

45th Legislative District Democrats
Executive Board Meeting
February 23, 2009

Call to Order

Martin Chaney called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted by acclamation.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Previous meeting minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Legislative Action, PCO Training and Crab Feed Reports – Kathleen and Brad

Brad spoke about the Lobby Day. There were several people that attended the Lobby Day. Ian Jacobson was able to shadow Sen. Erik Oemig for that day. Andrew Villeneuve gave a report about homeowner rights. There were up to 24 legislators who wanted to talk to the members of the 45th LD. Brad thanked everyone who could carpool down.

Kathleen informed us that the next meeting for the KCLAC is March 15th. There is a deadline this Wednesday February 25th for bills to get out of committee. Bills that are in the rules committee now include: the worker privacy act, the three strikes bill, and a bill that restores the right to vote to people committed of a felony that are now not incarcerated. The Civil Marriage Act will most likely not be able to get out of committee. A citizens' initiative could be started for the Civil Marriage Act, however, it is not recommended by certain legislators.

Martin felt that we need an issue to get organized and generate interest, and influence the legislators. We can organize people to mobilize, call, and write letters to legislators and the newspapers. We should pick a topic to get members to mobilize and see what this Legislative District can do.

Brad said Kathleen chose three focus items last week for the members to see and talk to their legislator about. Martin felt we should utilize the website for announcing a focus topic and for feedback. A question was asked if we can have a section of the website to track the bills we are interested in. Brad passed the Labor LAC report to the Executive board members. The labor act was passed, and it will be revised later in the legislature. The worker privacy act is in the rules committee now. A bill of interest is the underground economy bill.

General Meeting Agenda Review

Martin asked if there was anything else that should be on the general meeting agenda. Larry Phillips, candidate for King County Executive, will be at the meeting, we are working on getting Dow Constantine to come to the meeting. Larry Phillips will be there at 6:30 pm to talk to individuals. Lloyd Hara and Rob Holland, two candidates for the Port of Seattle, will also be at the meeting also. The primary election is in August, and candidates are trying to get endorsements early.

Question: Is there a special election for King County Executive?

Answer: No, the King County Council will appoint someone.

Martin advocated that Andrew talk to the general membership about the endorsement process and who is currently running for elected office. We also need to ask the membership to elect a new KC Alternate Committeeman because Mike Finkle resigned from the position due to time constraints.

Question: Do our by-laws allow us to have this election at the next general meeting?

Answer: Our by-laws do not specify how much time is needed, however, traditionally a one week announcement on the announcement list is what we have done.

Question: Is the announcement list sufficient enough for all the members?

Answer: It is what we have done.

Comment from Paul Yarbrough: I can crosscheck the list and find the members that are not on the announcement list.

Question: Is the announcement list effective? We have Votebuilder, the new social website, and traditional website, and PCO lists. Could there be some streamlining?

Answer: The announcement list is right now the most effective way to get to the members.

Question: Are all PCOs considered members?

Answer: Yes they are considered members. The PCOs are considered the core of the party, but we also allow other people to be included in the party organization due to our inclusive policy.

Martin stated that the consensus of the board is that we should be emailing to both the announcement lists and the PCO lists.

Comment: There should be a distinction between an official announcement from the e-board and a discussion list.

Martin explained it is not strictly official communication sent on the announcement list, however, it is all appropriate new topics. The social forum will replace these lists. There is hope that there will be lists from the social network so people only get one message, and we would be targeting the right people.

Martin continued with the general meeting agenda. The Woodinville all fools day parade is coming up. Wayne Farrer will talk about it. There will also be a KCDCC update. The monthly featured volunteer opportunity was a success. The next featured volunteer opportunity should be people who would like to be part of a website committee. For future volunteer opportunities, let Martin know what needs to be done.

KCDCC Alternate Position

The position needs to be filled.

Endorsement Procedures Discussion

Due to the recent questioning of the endorsement process and resolution about the endorsement process, Martin decided to have the Executive Board discuss the next step for the resolution. It was decided that the intent on the resolution may have been meritorious, however, the wording of the resolution would have drastically changed the nature of the endorsement process. The resolution would have created an environment where the 45th LD would only be able to give late endorsements after the primary.

Additionally, it was unclear whether the resolution presented was technically a resolution or a change to the endorsement rules. It is the belief of the chair that the resolution needs to go back to the writer of the resolution and have it clarified. It is not appropriate for someone to bring a resolution to the floor of the general assembly. It needs to be brought before the Executive Board and they need to make a determination on the timing and similarity to other resolutions

before they are brought to the floor. The purposed resolution should go the endorsement committee for discussion and recommend a process to the chair. If the rules committee decides not to take up the resolution, the writer of the resolution should have the opportunity to bring a minority report to the general assembly.

PCO Support Status – Ken Albinger

Ken spoke about the latest meeting of the PCO mentors. The mentors include Ken Albinger, Paul Yarobough, Gary Gelow, Dwayne Wentz, and Joe Lane. The mentors decided to add sub-mentors to allow the mentors more time to actively recruit more PCOs. A comprehensive report on the roles and responsibilities of a PCO mentor is being created. Ken told the Executive Board that the PCO mentors want to choose a monthly or bi-monthly issue to create more interest within the community. Obama precinct leaders will be contacted to be recruited as PCOs. It was suggested that the 45th LD should align itself with a national issue, such as education or healthcare reform, to help generate more interest within the community.

Board Retreat Update

The board reached a consensus that the third Saturday and Memorial Day weekend would not work for the board retreat. Martin called on the board to continue sending him recommendations for dates. Martin and Becky Chaney also suggested a venue for the retreat, Vincent School House.

2009 Events Planning

No one volunteered to spearhead activities for the Redmond Derby Days. Volunteers will be solicited at the next general meeting.

Other Reports

The chair of the 48th membership committee contacted Martin about how to manage the membership committee. Martin will pass on Ken Albinger's and Priscilla O'Leary's information to the 48th membership committee chairman.

Ralph Gorin stated the need to renew our focus on the 3rd County Council district candidate recruiting. Elected city officials could be consulted for a good candidate. The 3rd County Council district encompasses most of the 45th except for Kirkland. The 5th and the 45th LD make up most of the 3rd County Council district.

Other Old Business

No other old business was reported.

Other New Business

No other new business was reported.

Good of the Order

Nothing was bought up for the good of the order.

Adjourn

It was motioned and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:13pm.