texter have their own Washington numbers so people don't have to worry about exposing their personal numbers. We are also working to get more bilingual volunteers on board in our calling programs. People can also call it other times than the 5-8 main block. We are cutting lists specifically for Spanish-speaking people.

Judi would like to do a teabag fundraiser in lieu of the Norm and Shirley Miller Banquet. Invitations to donate will be sent out with teabags via the USPS to previous donors. Kendall will assist with the mailing list and Micki will develop the design of the invitation. Sabastian would also like to help.

**Unfinished Business**

None.

**Adjourned at 8:40 PM**