

Minutes for the Benton County Democratic Central Committee
(with revisions approved in the September 22 meeting)

A meeting of the BCDCC was held virtually using Zoom on August 25, 2022. It began at 7:09 PM and was presided over by Richard Reuther, BCDCC Chair with Lora Rathbone serving as note-taker.

The voting members in attendance were

Cindy Bluemel, Kendall Miller, Charles LoPresti, Lora Rathbone, Margaret Munro, Chris Tracy, Carl Baker, Richard Reuther, Kitty Tominey, Sabastian Marichalar, Regina Speer.

Ryan Lukson attended as a guest.

Pledge of Allegiance

Carl Baker moved to adopt the agenda as published in the Call-to-meeting email. Motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote.

Approval of Minutes - No minutes to approve

Secretary's Report (Position open)

Treasurer's Report & Communications (Durga) - Not Present

Chair's Report (Richard)

Doug White was 2nd in the 4th CD race, 600 votes behind Newhouse. He won Okanogan, Yakima, and Klickitat Counties and was about 1k votes behind in Benton and 300 votes behind in Franklin.

Richard: For the general, we can do better to get out the vote.

Labor day picnic, Sept. 5th, free hotdogs, burgers salad, etc; 11am-3pm. . Will have space for booths. Food ends at 2. The Doug White campaign will have a booth.

The campaign will have a kick-off event Tuesday, September 20. Location To Be Determined.

Richard is hosting a fundraiser for Doug White, at their home on Sunday, September 11, from 3 to 5 PM.

Ryan Luckson introduced himself to the Benton County Democrats.

He is running for Benton County Prosecuting Attorney:

He has served in the Benton County Prosecutor's office for 11 years under Andy Miller. He was born and raised in Richland and graduated high school here . He got his law degree from Florida and initially went to work in Seattle. Then he moved back to the Tri-Cities and has worked in the Benton County prosecutor's office since then. As assistant chief deputy prosecutor he advises the County Sheriff and County Commissioners. Five years ago he ran for Richland City Council. He's now in his second term there and was mayor during the Covid crisis. He decided to run for prosecutor because he believes he has the skill set necessary to build a public safety coalition for our community. He considers himself to be moderate and pragmatic

about finding solutions. He wants the public safety sales tax approved again next year. He lost the primary election by 2000 votes and his analysis shows that 6000 Democrats did not vote at all in his race. Locally, the prosecuting attorney is one of the most important positions we have. Andy Miller is supporting his campaign as well as all the deputy prosecutors in his office. He is also endorsed by both the Benton and Franklin County Sheriffs. He will be keeping the office a victim-centric office building on the success of Andy over the last 36 years. He supports the recovery center and the expansion of our therapeutic courts such as drug and mental health courts.

1st VC Report (Regina)

Regina has skimmed the documents from David McDonald, a DNC member from Washington, regarding 2024 delegate selection and affirmative action voting. The DNC will allow ranked choice voting which means we won't know anything for a month. We have no decisions yet about the Presidential Primary dates.

2nd VC Report (John) - Not Present

Organizing Committee (Allison) - Not Present. Richard reported on her behalf. She is working on the walking lists and will send them out all at once when they are done, within the week. She is looking for someone who wants to learn Votebuilder and serve on the committee.

Elections Committee (Justin) - Not Present. Richard reported on his behalf. He has been working on a draft proposal for procedures for the Elections committee. It will be sent to PCO's and we will look at it at the Sept meeting. This arose from a concern when the committee talked to a Republican candidate. speaking to someone.

State Committee Member 1 (Regina) The next State meeting is in September. It will be in-person only. She and Sabastian will try to go and will try to convince to stay the State to stay with hybrid meetings.

State Committee Member 2 (Sabastian) He will be going to the State meeting on September 17. He spoke to David McDonald and was informed that there will be a decision on the Presidential Primary date in December.

Resolutions (Kitty) The copy Stock Buyback resolution on the website is the final one. She confirmed with the State that Julie was the appropriate person to sign as Secretary since she was in office at the time the resolution was approved. She would like a signature from Richard. She is working on the Agri-voltaics resolution. Will have it ready for the executive board to look at next month. There are also a couple more that are being worked on..

Labor (Open)

Events & Tri-City Dems (Carl) We participated in the Benton-Franklin County Fair parade. We had good participation along with other members who marched with our candidates as well. On September 10 we will be participating in the Benton City Days parade. We invite folks to participate there as well. Our events will be posted on the Tri-City Democrats Facebook page.

The Tri-City Democrats will meet September 9 at 6pm at Carl's place. We hope we can get some candidates out for a forum then.

8th LD (Chris) - He's been working with the Patty Murray and Steve Hobbs campaigns to get resources here. We do have some Patty Murray signs. Those have been distributed. We were able to have signs for both campaigns for the parade float. He posted some pictures on the 8th LD Facebook page. He received a thankyou note from Steve Hobbs. He was surprised that Patty Murray was in town yesterday and spoke at Hanford, yet none of the LPO's were notified of her visit. Steve Hobbs will be in town Sept. 29 and wants someone to host a fundraiser for him. There's still a concern about indoor events, so this is tentative.

Richard commented: A lot of what we are getting from the state is due to Chris bugging them. So, thank you Chris.

16th LD Richard reports: We have been having a table at the Prosser farmers market on most Saturdays. Cindy Bluemel is the new PCO for 450, and is helping us in Prosser.

15th LD - It was noted that Benton County doesn't have very many people in that district since it's mostly the Hanford Reservation and just a few houses near the Yakima County border. Most of the district in the Tri-City area is in Pasco. Lindsey Keesling is running for the State Senate in this district. She wants some help walking for her in Pasco.

Unfinished Business

Discussion of donations to candidates: Patty Murray (US Senate), Steve Hobbs (Sec of State), Doug White (4th CD), Jan Corn (16th LD House), Jeff Strickler (16th LD House), Lindsey Keesling (15th LD Senate)

Motion to donate \$300 for each candidate listed here. Seconded. Discussion: We've had more money in the past than we do now. We might want a line item in the budget for this that is commensurate with our income. This sounds good for now, and we can revisit and give more.

Motion passed. Unanimous.

New Business

We need a new secretary.

Kitty: To get more volunteers, could we make a presentation to the young dems and TC dems to say we need your help?

Richard: We suffer from zoom meetings. Maybe try an outdoor meeting for the September meeting? Start at 6:30pm? Or have at 6 and bring something to eat?

We need a new secretary Lora will send a rough draft to Kendall. We could ask at the beginning of the meeting who will take notes.

Appointing PCOs

Cindy Bluemel appointed PCO of Precinct 450

Good of the Order

Chris: We do something to honor Andy Miller's service. His last day is December 31. Perhaps we could use it as a fundraiser. Jay Clough did a lot of work on the fundraiser dinners in the past.

Without objection the E-board meeting is moved to September 12.

Carl Baker moved to adjourn and we adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Notes submitted by Lora Rathbone and transcribed by Kendall Miller

Minutes approved September 25, 2022