

Benton County Democrats General Meeting

Online via Zoom

10/28/2021

Call to order 7:08pm

Present: Carl Baker, Kendall Miller, Richard Reuther, Julie Soderquist, Cedar Kennedy, Richard Badalamente, Lora Rathbone, Charles Wiegand, Doug White, Chris Tracy, Kurt Conrad, Jayne Tracy, Melissa Gilman, John Christenson, Jayce Wright, Leona Hassing

Chair amends agenda to correct the date.

Motion to approve amended agenda, seconded, approved by all.

Secretary (Julie)

Motion to accept September minutes as presented, seconded, approved by all.

Treasurer

Previous balance \$16,570.75, \$234.11 in income, \$140.98 spent, for a current balance of \$16,615.83.

Chair (Richard)

Two guests invited to speak tonight, Doug White, 4th CD candidate against Dan Newhouse in 2022 and Charles Wiegand of Question PAC, which works to defeat GOP candidates in red-leaning districts.

Get ballots in; don't rely on mail. PCOs go door to door to democrats, give written recommendations. Match yourself to candidates who need help. Redistricting drama continues. Attended zoom meeting "Echos of Inclusion and Resistance in the Tri Cities", about how different ethnic groups have been excluded in our area. Recording is available at gcatch.org.

Kurt Conrad and Jayce Wright met with the Chiawana principal regarding gang violence and racial tension. Looking to use a collaborative approach between students and community. Jayce is also assembling a group to talk about community engagement, as part of effort to deal with diversity and inclusion.

Elections (Justin)

Encourage all to continue to be active with candidates' social media accounts. Make sure your ballot was received and counted. Randy Slovic's Tri Cities Observer blog has insight into Semi Bird, Stephen Simmons, and Jhoanna Jones. Lora Rathbone shared her flyer regarding general election information. Some discussion whether we might need Democratic observers present in the county process.

VC1 & Organization (Alison)

Not present

VC2 (Open)

SCM #1 (Regina)

Not Present

SCM #2 (Sabastian)

Not Present

Resolutions (Kitty)

Not present

Labor (Jessica)

Not present

Events (Carl)

Veterans Day parade Saturday, Nov 6. Tri City Democrats meet Friday, Nov 12, with guest speaker Doug White.

8th LD (Chris)

Next meeting is likely Nov 18, just before the Benco dems meeting. Almost ready to launch elections committee, will focus on the next election cycle. May see a new redistricting map to address problems in Yakima area. We will have a new secretary of state, may not be a Republican.

16th LD (Evertt)

Not present

Unfinished Business

DEI - covered by Kurt and Jayce earlier in the zoom. Richard has not yet found books to purchase for school libraries.

New Business

Open nomination for 2nd Vice Chair. John Christenson accepted nomination. Nominations closed. Motion to accept John for 2nd Vice Chair by acclimation. Seconded, approved by all.

Steve Goheen has been appointed as PCO to replace Dori Gilmour, who resigned.

Good of the Order

Judi Johanneson's retirement party tomorrow night. Birthday anniversary Halloween party at Richard's on Saturday. Election night gatherings - one KSD candidate is hosting at Moonshot Brewing.

Cedar will nominate Patsy Whitefoot to fill the vacancy left by Mat Tomaskin's passing.

Richard Badalamente attended Badger Club meeting about outrage over CRT. Manufactured outrage over CRT is a creation by failed candidate for Seattle city council Christopher Rufo with assistance from city employees offended by sensitivity training. Letter to editor is forthcoming.

Melissa Gilman is requesting to be appointed as PCO, for precinct 4009.

8:26 pm move to adjourn, seconded, approved by all.