

Benton County General Meeting
August 26, 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 7:01 PM

[Secretary's note: We have 55 committee members so the 20% is 11 and minimum quorum is 10. Attendance was 18 members and 7 from the general public.]

Adoption of Agenda- Moved, Seconded, Carried

Approval of July Minutes- Moved, Seconded, Carried.

Secretaries Report -

1. iContact
 - a. TCD meeting announcement
 - b. Announced August Executive Board meeting
 - c. Announced August E-board minutes posted
 - d. Announced August online general meeting
 - e. Announced rescheduling of August meeting
 - f. Booked July meeting attendees
 - g. Added new contacts.
2. Google account
 - a. Booked July meeting attendees
 - b. Added new contacts.
 - c. Merged in all the contacts from the Presidential Primary. About 11,000. We now have over 15,000 contacts in our county database.
3. Google Phone
 - a. Backup Judi on Google phone messages.
 - b. Have a Google sheet of people needing signs
4. Website
 - a. Developed a beta that breaks up the long home page.
 - b. I upgraded our version of Wordpress.
 - c. I established @bencodems.org PCO email addresses in the form pco.9999@bencodems.org where 9999 is the 4-digit precinct code. These are set up to forward to an email of your choice, either your regular personal email or an account you set up exclusively for PCO work. I need to know each PCO's preferred inbox email.
 - d. Added link to the Progressive Voters Guide
 - e. Posted links to places to view the Democratic National Convention
 - f. Reinstated our slide show which had been lost.
 - i. Need more pictures.
 - ii. Transferred some from Facebook.
 - g. Added a slide show with “, you might be a Democrat” taglines. There are 60 taglines so far.

- h. Added a generator for Questions for Republicans. It has a list of about 150 questions beginning, "What would you think if a Democratic candidate...", where ... is something reprehensible the current President has done.
- i. Posted the July General meeting minutes
- j. Posted the August Executive Board minutes
- k. Info encouraging mask wearing was actually posted previously.
- l. Updated local meeting information for online meetings.
- m. Posted support of Fire District 4 Levy Lift
- n. Posted events notices
 - i. Get Out the Vote for Shir Regev.
 - ii. Silent March
 - iii. Womxn's Rally
 - iv. GOTV message
 - v. ACLU School Safety Online event
 - vi. Farmworkers Rights March

Officer Reports-

Treasurer Report – Micki McKinley

Our income was from folks who have set up an automatic donation for a total of \$83. Savings is at \$7678. We spent \$70 with Tumbleweird for advertising. We also sent money to Eastlake according to the terms of our contract with them, but that was refunded. They will suspend the rent payments until face-to-face meetings are allowed. Which leaves us with a checking balance of \$3129. This would make our total assets at \$10880.

Campaign Reports.

Allison Dabler for Doug McKinley. They are getting ready to do a bunch of ads. Almost all of their signs have been distributed. All their phone banking efforts are being done through the Coordinated Campaign.

Frances Chvatal gave an update. The primary results were good but with only 33% of the vote. They continue to be hopeful. They had some good letters to the editor published in the Union-Bulletin. Her opponent was rated very conservative by his answers to the I-Voter Guide questionnaire.

Frances will be getting an endorsement from Local 53. Big signs are on the way. She is planning a general election kickoff on September 5 at 6:00 PM. They will be attending several community forums. Mostly virtual with schools starting. Dayton is doing a live forum because they are at phase 3. The campaign has started using their auto-dialer. They found that it is efficient. The kickoff details can be found on the campaign's Facebook page.

Carly Coburn. There have been some management changes. She has some signs and will do a no-contact drop-off. There are Facebook posts on her campaign page for phone banking events and a general election kick-off on Saturday, August 29 at 6:30 PM.

Danielle Garbe-Reser campaign by Carly Rang. They had a good primary result. On Tuesdays through Thursdays at 5 PM and Saturdays at 1 PM, they are having phone banking. They are exploring relational social outreach. They are looking at software that helps people contact folks within their social sphere regardless of the platform they use. They will continue doing text- and phone-banking. On September 19, they will have a fundraiser partnering with the Teamsters and Ana Ruis Peralta.

Raleigh Hawthorne for Justin Raffa. They got through the primary okay, but the battle in the general is on. They are having a fundraiser called "Paint the County" to pay for their signs. They have \$900 raised by last night. They have several more events coming up. They will be doing text-banking and phone-banking. They have received a new batch of signs. They will deliver them no-contact. The campaign will be doing an event to showcase some local artists. Justin will continue his Facebook Live talks. Going forward, they will be focusing on issues like the COVID response and some of the things that Justin believes he can do better with than his opponent. They will be getting the big signs up this weekend. They have some good endorsements from unions with more rolling in. They have endorsements from Republicans as well. The campaign is growing their Facebook page. They are specifically looking for people to help with putting grommets in the big signs. They still have rack cards they will be distributing later. The campaign also will be doing mailers and radio ads. We all need to get letters to the editor in a constant flow rather than a lump close to the deadline.

Chair's Report – Judi Johannesen

Every one of our candidates made it through the primary. We are almost ready to send out the fundraising cards. She would like to do a no-contact sign delivery in a parking lot. We have 150 Inslee signs and 100 Biden signs. The 8th LD will be getting 300 Biden-Harris signs soon.

We will market the signs event on Facebook and the website. People are invited to share BCDCC Facebook posts so others who may not visit our Facebook page can get alerted to what we are doing. The money for our fundraiser will come from the Norm Miller budget. The League of Women Voters gave out their awards. The essays are on the League of Women Voters website.

Vice-chair Report - Stan Moon.

He has been putting up Doug McKinley signs. Justin Raffa has been doing a good sign game. All the McKinley signs are out. They are looking for people to walk neighborhoods in Pasco to distribute cards. They are also reaching out to the millennials.

State Committee Member 1 – Kate Moran.

The September meeting of the State Committee has been moved to September 12 from 9 to 5 online.

They will be using special rules. The committee reports that are subject to amendments will be out for amendments 14 days in advance. Committee members have 7 days to return their amendments. There will be constituency caucuses held before September 12. It's likely there may be a chance for people to be able to watch the proceedings as guests. When more specific information is ready, Kate will pass that to the Chair and Secretary for distribution and publication.

State Committee Member 2 is not present.

Election Committee - not present.

All candidates made it through the primary.

Resolutions and Platform Committee - Kitty Tominey.

She hasn't received any feedback on the distributions made previously.

Organization Committee - Allison Dabler.

We are in Get Out the Vote mode. She has been working with the Coordinated Campaign. She has made lists for county chairs of potential volunteers. Anyone who wishes to volunteer should look at getting hooked up with the Coordinated Campaign because that's where lots of work is being done for all the candidates in our region.

Events Committee - Carl Baker.

The city of West Richland is getting more picky about signs. They will remove signs that are posted in the city rights-of-way. Jen Goulet left a bunch of steel posts. Justin Raffa will use them. Black Live Matter activism is ongoing. We had a good panel with the last Tri-City Democrats meeting. There are ongoing protests happening. Watch Facebook for information there. The organizers are looking for volunteers to dig into records and police manuals to get into the nuts and bolts of exactly what changes need to be made.

The Tri-Cities Diversity Inclusion Council will use our public address equipment. Other BLM events have had our PA available to them.

Labor Committee – Jessica Wadsworth.

They have been focusing on getting members to vote. The local is getting questionnaires in for endorsements. They are working on a good strategy for making their endorsements.

The UFCW is working with the Twin City Foods labor force to organize. They are getting members organized. A big road project has been released and lots of people will be able to get back to work.

The inability to have membership meetings has made it difficult to make decisions and take actions.

They will let us know how we can help with the UFCW effort.

Young Democrats – not present.

Communications Committee - Judy Johannesen.

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

Unfinished Business – None

New Business - None

Good of the Order.

Carly Rang. Will the Benton County Democrats be considering general election contributions? It will depend on how well our mail fundraising event goes. If it doesn't bring in enough funds, we will be holding onto what we have so we can field a good in-person event when the pandemic lifts.

John Christenson. KID wants to take land from a 4th-generation farmer.

Cigdem Capan. The Environmental and Climate Caucus of the state party is doing endorsements. All candidates need to do is fill out the questionnaire. The caucus had a good event with the convention. [Secretary's note: The link to the questionnaire will be posted on our website.]

Lora Rathbone. The League of Women Voters thanks us for our generous donation. Republicans were embarrassed that they didn't take the chance to contribute.

Kendall Miller. Reorg is coming after the elections. All the county party offices will be up for re-election. Potential candidates may want to start planning for those elections soon. New people, younger people, and people of color are encouraged to consider serving in any of the offices that matches their passion.

Andrew Drom. He said he was new to the area and happy to get involved in party activities. Allison arranged to talk with him about those possibilities after the meeting.

Kate Moran. We need to have contact information for the 2021-2022 Elected PCOs. [Secretary's note: The public contact information for these PCOs will be posted on the website.]

Adjourned at 8:47.