

**Benton County General Meeting
February 19, 2020
7:15 PM
Uptown Theater, Richland, WA**

Proposed Agenda

Call to order (7:15)
Approve agenda (7:15)
Secretary's report/approve minutes (7:16)
Treasurer's report/Finance Committee (7:19)
Vice Chair's report (7:22)
Chair's Report (7:25)
State Committee Member 1 report (7:35)
State Committee Member 2 report (7:38)
Resolutions/Platform Cmte. report (7:41)
Elections Committee report (7:44)
Organization Committee report (7:54)
 -new PCOs
Events Committee report (8:00)
Labor Committee report (8:06)
Young Democrats (8:09)
Communications Committee report (8:12)
Old Business (8:15)
New Business (8:20)
- League of Women Voters' /19th Amendment Centennial
Good of the Order (8:30)
Adjourn (8:40)

Minutes:

Call to order Chair Judi Johannesen- 7:15 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda- Moved, Seconded, Carried

Secretaries Report -

January minutes were posted. February Executive Board minutes were posted. Members are invited to review our website and submit suggestions for changes. They may also submit other websites as models for what we could do to improve our site. In our Google account we have created a set of folders for use by our subcommittees for collaboration. The permissions are controlled by the chair of each subcommittee. The Secretary is happy to provide training to folks who would like to learn more about using Google Drive.

Approval of January Minutes- Moved, Seconded, Carried.

Officer Reports-

Treasurer's Report, Micki McKinley. Micki was not able to be present but submitted a written report.

We received income from contributions and a storage vendor refund for a total of \$284.98. We had expenditures for meeting hall rent, supplies for Secretary, Treasurer, and Organization Committee, venue rental for County Convention, and our marquee sign for our meeting room for a total of \$461.16. Savings balance is \$7676.74. Checking balance is \$17364.89. Total assets are \$25041.63.

Vice-chair Report by Stan Moon. Nothing to report.

Chair's Report.

The 16th LD Presidential Preference Caucus for the portion of the 16th LD that resides in Benton County will happen at the May 3 County Convention scheduled to be at the Richland Community Center from 1-4 PM. The main business items of the convention are the platform and any resolutions. We will break near the end and allow 8th Legislative District residents to go home if they wish. The 16th LD residents will then conduct their Presidential Preference Caucus. The caucus will elect 6 delegates and 2 alternates to the 4th CD Caucus and State Convention.

In preparation for the November election this year, the WSDCC is rolling out a series of organizing academies. The emphasis is to get as many

people as possible to vote in the August Primary election. Statistically, those who vote in the primary are much more likely to vote in the general election. This is the technique they have chosen to help improve voter turnout overall. There will be Rise and Run trainings as well. These are to help inform potential candidates and volunteers about better campaigning.

Candidate filing is May 11-15. We are looking for one more candidate in the 16th LD and one for the 8th LD.

We will be having a Voting Party at the Emerald of Siam on Saturday, March 7 from 1-4:30. People are getting together to assist in filling out ballots. There is a county ballot box only a block away so folks can easily submit their ballots when done.

There is no news yet about the 4th CD Caucus. It is the responsibility of the 4th CD representative on the WSDCC executive board. This gentleman resides in the Yakima area.

State Committee Member 1 was not present.

State Committee Member 2, Jay Clough. Jay attended the State Committee meeting in January. A major order of business was the election of representatives to the Democratic National Committee. There were 11 candidates for 4 spots. Sharon Mast, David MacDonald, Maria Perez, and Javier Valdez were elected.

I was able to attend a portion of the Veterans Caucus before I had to shift over to the Rules Committee. The main issue in the Rules Committee was how to properly implement the various constituent caucuses under the State party umbrella. We passed these rule changes in the main session. We passed a number of resolutions. These included resolutions for small business, ranked choice voting, protection of scientific boards, opposition to the war with Iran, condemnation of the coup in Bolivia, protection of orcas, and opposition to training military in Washington state parks.

Resolutions and Platform Committee report by Cigdem Capan.

We will have a proposed platform ready in March. We will try to put a version of in a table format so individual planks can be matched to the positions of our candidates.

Those who wish to contribute to or critique the platform are encouraged to do so before the May 3 convention. The platform debate at that time will be limited to the removal of specific items.

Election Committee report by Alisha Victorine.

We've had discussions about what to have in an "ask" letter when we invite someone to run for office. We also talked about how we work with potential candidates who come to us for support or an endorsement. We have talked about what should be included in the endorsement package that we can give our candidates.

We have sign-up sheets for volunteers for the May 3 County Convention and the April 26 8th LD Caucus.

We are welcoming additional people onto the Election Committee.

Alisha is meeting with union representatives to build better relationships with them and to encourage more union members to run for office or volunteer to help with campaigns.

Organization Committee by Allison Dabler.

Allison has spoken to the Urban Poets Society to see if they would be interested in presenting during the 8th LD Caucus.

She reminded us that filing for elected PCO positions will be in May during the same time that all other political candidates file. Allison also has call lists for distribution to PCO's. Precincts have been prioritized for contact and PCO's and other volunteers are encouraged to take a list for a priority precinct.

We have a new PCO candidate, John Kennedy, to be appointed tonight. He will be appointed to precinct W3-P556.

Motion to appoint John Kennedy as Appointed Precinct Committee Officer of precinct W3-P556. Seconded and Carried.

You can contact Allison by email at orgchair@bencodems.org.

Events Committee by Carl Baker. The Tri-City Democrats had a good session on Valentine's Day on Local Politics 101. You can see some of the materials presented by visiting the TCD Facebook page. Next month, Disability Awareness will be the topic.

We will be at the Fair again this year. We will also be in a number of parades this year. The next parade will be Cinco de Mayo.

We are supporting the Women's March on March 8 in Pasco at Volunteer Park. The BCDCC has provided some financial support and members of the central committee are invited to donate on their own, if they wish.

We also have some Hate Has No Home Here signs available for distribution.

Labor Committee was not present. Cigdem Capan was able to meet with the organizer from the Washington State Labor Council, Ingrid Chapman. She organized an event that was about raising awareness of what unions do how to increase solidarity. They were able to discuss what the next steps might be. There will be some additional events coming.

Young Democrats by Sabastian Marichalar.

They have had their first regular meeting two weeks ago. The next meeting will be on Thursday next week at Columbia Basin College at 6:00 PM. They had a special meeting last week to formalize their budget. Regular meetings are on the 4th Thursday of each month.

The age group for YD is from 16-36.

Communications Committee by Judy Johannesen. We published a joint op-ed with John Masulonis in the Tri-City Herald about the Presidential Primary and the Legislative District Caucus.

Old Business

New Business

Chris Wagar told us about the new Swing Left organization. They are writing postcards to voters in swing states encouraging voters to vote.

The League of Women Voters approached us at the executive board meeting asking for support of their August banquet. We expect her to come back to us with a specific amount that we can get approved by the Executive Board and then bring to you for ratification.

Good of the Order

Alisha Victorine informed us that the State Party will provide a local field director again this electoral year for the coordinated campaign program.

Allison Dabler spoke about the Bernie Sanders campaign.

Fatema Karim announced that the Elizabeth Warren campaign is sending a field organizer to the Tri-Cities. She is looking for folks to include on the Warren mailing list. They will be canvassing and phone banking over the next 3 weeks, so they are looking for some volunteers. They are also looking for venues from which to stage these efforts.

There will be a Town Hall at the Richland Community Center with the 8th LD Legislative delegation at 10 AM.

Adjourned at 8:35.