

Benton County General Meeting

May 20, 2020

7:00 PM

Online via ZOOM

Proposed Agenda

Call to order

Approve agenda

Secretary's report/ approve minutes

Treasurer's report/ Finance Committee

Vice Chair's report

Chair's Report

Elections Committee report

-ratifications of endorsements and donations

Frances Chvatal, 16th LD Position 1 (\$1000)

Carly Coburn, 16 LD Position 2 (\$1000)

Doug McKinley, 4th Congressional District (\$5000)

Shir Regev, 8th LD Position 1 (\$1000)

Justin Raffa, Benton County Commissioner District 1 (\$1000)

State Committee Member 1 report

State Committee Member 2 report

Resolutions/Platform Cmte. report

Organization Committee report

Events Committee report

Labor Committee report

Young Democrats

Communications Committee report

Unfinished Business

New Business

Good of the Order

Coordinated Campaign

ACLU Community Stakeholder Survey (non-partisan organization)

Adjourn

Minutes:

Call to order Chair Judi Johannesen- 7:01 PM

[Secretary's note: We have 48 committee members so the 20% is 9 and minimum quorum is 10. Attendance was 13 members and 11 from the general public.]

Adoption of Agenda- Moved, Seconded, Carried

Secretaries Report -

1. iContact
 - a. Notify PCO's of approved platform.
 - b. Announced May Executive Board meeting
 - c. Announced May Platform Convention
 - d. Announced May E-board minutes posted
 - e. Announced PCO Filing Deadlines (sent after Secretary of State corrected her process)
 - f. Announced May online general meeting
2. Website
 - a. Posted the April General meeting minutes
 - b. Publish final draft of Platform
 - c. Posted the May Platform Convention minutes
 - d. May E-Board minutes posted
 - e. Published approved Platform
 - f. Posted announcement of PCO Filing Deadlines
 - g. Fixed a problem with the Facebook feed

Approval of April Minutes- Moved, Seconded, Carried.

Officer Reports-

Treasurer had to drop out of meeting for a moment and we proceeded to the Chair's Report..

Chair's Report and Communications Cmte. Report - Judi Johannesen

We updated the ad in Tumbleweird to inform the public about moving to a virtual meeting for the platform convention as well as how to contact the

Secretary to get added to the mailing list in order to receive the online invitation to the meeting. Also worked to get meetings set up with potential endorsees. We had communications go out to our email list seeking as many PCO candidates as we could muster.

Treasurer's Report, Micki McKinley. We had some good contributions this month that helped as well as some event refunds for an income of almost \$900. We had significant advertising costs and made the second payment on the Benton-Franklin Fair booth. We made a \$1000 contribution to Danielle Reser. Our total expenditure was close to \$3000. Savings balance is \$7677.50. Checking balance is \$13256. Total assets are \$20934.

Vice-chair Report by Stan Moon. He has been calling on behalf of the Doug McKinley campaign. He invited everyone present to join him in that effort.

Election Committee - Alisha Victorine. We've been trying to get a statewide list of Democratic candidates with jurisdictions we hope to flip and incumbents we wish to keep. At a special E-board meeting we had just prior to this one, we endorsed Shir Regev and Justin Raffa. We understand that Sharon Brown will be stepping down from the State Senate to run for a local judgeship. We would like to get a candidate to contest that position when the special election comes up.

We have 5 endorsements to ratify and some donations to approve. Justin Raffa can not be here because he had another meeting in which he was in charge. Doug McKinley is conducting a online town hall at this moment and will also not be able to attend.

Frances Chvatal introduced her campaign for Legislator Position 1 of the 16th LD. She doesn't have a primary challenger. Her Republican opponent is Mark Klicker of Walla Walla. Ansley Gerhard- Roberts is her campaign manager. She was born in Walla Walla, raised on a farm in Touchet, and has been a nurse for 37 years. She is confident of her positions on health care and agriculture. She has 4 children and 4 grandchildren. She is passionate about education. There is a logical symmetry between health care and education that we need to promote in this district by the school nursing program. We need to improve broadband technology access to make education available to everyone. She is currently working on her

voter pamphlet message. Signs are going out. Ansley has a supply of signs to distribute in this part of the 16th District. She supports Medicare for All but she is realistic in thinking that any progress toward that even without full implementation is a step in the right direction and worth the effort. She would like to see the profit incentives in health care be reduced and primary care and prevention better emphasized. Her campaign is developing it phone- and text-banking capacity. They had a nice forum entitled Women Winning in Eastern Washington last weekend. Some recent successful women candidates shared some of their knowledge and experiences. She's been meeting with various regional party leaders to help better understand any unique economic and community challenges in the two counties of the 16th LD about which she knows less than what she knows about her own home counties. She estimates that she has raised about \$12,000. Fundraising has been steady. Due to the pandemic, expenses on printed literature is going to be higher than normal.

Question: Have you ever run for office before?

No.

Question: Would you sign on to co-sponsor the Whole Washington bill.

She said she needed to learn more about the specifics of the bill and will get back to the questioner.

Motion to endorse Frances Chvatal for Legislator for the 16th Legislative District Position 1. Seconded. Carried.

Motion to ratify the Executive Board's approval of a \$1000 donation to her campaign. Seconded. Carried.

Carly Coburn is running for Legislator Position 2 for the 16th Legislative District. Her Republican opponent is Skyler Rude. She has been active in our local Democratic political organizations and activism for many years holding many offices. She has also been active in non-partisan activism around support for people with disabilities. She's running on a platform dedicated to health care affordability and accessibility in rural communities, affordable housing, and increasing the standard of living for

disabled and low-income Washingtonians. Statistically in Eastern Washington, all of us die earlier than we should, due to preventable reasons. All families in the 16th LD should have access to adequate, affordable housing. Since legislation is stalled in D.C., Washington needs to act to assure good integration in housing for disabled adults. Amber Rodriguez is her campaign manager. She would sign out as a co-sponsor to the Whole Washington bill and would support in on the campaign trail.

Motion to endorse Carly Coburn for Legislator Position 2 for the 16th Legislative District and to contribute \$1000 to her campaign. Seconded. Carried.

Doug McKinley is running for the 4th Congressional District. His opponent is incumbent Republican Dan Newhouse. Neither he nor his campaign manager, Allison Dabler, were able to attend this meeting. Doug is well-known to us and has been a congressional candidate as well as a staff member for other congressional campaigns. The executive board has approved an endorsement for him as well as a \$5000 contribution.

Motion to endorse Doug McKinley for the 4th Congressional District and to contribute \$5000 to his campaign. Seconded. Carried.

Shir Regev is running for Legislator Position 1 of the 8th Legislative District. Her opponent is Republican incumbent Brad Klippert. Two years ago, no Democrat had filed to run against him. She was a last-minute filer just to get an opponent for Brad onto the ballot. She's a member of the LGBTQIA community and a union worker at Hanford as well as a veteran. In Brad Klippert's voting record, he was opposed to everything that's important to me. There are lots of people like me in his district whom he repeated votes against. He voted against the Hanford worker presumption law. There's a little-known loophole where the Department of Labor can't help a worker but the state Labor and Industries can. This law makes sure that L&I help is available for those workers. And that's just one example of many unhelpful votes. He supported the limited car tab tax which resulted in the suspension of a needed traffic improvement for one of the most dangerous intersections in the state which happens to be used by many Hanford workers. This is one of the ways he supports the kind of thinking that keeps needed money from coming to the district to do things the people in

the district need done. If universal health care isn't established at the national level, we need things like Whole Washington to get good universal and affordable health care for all Washingtonians. He wastes time on ferry flags and limiting access to high school sports for LGBTQ students while ignoring the needs of his district. He says that the lack of support for 8th District needs is because of the animus of western Washington legislators. He's had 12 years to improve the situation but it's now worse rather than better because of the radical positions he takes. It's time for a change. When he vocalizes support for dividing the state, it's hard to see how he can effectively advocate for us in Olympia. We are one Washington and we need to be working that way.

Question: Are there any personal health issue that may affect you ability to campaign.

Answer: No. I done this before, so I know what I'm in for. I wouldn't have filed if I was concerned about that. I won't have to worry about a primary election, so I'll have one less layer of stress.

Her website is atthetablewithshir.com.

Motion to endorse Shir Regev for Legislator Position 1 for the 8th Legislative District and to contribute \$1000 to her campaign. Seconded. Carried.

Justin Raffa is running for Benton County Commissioner District 1. His opponents are the Republican incumbent Jerome Delvin and other Republicans, Donnie Landsman, Michael Alvarez, and Jeff Smart. He was endorsed by the Executive Board in a meeting just before this one. The board also voted to donate \$1000 to his campaign.

He is the chair and founder of the Civility Caucus and is respected across party lines.

One of his big issues is getting more visibility and transparency for the commissioner meetings. Currently, their meetings are inconvenient for the public to attend and only audio recordings are available. He would like for the commissioner meetings to allow remote participation.

Dori Gilmour is his campaign manager.

Motion to endorse Justin Raffa for Benton County Commissioner District 1 and to contribute \$1000 to her campaign. Seconded. Carried.

State Committee Member 1 – Kate Moran. The State Convention will be on June 15 from 9 AM to 5 PM. The rules have been passed by the Rules Committee and by the WSDCC Executive Committee. May 26 is the deadline for anyone to apply to run for the Convention Chair. You can contact Kate or Drew Estep for information on that. On May 27, all the delegates will receive the recommended 2020 platform from the Platform Committee. They will also receive the Rules Committee report. On May 31 at 5 PM is the deadline for any proposed amendments to the platform or the rules. They must be submitted to the appropriate committee by that time. No amendments will be entertained from the floor during the convention. On June 1, all the delegates receive ballots to vote for convention chair. On June 2, they will receive runoff ballots for the convention chair if no candidate receives a majority on the June 1 balloting. On June 8, we will have the final convention committee majority and minority reports. On June 11 6 PM to June 12 6 PM, alternates must check in to be potentially seated. By 8 PM June 12, the alternates receiving a seat will be notified. Kate has more detailed information for anyone who wants it. This convention is significantly different than any we have ever had before because it will be completely virtual.

Question: Would it be possible to put all this information on the website?

Answer: Kate will have to ask the State about that. There may be some proprietary information in this. All delegates and State Committee Members have complete access to this information.

State Committee Member 2 is not present.

Resolutions and Platform Committee – no report.

Organization Committee – no report.

Events Committee - Carl Baker. Whole Washington is keeping up the heat to put pressure on the anticipated special session of the Legislature. The

session is intended to be about pandemic issues. But since Whole Washington is a health care effort, they are hoping they might be able to get some of the elements before the Legislature. A letter-writing campaign is coming as a part of their activism. Notifications and invitations to action will be found on Facebook at the Tri-City Democrats and other places.

On the storage issue. There are trailers parked at Kate's house for folks to load recycling stuff from the garage into the trailers for later disposition. Call her directly to coordinate a time to work it.

Tri-City Democrats are holding their Potluck via Zoom these days and it seems to be working well. Next month on June 12, they will be seeing some of the candidates.

The Fair fees have been paid but there is little expectation that it will actually happen.

We don't expect to do any parades in 2020 until maybe the Veterans Day parade in November.

Labor Committee – Jessica Wadsworth. There have been issues with the farm workers and their unions are out there working with them to make sure that they are being taken care of. The Teamsters are talking to the workers at the Tyson plant to see what assistance they can provide. The grocery union is working with Fred Meyers to make sure the workers get to keep their hazard pay. All the unions are out there working to make sure that all workers get protected whether they are union or not. There hasn't been any calls yet for broader public participation in activism at this time. Cigdem will send links to the unions striking in Yakima to the secretary and communications committee so we can post them on the website and social media.

Young Democrats - Sabastian Marichalar. They have procured their domain for the website. They will have fully functional site by the end of the month.

Communications Committee - Judy Johannesen. She learned how to make an ad for the Tumbleweird magazine. We updated our ad with them that

runs every month so people know that we are meeting by Zoom these days and how to attend them.

Unfinished Business – None.

New Business.

On June 12, the Environment and Climate Caucus will have a local online meeting where there will be speakers from both the Biden and Sanders campaigns to talk about environmental and climate issues. The chair of the newly formed Climate Caucus of the DNC will also be presenting. When the Zoom link for that is available, Cigdem will forward it to the secretary for posting on the website.

Good of the Order.

The ACLU is running their community and stakeholders survey right now. If you are interested in participating, contact Judi and she will provide the link for that.

Chris Kingsby with the coordinated campaign. Beginning in June, we will have him as a regular part of our agenda. There are some good Democratic candidates running all across Eastern Washington. He needs as much help as he can get. There are regular virtual phone-banking sessions Monday-Thursday from 5 to 8 pm. People have been stepping up and that's been good. We have an autodialer program on Sundays that allows us to make lots of phone calls quickly. They are making about 10,000 calls each Sunday. Three thousand of the 10 have been to Eastern Washington phones. We are implementing the Through-text program that even our candidates can use. Chris introduced Brandon Bullock, a field organizer who is joining the team from Texas. The coordinated campaign is working on slate cards for use later as we get closer to the election.

On June 10, there will be an online fundraiser for the 16th LD candidates.

Danielle Garbe-Reser shared that the 16th LD has 3 good women candidates this year. The 16th is one of only two districts that have 3 women running. In the June 10 fundraiser, the money will be divided amongst all three

campaigns. The Senate race is the only one of the three that has a primary, so Danielle is working extra hard to make sure she is successful there in August. Doing well in the primary will make it easier to attract interest in the general election. Signs will be distributed in the Tri-Cities this weekend. She welcomes lots of help with her phone-banking. Danielle has been endorsed by the Washington State Labor Council, the WEA, IBEW 77 and 112, the Central Washington Building Trades, and a number of others. We need to get Washington back to work and do it safely. There are good ways to have partnerships that can make PPE more available and physical distancing more universal and effective. We need to make the safe choice the easy choice.

Adjourned at 8:30.