

45th Legislative District Democrats
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2008

Attendees: Martin Chaney, Priscilla O'Leary, Duane Wentz, Ken Albinger, Tutti Carter, Ralph Gorin, Gary Gelow, Paul Yarbrough, Diane Slota, Judith Shattuck, Kathleen Reynolds, Ken Jauch, Terry Thorsos, Brad Larssen, Terry Linkletter

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. by Martin Chaney, Chair.

Adoption of the Agenda

Martin reviewed proposed agenda items. The agenda was adopted.

Previous Meeting Minutes

The March 2008 Executive Board meeting minutes were approved.

General Meeting Agenda Review

Martin reviewed the proposed agenda for the general meeting. Items of note and/or discussion, included:

- There could be as many as 20 – 30 new PCOs at this meeting.
- Add a bullet item for PCO training.
- Add an announcement about filing for election for PCOs. Have forms available at the meeting.
- Mike Burner has communicated his resignation as King County Committeeman. Ralph asked if we need to announce the vacancy. Martin will send out email in next day or so to give notice. This will be added to the agenda after the PCO appointments.
- Ken Albinger requested we add an announcement that there will be a statewide voter registration campaign. The state party will be publicizing the event and will be getting support from the presidential campaigns, as well.
- Terry Linkletter suggested a possible agenda item to consider making donation to candidates whom we've endorsed, especially candidates in our legislative district. Martin will note this as something we can come to if we finish with other business.
- Brad suggested adding state convention information. Martin will make sure it appears in the calendar.

Nomination Convention

- The Nomination Convention must be done at our next general meeting. While we could have it at a separate meeting, it would likely reduce attendance if we did.
- Only appointed and elected PCOs are allowed to vote. The vote is weighted. Each PCO gets the number of votes equal to the number of delegates for their precinct was entitled to at the precinct caucus.
- We will be voting on the two legislative representative offices currently held by Roger Goodman and Larry Springer. If there are no other candidates put forward, we can move to nominate Roger and Larry by acclaim.
- The board then discussed why the convention became necessary and the impact of the Supreme Court decision about the top-two primary. Our job is to make sure there is a clearly identified party-supported candidate in each of the races.
- Ralph shared his belief that the bylaws call for us to notify those who are eligible to vote by mail. Since these are the PCOs, it was suggested that the form to file for election also be included in the mailing. After discussion, Martin agreed to draft the letter, as well as mail merge and print it. Judith will pick up the letters from Martin and complete the process.

Continuing Caucus Activities

- Martin has emailed the declaration of candidacy form to all the delegates and alternates who were elected at the LD caucus.
- Sponsorship – Terry Thorsos and Terry Linkletter suggested there be a fixed amount scholarship made available to anyone from the 45th LD who becomes a national delegate. If candidates choose, they can defer the scholarship to the district candidates as a donation if they do not need it themselves. After discussion about the likely number of candidates from one district, Terry Linkletter made a motion to propose to the membership a \$1000 scholarship be made available for each district member who is elected a delegate or alternate to the national convention. The motion was seconded.

VOTE: Passed

Duvall Days Parade and Fair Update

- The May general meeting will be the last one before the Duvall Days parade. We need to recruit people for staffing the booth.
- The baby donkeys won't be available so we don't need to accommodate those in booth at Duvall Days. Terry Thorsos talked to the Redmond Derby Days folks today about having the baby donkeys at that event and received a positive response.
- Terry Thorsos also noted that the 48th LD was present at the Redmond event last year. She proposed that we invite the 48th Democrats to join us this year.

Endorsement Committee Update

- Candidate questionnaires have been received so far from:
 - Susan Craighead
 - Regina Cahan
 - Monica Benton
 - Michael Bond
- Endorsement requests have also been received from David Hampton on behalf of Christine Gregoire and Patrick Hogan on behalf of Jay Inslee.
- We have already endorsed Darcy Burner.
- We will probably call for additional members to join the Endorsement Committee at the general meeting.

PCO Recruitment and Training Update

- Paul Yarbough and Gary Gelow have scheduled three training classes for new PCOs. The classes will include some of the basics of using VoteBuilder.
- It is likely that we will schedule additional classes for both new and existing PCOs.
- We should have procedures if we have two simultaneous candidates for the same precinct.
- We will promote people completing their PCO filing forms. Brad Larssen suggested having forms available at the general meeting.

Neighborhood Leaders Update

- Ken Albinger reported that we have over 300 leaders and volunteers.
- The first area meeting to train volunteers was held recently. While the turnout was light the reception was good. Ken is putting together another round of meetings in Juanita and a couple of other places. We will also want to focus on the areas in the 8th CD.

Caucus Resolution – Mark Banks

- The board discussed the proposed resolution regarding caucuses that was submitted by a member. There are some regarding how the resolution is structured which do not align appropriately with the party organization.
- Judith volunteered to work with Mark Banks, the resolution author. She proposed that a separate event be created and the public invited to discuss the subject of caucuses vs. primaries. From that meeting a resolution could be formed to bring before the body for vote. This will be done under the auspices of the Resolutions Committee, which Judith leads.
- Terry Linkletter suggested three possible actions. 1) Work the resolution through the committee, 2) Have those concerned meet with our State Committeeman and State Committeewoman to provide feedback about what they would like to see the state party change, or 3) Have the resolution addressed at the meeting.

- Ralph reminded everyone that the state committee was not by any means unanimous on the question of holding a caucus or a primary. Dwight Pelz was a proponent of the caucuses and his belief that if done right the caucuses are a great party building opportunity. This convinced many to choose the caucus method. Ralph then shared his perspective that, 1) We didn't do it right and we can do it better, and 2) the structural issue about the caucuses is that people have to show up and some are able to do so. There isn't anything that a caucus can do to cure the second issue. We have made some nominal steps with the surrogate form.
- Brad Larssen suggested that at the meeting we assure people we are working on the issues around the caucus delays, but we have an election we need to run right now. The time for in depth review for caucuses is after the elections are over and we are preparing for the next round.
- Terry Thorsos proposed drafting a message about the process review to send to those who have communicated extensively with us about their concerns.
- Terry Linkletter noted that this is not really an LD activity and it should be directed to our State Committeeman and Committeewoman to address with the state party. We should take the input they are providing and have a forum to address it later after the election process.
- Ken Albinger expressed concern about the timing. If a meeting with the State Committeeman and Committeewoman can be held in early summer it would be best. Energy is high now and he is afraid this will interfere with their ability to move their energy into the elections.

LD Caucus Review Meetings and Activities

- Terry Thorsos and Matt Loschen are leading a caucus review process to gather experiences and ideas about how to hold caucuses at both the precinct and LD levels next time. A meeting is being held for caucus participants on Sunday, May 4th at 3:00 p.m. at the Woodinville Library. A meeting for caucus coordinators will be held Monday, May 5th, at Matt Loschen's house. The focus is on what worked and what didn't work, as well as what you would have like to have had in your hands when starting.
- Terry also noted that they had invited people to join the committee and three volunteered who were not previously known to us. One clearly stated that they did not want to be on the committee if the goal was to figure out how to do caucuses better as they only wanted to pursue eliminating the caucuses. A second volunteer really just wanted to attend the May 4th meeting. One volunteer felt strongly that caucuses aren't the right way to nominate presidential candidates.
- Terry requested permission of the Executive Board to add to the committee the one person who understands the purpose of the committee with the clear understanding that the committee is not addressing the question of whether or not caucuses should be held.

Treasurer's Report

- Terry Linkletter provided an update on our current financial status. A few remaining expenses related to the caucus activities were also submitted to Terry.
- Terry also provided a status on the open question around the small dollar donations from the precinct caucuses.

Other Committee, Officer, and Representative Reports

- None given due to time constraints.

Old Business

- None for this meeting.

New Business

- Kathleen Reynolds has agreed to lead the Membership Committee. She will have remit envelopes made with the necessary donation information that needs to be collected. Around 200 donations collected at the LD caucus qualified the donors for membership. She will be sending letters letting them know. Ken Jauch asked about membership cards and Kathleen noted that while this is not a top priority it is on the list of items to address.
- Terry Thorsos has spoken to Abbott Smith about proposing a new logo for the 45th LD. He believes he can come up with logo for proposal at the June meeting. She also noted that Jennifer Smith has offered to look at verbiage around values for Slim Jims. Judith Shattuck noted that the King County Platform and Resolutions Committee is working on a Slim Jim right now. Paul Yarbrough and Gary Gelow requested that space be left at the bottom of the Slim Jim to enable PCOs to place a label with their contact information.

Good of the Order

- None for this meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Priscilla O'Leary, Secretary
45th Legislative District Democrats