

Benton County Democrats General Meeting

Online via Zoom

05/27/2021

Present: Judi Johannesen, Julie Soderquist, Kendall Miller, Kitty Tominey, Carl Baker, Sebastian Malachar, Justin Raffa, Cedar Kennedy, Michele Levenite, Raleigh Hawthorne, Regina Speer, Esteban Ortiz, Jayce Wright, Randy Slovic, Shelley Ajaz, Danica Garcia, Diana Ruff, Audra Byrd, Julie Long

Secretary's Report:

No report. Moved to approve minutes, seconded and approved by all.

Treasurer's Report

No report

Chair (Judi Johannesen)

Active with elections committee and finished T3 training

VC1 & Organization

No report

VC2

No report

SCM #1 (Kate Moran)

Have decided to give up this position in order to focus on the mayoral race in West Richland.

SCM #2 & Young Democrats (Sabastian Marichalar)

Attended last meeting on May 1. Approved new budget, elected slate of at-large committee members, attended DEI training. Still looking for a rural organizer. TCYD will meet less often and focus on more casual events.

Events (Carl Baker)

Pasco July 4th parade appears to be cancelled this year. BF County Fair is still a question - they have not updated/responded in some time. Most Pride events will be online this year. Juneteenth is a go--crowning is on the 18th and the big family event is on the 19th. TCD is planning a candidate forum for June 11.

Elections (Justin Raffa)

After the May 21 filing date, we had 106 candidates file for 55 offices. Held two candidate forums at which we took care to educate and inform, rather than endorse.

Resolutions (Kitty Tominey)

Kendall helped get my files ready for sending out via iContact. Will be asking for input/feedback from PCOs regarding 1) Agrivoltaics, which is proving effective in increasing crop yields, 2) Reinstate ban on stock buybacks, and 3) Reinstate ban on naked credit default swaps.

Labor

No report

8th LD

No report

16th LD

No report

New Business

Justin Raffa moved to begin the process of resuming in-person/ hybrid meetings. Seconded by Carl Baker. Comments included the need for good air circulation, carbon dioxide testing, possible verification process for proof of vaccination, the need for masks still, security. Motion approved by all.

Old Business

None

Good of the Order

Visiting candidates for local office introduced themselves.

Shelley Ajax	Benton-Franklin County Superior Court Judge
Danica Garcia	Richland School Board Position 1
Diana Ruff	Benton-Franklin County Superior Court Judge
Audra Byrd	Richland School Board Position 1
Kate Moran	Mayor of West Richland
Julie Long	Benton-Franklin County Superior Court Judge
John Christenson	Fire District #1 Commissioner

Cedar Kennedy has offered assistance with messaging to all candidates.

Moved to adjourn, seconded, approved by all