

45th Legislative District Democrats
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2007

Attendees: Martin Chaney, Priscilla O'Leary, Melissa Waldie, Ken Jauch, Brad Larssen, Judith Shattuck, Duane Wentz, Mike Burner, Terry Thorsos, Ralph Gorin, Diane Slota

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Martin Chaney, Chair.

Adoption of the Agenda

- Martin reviewed proposed agenda items. The agenda was approved without change.

Previous Meeting Minutes

The November 2007 Executive Board meeting minutes were approved.

General Meeting Agenda Review

Martin noted that the proposed agenda for the general meeting is a general draft at this point due to the executive board meeting taking place earlier than usual to accommodate the holiday schedule. Specific items discussed that relate to the General Meeting agenda include:

- Melissa requested the title of her section be changed to "Legislative Action Plan"
 - Melissa has also been in discussions with a possible guest speaker about an education initiative. The speaker is requesting an hour, which is too much time. She will talk to her further about condensing the time frame to 15 minutes followed by a 5 minute Q&A. Also, the speaker will be for a future meeting sometime after January. Judith suggested as an alternative she could give her presentation from 6:00 to 7:00 before the meeting if notice was provided to the membership. Melissa will follow up with the speaker. She also wants to complete the survey of membership first to find out the level of interest among members when it comes to education.
 - The board discussed different ways to get input into the Legislative Action Committee's plans. Melissa will post information on the website and ask for input / additions. The results will then be discussed further at a general meeting.

- A caucus training exercise could also be on the agenda for the January meeting.

Volunteer Slim Jims – Melissa Waldie

- The contents of the proposed volunteer slim jim were reviewed. Melissa noted that she had made some changes to try and make the items less seasonal. The piece could be handed out at the caucuses, but also used on other occasions.
- A variety of changes were suggested, including several around the topic of reducing the side with information about coming to a meeting and inclusion of the values statements.
- Melissa will work on revisions based on the input provided. She will then send a new draft to the Executive Board via email with the expectation of getting feedback with a 3-4 day turnaround. The goal is to have the slim jim ready in time to print it for the caucuses.

Caucus Mailings

- In follow up to last month's discussion, Priscilla provided additional information related to the proposal to mail postcards to strong and likely Democrats who were not caucus attendees. Preliminary estimates came in at around \$1,200. This would be incremental to the costs for the letters already expected to be sent to past caucus attendees.
- Martin suggested it might be possible to have them printed less expensively, but rates were not available for this discussion.
- Ralph asked about the impact of reducing the universe to the 3/3 voters.
- Terry Thorsos reminded everyone of the other caucus costs for consideration, including hats or something with insignia that would make the caucus leaders recognizable.
- It was suggested that the postcard should mention that primary doesn't count for Democrats. It was also suggested that postcards be used for the past caucus attendees as well as others. This could help reduce costs.
- Ralph noted that if we send 4000 pieces, with an average 2% return rate that would be roughly 80 people. It would take \$15 per person in donations to recoup cost. It was noted that this effort is not intended to be a fundraiser, but is intended to let people know where their caucuses are.
- General consensus was that the mailings should be postcards for all and should go to as many as possible. Funding needs to be verified with Terry Linkletter.
- A motion was made to proceed with a mailing that includes strong and likely Democrats. The motion was seconded.
- It was noted that there should be a notation added to the bottom stating "Labor donated."

VOTE: passed, unanimously

State Party Challenge Coordinator

- Terry Thorsos is proposing Ken Albinger be the coordinator. He has a passion for registering voters and how it can make a difference.
- Martin will talk with Ken, work out job description with him and confirm he is interested. He will then make the appointment if they come to an agreement.
- Martin noted it might be appropriate to make this an Executive Board position. Through development of the job description, if this is determined to be the case, Martin will come back to the board to follow the appropriate process.
- A motion was made to encourage the Chair to work with Ken, determine the feasibility, and make the appointment if it is appropriate to do so. The motion was seconded.

VOTE: passed, unanimously

Caucus Preparation Status – Terry Thorsos

- Terry Thorsos passed out a variety of handouts. She shared that Gary Gelow has written a script about getting involved. It can be used as a model for the area leaders.
- Terry requested an inventory of supplies already on hand from Martin and Ralph.
- Priscilla gave Terry a suggested ballot form that is aligned with a VoteBuilder script created by Rick DeWitt, one of the data experts, to make input of caucus delegate information easier.
- Terry discussed contacting high schools for possible participants who will be 18 in time for the 2008 general election, as well as possible volunteers. There are 5 public high schools that contribute to our district. This means there would be a significant number of classes to visit. She suggests preparing a written piece to distribute to social studies teachers. Terry believes that teachers would want something that outlines how the process works for both parties. Terry is willing to work with someone she knows to develop this. She will also work with someone from the schools on what they would like to see.
- Due to technical difficulties, we were unable to review the PowerPoint presentation Terry had put together. The topical outline document Terry provided was reviewed instead. This document was based on the presentation provided by the state. Terry is asking everyone to provide input on anything not included that should be.

Other Committee, Officers, and Representatives Reports

- None were given due to time constraints.

Old Business

- None for this meeting.

New Business

- None for this meeting.

Good of the Order

- None for this meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. to allow time to reset the room per the library's requirements.

Respectfully Submitted,

Priscilla O'Leary, Secretary
45th Legislative District Democrats