

Benton County Democrats Executive Committee Meeting
Online meeting via Zoom

08/03/2020

Attendance: Judi Johannesen, Carl Baker, Kendall Miller, John Masulonis, Micki McKinley, Kate Moran, Kitty Tominey, Justin Raffa, Allison Dabler, Alisha Victorine, Kate Moran, Raleigh Hawthorne, Carly Rang, and Sabastian Marichalar.

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) Campaign Reports
- 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 approve the minutes of the July E-board meeting. Seconded. Carried.

Secretary's Report – Kendall Miller

From iContact, we announced this meeting. We added a few new contacts. On the website, we added a link to the Progressive Voters Guide. We posted the July general meeting minutes. We fixed a problem with our slideshow. We added another slide show of taglines for "..., you might be a Democrat."

We've added an open Google Doc on which the general public can place their own content. The publication of the content is moderated. We will publish the good stuff either on the Doc itself or on additional pages of our website. The current document is nothing but a set of headings so far.

We added question generator for questions to use in starting political conversations. Every question begins with “What would you think if a Democratic candidate....” with the blank filled in by some action Trump has taken.

We also posted 5 events notices. The local meeting information was updated to indicate that our meetings are now online rather than in-person. The website font was changed to make our website more readable.

We clarified the handling of our Google telephone messages. Judi catches and handles most of them and Kendall will back her up.

Treasurer’s Report – Micki McKinley (written report submitted)

We had a tiny bit of interest income into our savings. Saving is at \$7678. We received \$82 in contributions. For expenditures we had Tumbleweird for \$70. Which leaves us with a checking balance of \$3202. This would make our total assets at \$10880.

Eastlake will suspend our rent for a while.

We are still working on the fundraiser.

Campaign reports.

Justin Raffa and Raleigh Hawthorne

Justin would like to meet with his opponents. He’s happy to have Judi serving on his advisory group. The campaign has been the lead fundraiser among all the County Commissioner races. He has raised over \$34,000 from 250 individual donors. They expect to carry \$11,000 over to the General. The campaign did not do any phone banking or text banking. They will be doing lots of that in the General election process. There will be another fundraising cycle. In discussion, it was suggested to use the issues much more than party identification.

Carly Rang for Danielle Garbe-Reser

They have 1000 individual donors with \$200,000 in donations. They have made 22,000 calls with 10,000 made last week. They use an auto-dialer. One person can make 300 calls per hour with it. They will call tonight and tomorrow.

There was a discussion about the relative merits of ThruTalk versus PhoneBurner.

Allison Dabler for Doug McKinley

They have a strategy for getting out the vote that consists of flooding the Spanish-speaking media market with lots of ads. They are also working to energize the younger voter segment that is an opportunity for good growth in voter participation. The message to them is that Doug will be part of the work to protect the elders in the families. They will move to other segments if funding is sufficient.

Raleigh Hawthorne for Justin Raffa

She asked about other campaigns' experience with text-banking. Shir Regev's campaign has done some text-banking and it seemed to go quite well, especially with younger people who answer texts more than cold phone call. It also is helpful to clean up the database.

Judi read a written report from Shir Regev.

Shir is text-banking tonight. She has mailed 15,000 households for GOTV. She has followed up with text-banking using matchbacks to encourage folks to get their ballots in. We are working on a digital ad campaign for the General. We are doing negotiations to onboard our first outside consultant for outreach. We're in the process of reaching out to local leaders for endorsements.

We are ordering a 50-ct boxes of Biden signs from the printer in Spokane. We will be distributing them for donations to cover the cost of each of them. We will also get 150 campaign signs from the Jay Inslee campaign.

Chair's Report – Judi Johannesen

The first priority is the fundraiser. We need to replenish our coffers after this campaign season. We have made significant donations to our campaigns, but our expenses have been lower otherwise. We need to raise money to continue our outreach and to be able to support campaigns in the future. We will be doing a major mailout of a glossy postcard to our regular mailing list plus as many of the presidential primary voters as we can. The cost \$153 per thousand for printing and postage of 35 cents each. We are also checking out the shop that Justin is using for a price comparison. The flier will have color photographs of our candidates with printed URLs to their respective websites.

Vice-Chair's Report – Stan Moon. Not present.

State Committee Member 1 – Kate Moran.

Kate is doing her DNC delegate activities. They just received their ballots today. They're going to be voting on the Platform. They also have Rules and Resolutions to consider. She objected to the national platform because it was focused too much on Trump rather than aspirational principles. Also, there was no universal health care plank. People with questions can communicate with Kate directly.

State Committee Member 2 Report – Jay Clough not present.

Organization Committee – Allison Dabler

Allison has been bringing in new PCO's. The most recent batch has been able to get into their Votebuilder accounts OK. She wants to get a door-hanger template for PCO's to use. They will have blanks in which the PCO can place whatever contact information they feel comfortable with. We want PCO's to have their own email address for PCO business. The Secretary will set up an @bencodems.org email addresses for each PCO which will forward to the address each PCO wishes to use for PCO work. Allison also requested help with the graphics for the template. Alisha volunteered to help with that along with her daughter, Kayla. The question came up about the expense for this effort.

Motion to move the Platform and Resolutions budget line item of \$390 to the Organization Committee. Seconded. Carried.

The State party has some recommendations about the style and protocol for door-hangers. Putting rubber bands on them is OK if they are aged for 2 days before distribution. They are adamant that that we do not be vectors for the virus. Allison will also assemble a list of best practices. The possibility of identifying T-shirts for PCO's was discussed.

Events Committee – Carl Baker.

Some of us attended the Silent Protest. And we assisted the Blackformation and the Womxns March with our PA system.

Jen Goulet is leaving the area. She has donated her campaign signs and posts to the Benton County Democrats. They and/or their wooden 2x2 posts are available for any candidate who could use them.

Some work was done on Kate's garage.

The Tri-City Democrats had a good candidate forum. They are working on something for Black Lives Matter in August.

Alisha added that the folks coming out of the BLM movement have been linked to some mentors to assist them in their organizing skills and practices. Naime Chambers has discussed her interest of running for a local office. She's the chair of the Tri-Cities Diversity and Inclusion Council.

New folks are coming to our organization with different sorts of backgrounds than most of us. We must be careful and thoughtful about how we respond to folks with a different life experience than our own.

Elections Committee – Alisha Victorine

Most of the members of the committee are actively involved in one or more campaigns at this point in time. The Bakers Against Racism have raised lots of money and supported a number of racial justice organizations.

There are 7 to 12 organizations around the Black Lives Matter issue and there has been drama among them.

Resolutions and Platform Committee – Kitty Tominey.

She has posted a table of potential new resolutions but she realizes that the election is the priority these days.

She also has a query form to send to PCO's and is looking for input on its contents. There are people at Energy Northwest and other organizations who would like to assist with the crafting of a nuclear energy resolution. One of them is Steve Verhei. Currently we are working to establish the connection in anticipation of a more concentrated effort after the election.

It was noted that we will be reorganized in 2021 with a new set of PCO's. Getting PCO's around the table for a workshop around resolutions would be a good thing to include in the initial activities of the new year.

Kitty would still like to send the query out to the current PCO's before the 8/20 meeting just to have some forward motion on the process. She is happy to collect comments about the proposed survey between now and the general meeting this month.

Labor Committee – Jessica Wadsworth not present.

Communication Committee – Judi Johannesen

Covered in the chairs report.

8th LD representative – John Masulonis.

Nothing to report.

16th LD representative – nothing to report.

Young Democrats – Sabastian Marichalar.

Sabastian has been doing the DNC delegate activities. They are finishing up their website and the ActBlue connection. They will have a meeting next Thursday to determine their priorities for the general election. They will be doing endorsements for the general election. Their biggest focus may be the youth turn-out.

What can BCDCC do to help? The best thing to do is probably keep finding ways to partner in activities and messaging campaigns. Sabastian is happy to receive referrals from campaigns seeking volunteers.

New Business

Reorganization is coming up. We will need a new treasurer. Judi may take that on and then we will need a new chair.

Unfinished Business

The League of Women Voters seems to have dropped their ball on their event. They should have a contingency plan. There may be some trouble there. They had their contest and will announce winners in a series of Zoom meetings tomorrow, one for each school district. We are at the top of their list of donors in their recent newsletter.

The awards are \$1200 for first place, \$500 for runners-up.

Good of the Order

SURJ, Speeding Up Racial Justice, is a group to add to our affinity list. They are producing a training program and get it out to workplaces. There is also Racial Equity and Social Justice. They are looking for trainees who can take the material back into their respective employers. The idea is to ask for a fee that can then be plowed back into the sponsoring group.

Adjourned at 8:53 PM