

Benton County Democrats Executive Committee Meeting
Online meeting via Zoom

09/07/2020

Attendance: Judi Johannesen, Carl Baker, Kendall Miller, John Masulonis, Micki McKinley, Kate Moran, Kitty Tominey, Stan Moon, Ansley Gerhart-Roberts, Frances Chvatal, Jessica Wadsworth, Raleigh Hawthorne, Shir Regev, Carly Rang, and Dave Petersen.

Meeting to order, 6:33 PM

Agenda:

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Adopt Agenda and Minutes
- 3) Secretary's Report
- 4) Treasurer's Report
- 5) Campaign Report
- 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 August E-board meeting. Seconded. Carried.

Secretary's Report – Kendall Miller

1. iContact
 - a. TCD meeting announcement
 - b. Announced September Executive Board meeting
 - c. Booked August meeting attendees
 - d. Added new contacts. We have a number of new subscribers.
 - e. Flagged 2021-2022 PCO contacts. We are missing email addresses for some of the newly elected PCOs. I'm following up with them.
2. Google account
 - a. Booked August meeting attendees
 - b. Added new contacts.
 - c. Flagged 2021-2022 PCO contacts
 - d. In the interest of seamless transitions to new officers, I'm in the process of moving historical documents from my personal computer onto our Google Drive. Encourage other officers to do likewise. The website serves as an archive of publicly published documents but the Drive would be a place to handoff working documents as we go along.
3. Google Phone
 - a. Responding to messages, mostly asking for signs
 - b. Have a Google sheet of people needing signs
4. Website
 - a. Developed a beta that breaks up the long home page.
 - i. Added section navigation buttons to all section pages
 - ii. Will be going live with it after next General meeting
 - b. Announcements
 - i. Coordinated Campaign Volunteer
 - ii. Environmental and Climate Caucus Endorsement Questionnaire
 - iii. Ballot rule change
 - iv. Volunteer for Shir

- c. Bencodems.org email addresses set up for all current PCO's.
Delegated task of obtaining preferred forwarding addresses from PCO's to Allison.
- d. Added list of 2021-2022 Elected PCO's
- e. Added link to the Environmental and Climate Change endorsement questionnaire
- f. Slide show.
 - i. Need more pictures.
- g. Posted the August General meeting minutes
- h. Updated local meeting information for online meetings.
- i. Posted Thank you to voters supporting the Fire District 4 Levy Lift
- j. Posted events notices
 - i. Blue Lives Murder
 - ii. Garbe-Reser Phone Banking 09/12
 - iii. Garbe-Reser Fundraiser 09/22
 - iv. Building Bridges: Meet and Greet

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

We had a tiny bit of interest income into our savings. Saving is at \$7679. We received a refund from Eastlake and contributions from 6 contributors for a total of \$409 in income. For expenditures we had a bill from our website host, Ionons, \$53. Which leaves us with a checking balance of \$33562. This would make our total assets at \$11034.

The fundraiser is ready to send out. We are working on the list to balance the number of mailers versus the expense.

Campaign reports.

Dave Petersen

Dave introduced himself with biographical information. He is the only remaining candidate with trial court experience both as an attorney and a judge. He's a big advocate of therapeutic courts. He will encourage the continuation of the current drug court as well as expansion of these courts into other areas. Has many years of experience as a judge in the Pasco Municipal Court as well as serving as a judge

pro tem for many years in both Superior Court and District Court. He also has worked in roles such as prosecutor, defender, and mediator. He contrasts himself to his opponent who has little judicial experience whose legal experience is limited to business law. He was in the Leadership Tri-Cities class 6. Has been an adjunct professor at CBC in the paralegal program. Has served on the Board of Directors of Benton-Franklin Legal Aid for a decade. He enjoys being a judge and making the courts work for the people using them. In answering a question about his recent rodeo event attendance, he said he did not attend the rodeo but did attend the parade where he rode on the top of a fire truck and didn't shake any hands. He commented that a number of other candidates who were better qualified than Sharon Brown didn't make it through the primary. Her name recognition makes it a difficult race. Many of them have endorsed him and many others support him. The local bar association does not look favorably on his opponent. To defeat Brown, he is happy to accept endorsements and recommendations from any reputable source. He is supported by Jay Clough. Not only is the infrastructure of the Juvenile Justice Center bleak, there is more work to do in that area than even that. They need good places for attorneys and clients to meet. Similar changes have been made in the Superior Court and it looks like the Juvenile Court is an afterthought. The presence of COVID makes conferencing even more difficult. The whole juvenile system needs help. He stated that spending money on treatment not only saves money on other things down the road but helps more people be constructive members of society. The burden for improving the juvenile lies on the county commissioners.

Motion to recommend Dave Peterson for Superior Court Judge. Seconded. Carried.

Shir Regev

Shir passed the Primary. Normally 15,000 votes would win an LD primary. She had over 16,000 votes but the Republican had more than usual because other races brought a greater Republican turnout. There will be 3 rounds of direct voter contact. She will be targeting precincts where they got within 50 votes of her opponent. She will rely heavily on the PCO's to put out some door-hangers. They will be doing phone- and text-banking. Democrats tend to double their turnout between the primary and the general and that would put them in striking distance

of Brad Klippert. Mailers are expensive. The more volunteers they have for literature distribution, the more her campaign dollars get stretched. Shir is using first class for her mailings because of possible delays in delivery. The BCDCC Facebook page gets good traffic for volunteer recruitment. Benton County will do more publicity for Shir with the likely-volunteer list.

Carly Rang for Danielle Garbe-Reser

They have a number of events coming up. There is the Building Bridges event. It's free to attend but they use ActBlue to capture RSVPs. Danielle requests that people use their personal networks to spread the word by sharing their Facebook events. They have another event this weekend. On Super-Saturday they would like to break their record number of phone calls. They invite people to sign up for their emails. The campaign is also having weekly phone-banking on each Thursday from 5-7 and each Saturday from 1-3. That's where they really need people. There will be a fundraiser with Tony Blinken, former Deputy Secretary of State in the Obama administration.

Frances Chvatal

Similar news to the Shir Regev and Danielle Reser campaigns, they received the normal primary results. The biggest issue is voter contact. They are using an auto-dialer for their phone-banking which has significantly improved the number of calls made. Frances is planning to do a literature drop in October. Large signs are coming. We can contact Ansley locally to obtain a sign. Janet Krupin performed at their fundraiser last Saturday with a well-produced segment. Frances has been in contact with Lena from the Coordinated Campaign. She is also interviewing with the Union-Bulletin and is filling out the questionnaire for Tri-City Herald for endorsements. She will be attending the Tri-City Chamber of Commerce forum on the weekend of the 21st.

Ansley Gerhard-Roberts for Carly Coburn

Carly's primary results were similar to others. She is having a big fundraiser on October 3 with a Halloween theme.

Chair's Report – Judi Johannesen

The fundraiser mailing is ready to go. The email has been designed and is ready to go. The Coordinated Campaign needs volunteers. The 8th LD is phone-banking on Tuesdays. The 16th LD is phone-banking on Thursdays. On Saturday, the phone-banking is for state-wide candidates. We will send an email out, a Facebook announcement and will post a website announcement tomorrow for the sign distribution events. In addition to Biden signs, we have signs for Inslee, Shir, and Danielle. The distribution will include information on how to contribute to those campaigns as well as the BCDCC.

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

State Committee Member 1 – Kate Moran.

The State Committee meeting is this Saturday. The public should be able to watch the proceedings. There are some resolutions at the state level.

State Committee Member 2 Report – Jay Clough not present.

Organization Committee – Allison Dabler not present

Events Committee – Carl Baker.

The Tri-City Democrats Black Lives Matter panel last month was well-received.

Racial Equity and Social Justice group is hosting a Why Race Matters training October 6-10. It looks like they will open the training to people outside the group. The Black Lives Matter flipped the script and had a panel of allies present to their group on September 1. The Tri-Cities Future Equalizers hosted that and is hosting other Allies panels.

The Tri-City Democrats will have a judge candidates forum at their next potluck.

We've been getting lots of requests for signs and it's good that we have distribution events happening. We've been contacted by the property owner at the intersection of Bombing Range and Collins road and they are requesting a number of signs for their location.

Elections Committee – Alisha Victorine not present

Resolutions and Platform Committee – Kitty Tominey.

We have been working for a resolution template and example. It would be good to provide a link to the accepted state resolutions after the elections.

Labor Committee – Jessica Wadsworth

Nothing to add.

Communication Committee – Judi Johannesen

Covered in the chairs report.

8th LD representative – John Masulonis.

The Coordinated Campaign is hosting phone-banking for the 8th LD every Thursday night. They will be getting Biden-Harris signs soon. We are not blending with Benton County because the sorting out of the donations would be a PDC problem.

16th LD representative – nothing to report.

Young Democrats – Sabastian Marichalar not present.

New Business

Unfinished Business

Kate Moran was in the meeting with the Twin-City Foods workers. They have submitted their letter of intent to have voting on whether to organize into a union. They are quite interested in having a few people to show support by displaying signs on October 9 in the late afternoon. They would like to see a good crowd then. The date is not certain yet. They would also like to staff some chairs each day leading up to the vote. Workers are fearful about losing their jobs for organizing. There is large support for the union. They had a walkout in April 2020 over PPE and work conditions. About 75% signed the cards. A woman had a positive test in May. Her family members also got sick. She had to pay out of pocket for the test and the company required her to return to work despite the test results. Her husband and son were fired for specious reasons. The company

isn't doing right by her and other affected workers. We will share any Facebook events if such a thing happens. If anyone wanted to go out there now with just a sign so the employer knows people are watching it would be OK.

Good of the Order

Adjourned at 7:59 PM