

Benton County General Meeting
July 15, 2020
7:00 PM
Online via ZOOM

Proposed Agenda

Call to order
Approve agenda
Secretary's report/ approve minutes
Treasurer's report/ Finance Committee
Campaign Reports
Chair's Report
Vice Chair's report
State Committee Member 1 report
State Committee Member 2 report
Resolutions/Platform Cmte. report
Elections Committee report
Organization Committee report
Events Committee report
Labor Committee report
Young Democrats
Communications Committee report
Unfinished Business
New Business
Good of the Order
Adjourn

Minutes:

Call to order Chair Judi Johannesen at 7:00 PM

[Secretary's note: We have 54 committee members so the 20% is 10 and minimum quorum is 10. Attendance was 16 members and 5 from the general public.]

Adoption of Agenda- Moved, Seconded, Carried

Approval of June Minutes- Moved, Seconded, Carried.

Secretaries Report –

1. iContact
 - a. TCD meeting announcement
 - b. Announced July Executive Board meeting
 - c. Announced July online general meeting
 - d. Reminder of July general meeting with Zoom link
 - e. Booked June meeting attendees
 - f. Automated a new sign-up response email.
2. Google account
 - a. Booked June meeting attendees
 - b. Added new contacts.
3. Website
 - a. Attempted to change the Theme. That caused some other major problems. Reverted to original theme and rebuilt the pieces that had been corrupted. Simply added a Plug-in to give better font alternatives which was the motivation for the theme change. Please let me know if something isn't working.
 - b. Fixed a problem with our subscribe process. We appear to be getting hits by bots. I added code for an invisible reCAPTCHA function. The bot subscriptions have stopped.
 - c. Posted the June General meeting minutes
 - d. Posted the July Executive Board minutes
 - e. Posted events notices
 - i. TCD meeting announcement
 - ii. I-1776 announcement
 - iii. Justin Raffa door-hanger campaign
 - iv. BLM July 4 protest
 - v. DNC announcement about convention
 - vi. ACLU Reparations Virtual Forum
 - vii. Forever Free: An Art Rally for Juneteenth
 - viii. Defying Gravity fundraiser
 - ix. A Seat at the Table event

- x. 2nd Harvest food distribution

4. Meeting flow

a. Zoom protocols

- i. Welcome to the Benton County Democratic Central Committee, the BCDCC.
 - ii. Please caption your zoom screen with your real name.
 - iii. If you have background noise, please mute unless speaking.
 - iv. For the purpose of accurate minutes, this meeting is being recorded. The recording is only used to produce our official written record.
 - v. It is our custom to allow anyone present to speak.
 - vi. Voting is limited to Central Committee members.
 - vii. Central Committee members are
 1. Current PCO's (newly elected PCO's don't officially take office until January 2021),
 2. Elected BCDCC officers,
 3. Executive BCDCC Board members,
 4. Democratic club or organization presidents or designees who reside in Benton County,
 5. Chairs and members of all BCDCC standing or special subcommittees,
 6. The representative of the 4th CD Democratic Central Committee
 7. The chairs or representatives of the 8th and 16th LD Democratic Central Committees who live in Benton County
 8. Democratic elected office holders of partisan offices who reside in Benton County.
 - viii. Roll call via chat. If you haven't already done so, please record your presence with an entry into the meeting chat feature. Please indicate your status with your position in the BCDCC membership or indicate that you are a welcome guest.
- b. Furthermore, I propose that we set up a Google Doc for general news and views which is updateable by officers and committee members and is linked in our website. The content is moderated by the Chair

and Secretary. Its purpose is to allow any of our members to easily publish information onto our website. [Demo]

Officer Reports-

Treasurer Report – Micki McKinley, not present but provided a written report.

We had a tiny bit of interest income into our savings. Saving is at \$7678. We received \$420 from the 8th LD as reimbursement for advertising. We received a refund from the Fair for \$1340. We received contributions from 4 donors bringing the total Income to \$1846. For expenditures we had Tumbleweird for \$50 and \$70, a donation to Frances Chvatal of \$1000, a donation to Carly Coburn of \$1000 for a total of \$2120. Which leaves us with a checking balance of \$3129. This would make our total assets at \$10868.

Campaign Reports.

Frances Chvatal is raising money and phone banking. It is what we can do. Her campaign is also doing text banking. Have been doing well with endorsements. There is a forum tomorrow. It will be Live on Facebook. It is sponsored by the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce and the AAW group. All three of the 16th LD races will have time during the forum. The location is the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce at 6:30. The URL for Zoom registration is in the chat. Joining by Zoom will allow for questions. In Facebook, you can't ask questions.

The Doug McKinley campaign will be doing lots of media advertising. Donations and volunteering can be done at the Doug McKinley website. They are prioritizing outreach to get our Latin community to vote. They have signs and have placed over half their inventory on the streets at this point.

Justin Raffa's campaign has raised more than \$30,000 with mostly small donations. They are hanging rack cards on the doors of likely Democrats. More volunteers are welcome. They note that ballots have dropped ahead of schedule and all campaigns are scrambling to adjust their activities to

that. Now is the time to write letters to the editor for your preferred candidates.

Chair's Report – Judi Johannesen

Judi has been doing work with the local Black Lives Matter organizations. Voter registration has gone well there. She has also made a number of Facebook posts in support of local Democratic campaigns. She has also worked on adding details to the Election Committee worksheet of current candidates. And she has helped with the Justin Raffa and Danielle Garber-Reser campaigns.

There have been major PDC complaints filed against Sharon Brown, a Republican judicial candidate. You can see them on the PDC website. The complaints are not trivial.

Vice-chair Report - Stan Moon.

Stan has been working with the Doug McKinley campaign. Two hundred fifty signs are out and 150 remain to be distributed.

State Committee Member 1 – Kate Moran.

The preparations of the national convention are proceeding. Delegate briefings for specific Presidential candidates as well as for the convention as a whole are happening.

The state party is communicating to folks about the issue of signature gathering while under physical distancing restrictions. According to Washington state law, signatures can not be obtained electronically. They must be done with wet ink on paper. The proper procedure is to request a signature form to be sent to your home, to sign it, and then mail it back to the organization seeking that signature.

State Committee Member 2 is not present.

Election Committee - Alisha Victorine.

A phone number is posted in the chat for people who wish to volunteer to phone bank for the Get-Out-the-Vote effort. It's not a bad idea for PCO's to wear some sort of identifying clothing such as a candidate t-shirt when they physically canvass their precincts. She also put up a link for SURJ, Speeding Up Racial Justice. A new chapter is being established locally and the first meeting is coming up soon.

Resolutions and Platform Committee - Kitty Tominey. Energy Northwest is interesting in working with the Democrats to create good local and statewide legislation in support of nuclear power. They provided information and some people we can contact. The challenge is to craft messaging that is effective without being too technical for the casual audience. We're still working on potential issues and topics for future resolutions.

Organization Committee - Allison Dabler.

Ballots are out early. It's time for the PCO's to do their thing. If any need Votebuilder help or a walking list, please contact her. The committee has been doing lots of public education and recruitment of future PCO's at the recent protests. We need more people helping with this work. Fernando Aguilar and Lora Rathbone asked to be contacted for Votebuilder help.

Scott MacLeod introduced himself to the group. He and his wife are teachers and have been active in recent education actions. He would be willing to serve as a PCO.

Chris Tracy noted that Jayne is the PCO for his precinct. He would like to be appointed to serve for the neighboring precinct, 6150, since they actually live near the boundary of the two precincts.

Motion to approve Chris Tracy as the appointed PCO for precinct 6150. Seconded. Carried.

Events Committee - Carl Baker. No specific events to report. Most recent activism has been around Black Lives Matter issues. There is a building initiative to do our homework on how our local police departments are working in regards racial disparity in the streets.

The Tri-City Democrats had a good candidate forum last week. The topic for the next virtual potluck may be something with nuclear power.

It was suggested that he pass the text of the ACLU initiative on defunding the police to Kitty so she could possibly use the material in a future resolution. Claudia Colindres Johnson is the point of contact on this.

Labor Committee – Jessica Wadsworth. Not present.

Young Democrats – Sabastian Marichalar, not present. Judi shared his written report from our Executive Board meeting.

“These past few weeks we’ve been trying to build and put together our new TCYD website with a way to accept donations. We’re almost finished. Progress has been slower than expected, but progress nonetheless.

I’ve been in talks with the new YDWA leadership elected in June and they’re going to do what they can to help us grow. These include recruitment strategies and hands-on help. Because of the current Pandemic, it’s been unexpectedly difficult to grow, especially for such a new organization. However, I’m confident that with YDWA support we’ll be able to facilitate growth.

We are going to be sending out endorsement questionnaires this week to local candidates who may want our endorsement. If any candidates are on the call, please have them contact me. My email is tricity@ydwa.org.

In some personal news, I got word late last week of an appointment from State Party Chair Podlodowski to be 1 of 3 Pages to the upcoming Democratic National Convention. It’s a great honor to have this appointment and I’m looking forward to the work that comes with it.”

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to email or text me. I’m also available for a brief call if that’s preferred.

Thanks,

Sabastian Marichalar

Communications Committee - Judy Johannesen.

Nothing new to report that wasn't covered in the Chair's report.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business.

The Executive Board voted to pay for a box of Joe Biden signs up to \$500.

Motion to ratify the expense of not more than \$500 to purchase a box of Joe Biden signs along with the freight cost to have them shipped here. Seconded. Carried.

Kendall proposed that we make a Google Doc available on the website to allow the public and members to easily provide potential content. The contents will be moderated. People are invited to work with it and forward comments to the Webmaster.

Motion to appoint Scott McLeod to be PCO of precinct 6295. Seconded. Carried.

Motion to support passage of the Fire District 4 Levy Lid Lift. Seconded. Carried.

Good of the Order.

Alisha Durga expressed her pleasure at how many people attend our meetings and are doing the good work in the trenches for Democratic values.

Tomorrow night in the Defying Gravity event for the Danielle Garbe-Reser and Sharlett Mena campaigns.

The Coordinated Campaign will be doing 2 phone-banking efforts a day until August 4. Over 2400 volunteers have been trained to date. They've made over 400,000 phone calls and they've sent over 75,000 texts. The goal is to do 200,000 more calls and send 50,000 more texts by the end of the primary election. You can sign up at www.wa-

democrats.org/organizingevents. All State Committee members and all PCO's are encouraged to sign up for a shift.

Judi will contact the Jay Inslee for yard signs.

Adjourned at 8:31.