

Benton County Democrats General Meeting

5/26/2022

Present: Regina Speer, Kitty Tominem, Cedar Kennedy, Sebastian Malachar, John Christenson, Kendall Miller, Patrick Heasler, Chris Tracy, Dave Harvey, Galen Greenwalt, Richard Reuther, Carl Baker, Durga Victorine, Julie Soderquist, Justin Raffa, Allison Dabler, Jason Rose, Norm McFadden, Ashley Luksic

Call to order 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Adopt Agenda

Add two items to agenda: approve payment for a booth at the Pride event on June 4, and possible revival of the Miller dinner. Motion to approve revised agenda, seconded, approved by all.

Secretary (Julie)

Motion to approve minutes as provided, seconded, approved by all.

Treasurer (Durga)

Old balance \$17,206.68

New balance \$17,205.40

Act Blue account has been authorized; in the process of transitioning from Anadot.

Chair (Richard)

Aug primary coming up - all hands on deck. Trying to coordinate with Franklin and Walla Walla counties to cover more territory, stretch our volunteers. There should be no strategic voting in the primary - this could eliminate Doug from the top two. PCOs are critical - 31 signed up during filing week. We need more; they can be appointed. Door knocking for Doug White's campaign most Saturdays. We have no official position on the Richland School Board recall.

VC1 (Regina)

Called Dan Newhouse' office regarding the tragedy in Texas and encourages everyone to do the same.

VC2 (John)

Have filed for State Rep position 2 and hope for Benco dems endorsement.

Organization (Allison)

Continuing outreach for new PCOs. Will make lists for anyone and provide training. New PCO terms began on Dec 1 but can begin with access and training now.

Elections (Justin)

There are no Democrat candidates for any county races. Two races we should keep an eye on: Benton County prosecutor has two Republican challengers and Benton County Commissioner District 2 race has three Republican challengers. It's important to educate progressive voters on their options for these races. At the state level: we have one Democrat candidate for a house

race in the 8th, two in the 16th, none in the 15th. For the 4th CD there are seven Republicans and Doug White. Elections committee will meet soon to brainstorm.

SCM #1 (Regina)

Received email from Dave Macdonald about delegate selection process - Iowa may not be first.

SCM #2 (Sabastian)

State convention coming up, will be attending.

Resolutions (Kitty)

Resolution on stock buybacks is ready to go out.

Labor (open)

Events (Carl)

Gathering signatures for I-1471 universal healthcare for WA. June 10 TCDs meet at my house for informal picnic. We have two proof sets of notable women quarters to auction. Will have a booth at Pride on June 4. March for our Lives will have an event on June 11. Juneteenth is coming up but there's no parade. We are scheduled for the July 4 and BF fair parades. TC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is restarting their annual Mariachi y Mas festival on June 26 at Columbia Park. Considering restarting the Miller dinner in October; to fundraise and also to honor Andy Miller.

8th LD (Chris)

Brent Kirby will be chair of our delegation to the state convention. 8th LD has formally endorsed Doug White and Patty Murray. Two openings on the 8th LD board: secretary and state committee member.

16th LD (Everett)

Not present, but summarized by Carl: endorsed Doug White and Patty Murray, Natasha Hill in the 5th CD, Jeff Strickler and Jan Corn for LD representative positions.

15th LD

Benton County is now part of 15th.

Unfinished Business

Kendall will propose rule changes at the next eboard meeting, to be ready for a vote at the next general meeting.

New Business

Chair declares Margaret Monroe as PCO in her precinct. Will have a table at Pride on June 4; motion was made and seconded to approve \$75 for this. Kendall pointed out there is a line item in the budget, so the motion/vote is not necessary.

Good of the Order

State convention on June 25. Chair has Doug White yard signs available. Richland city council will be accepting applications to fill Phil Lemley's seat. Benton County Republicans are expected to finalize endorsements in time to be included with candidate statements.

Cedar voiced concern that conversations are happening about the school shooting in Texas but not about the shooting in New York which was motivated by racism and hatred of minorities.

8:07 pm move to adjourn, seconded, approved by all.