

45th LD Democrats
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2007

Attendees: Martin Chaney, Priscilla O'Leary, Mike Burner, Todd Boyle, Lynn Norwood, Ken Jauch, Terry Linkletter, Brad Larssen, Ralph Gorin, Dwight Baker, Melissa Waldie, Judith Shattuck, Diane Slota, Bob Horn

The meeting was called to order by Martin Chaney, Chair.

Member Requested Time

Todd Boyle requested a few moments to address the board. He reported about a march in Seattle on Saturday to support getting the troops out of Iraq. 2,000 marched in the streets. He shared a concept of building a peace industrial complex to engage and employ as many people as military industrial complexes.

Decisions / Actions: Todd agreed to write a resolution on this topic. It was noted that due to the timing it would most likely not be able to be presented to the members until March. It can, however, be published on the website when it is ready.

General Meeting Agenda

Martin shared that he would like the executive board to begin reviewing programs and agendas for the general meeting in advance of the meeting date. He also proposed that the executive board review all submitted resolutions prior to presentation at the general meeting to help identify:

- Expected amount of time needed at the general meeting
- How it will incorporate into the agenda
- Is the resolution well formed? (We should know what actions are expected if it is passed at the general meeting)

For the February meeting, Martin shared the following:

Programs

- Bob Ferguson, King County District 1 Councilman is scheduled to speak. It was noted that the District 6 seat will be up for reelection and we should discuss what we plan to do about it and what issues are at stake. It was suggested that we research what other groups are planning to do about running a candidate for this seat.

Submitted Resolutions and Endorsements

- Washington Public Campaigns: Washington Public Campaigns is a non-profit corporation in the State of Washington formed for the purpose of promoting legislation to establish public financing of campaigns and of other measures reforming campaign laws and

enhancing democracy. We will take a vote on whether or not to endorse this group.

- Gun Show Loophole Resolution
- Resolution for troop withdrawal and against escalation
- Impeach Bush and Cheney – calling on state legislators to initiate impeachment proceedings from the state level.
- Affordable health care for all (Washington community action network)

Decisions / Actions (related to above resolutions):

- Judith will talk to Gary about changes to his resolution
- All 5 resolutions need to be scrubbed for posting
- Impeach Bush resolution – needs to have the resolved portion tweaked to contact our 3 legislators and then be posted
- Resolutions will be posted on the website in the next day or two.
- Lynn will include links in the newsletter notice to be sent Wednesday or Thursday.

Discussion – Timing: It was suggested that during the time period coinciding with the legislative session we limit discussion to bills that are under consideration by the legislature. This process would recognize the time constraints of having a 4 month legislative session and help us be as effective as possible. There was general agreement that going forward this approach would be best.

Discussion – Prioritization: Martin recommended that the 45th LD LAC be the gatekeepers for prioritizing and recommending when to discuss resolutions that are being put forward.

Discussion – Process: Members have been asked to submit resolutions in advance of the executive board meeting to a member of the board. This will be required to have time for review before they are posted on the website and presented to the membership at the general meeting. A suggestion was made that it would be useful to have a template for resolutions, including boilerplate language for common passages.

New Resolution

Judith requested that the board consider a resolution not previously submitted due to the time sensitive nature of the resolution. She shared the resolution with the board. It is a resolution in support of Lt. Ehren Watada, who is facing court martial proceedings beginning on February 5th.

Judith expressed the desire to have the board pass the resolution rather than waiting for the general meeting because the proceeding might be over by the time the general meeting is held on February 7th. Even if the proceedings were still underway and the resolution passed at the general meeting, there might not be enough time to get it before the elected officials and have them act on it.

Judith's motion to put it on the floor was seconded. Concerns were expressed about the appearance of the board speaking on behalf of the membership without their input. It was suggested that the wording of the first paragraph could be changed to say it was from the "Executive Board of the 45th District." Another suggestion was made that it could be put in the form of a letter from the board, rather than a resolution. Martin shared that he was uncomfortable with the board passing resolutions and suggested it could be placed on the announce list with a message urging members to send emails directly.

Martin called to vote to take immediate action, noting that a "yes" vote would mean that there was agreement that an emergency condition exists that called for immediate action by the executive board as well as a favorable vote to pass the resolution.

Decisions / Actions:

- Judith will talk to Gary about changes to his resolution
- The vote for the executive board to take immediate action did not pass (3 for, 5 against, 2 abstained)
- It was agreed the resolution would be scheduled for consideration at the next general meeting
- Judith will compose and send a message to the announce group
- Lynn will put a notice in the newsletter

Legislative Action Committee

The LAC would like to poll the members to find out their priorities around issues. Melissa distributed a working copy of the list the LAC wants to present. They are considering using the same voting process used in last year's caucuses that utilized colored dots. Suggestions were made regarding the process and the list contents. Martin shared his view that he would like to have a sense of what the membership wants and not have us being driven by the King County LAC priorities. He believes the poll is a good idea.

Decisions / Actions: The poll will be scheduled at the general meeting during the committee reports section of the agenda.

Chair's Report

- Martin expressed his appreciation for everyone who attended the King County meeting. The district appears more credible with the county when more interest is shown.
- State Meeting highlights:
 - Ralph is on the Rules Committee and caucus rules will be forthcoming. There will be a delegation selection and affirmative action plan. This will provide rules about how a

person becomes a delegate. The plan must be presented to the DNC by the end of March and must receive DNC approval.

- Amy Ockerlander is on the Communications Committee.
- The Technology Committee has now been made a bona fide state committee and scheduling changes are such that Martin will no longer be able to attend. The committee meets every three months.
- Bob made a motion that the executive board request a formal apology be given by Dwight Peltz to Tom Conlon for an issue that happened with the Technology Committee reorganization and the their lack of communication or consideration of his past 2 years of work and standing with the committee. Suggested language included, "We are aware of Tom's architectural recommendations and hope that his suggestions continue to be recognized and considered." It was suggested included in the request be our concern that we are in danger of losing one of our most valuable members and PCOs.

Decisions / Actions: Martin stated he considered this adopted without objection and will contact Dwight. Ralph volunteered to assist Martin with the conversation with Dwight.

- First Vice Chair Resignation: Due to family considerations, Terry Thorsos is unable to perform the duties of her office for at least the next six months. In view of these unexpected circumstances, she has offered to resign her position.
 - Our bylaws do not address re-election following a resignation. The board agreed that it is presumed the process has to parallel the election process in place for officers, meaning a vote by elected and appointed PCOs. This process requires adequate notice be given in advance of the election taking place.

Decisions / Actions:

- The board agreed that Terry's resignation and the subsequent election would be announced at the February general meeting, with the election to be held at the March general meeting.
- The announcement will include the fact that due to the election of a new first vice chair, it is possible we will also fill other positions that become open due to the new elections. If it becomes necessary to fill other positions, the elections for those positions will be held at the same time.
- Lynn will put together a sympathy card for Terry and circulate it at the meeting.
- Martin encouraged the board members to talk to others they might like to see run for the position.

- There will be a Chair's meeting in Ellensburg in early March. Lynn is aware of this meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Terry Linkletter reported that we currently have a balance of \$3,798.66. Much of that balance is due to \$2,500 donation from the Eastside Democrats Dinner. Additional funds include \$230 in extra funds left over from donations for recognition of Ralph's service to the 45th LD. There are currently 22 paid members, 9 of which chose to take part in Club 45.

PCO Support Committee Report

Bob Horn submitted a written report resulting from a recent committee meeting. Highlights included:

- The mode has shifted from an election time mindset to more operations and support.
- Standing subcommittees were formed to address recruitment and PCO training. Ad hoc subcommittees were formed to address database training, campaign coordination, and web content for PCOs.
- The committee also believes that much of what PCOs need is the party identity. Ralph noted that this is really the party platform. There was discussion about the values statement that was published during the recent elections and it was noted that this is not currently on the website.

Decisions / Actions: Melissa will remind Ralph to provide an electronic copy of the values statement for the purposes of posting it to the web.

- Bob is going to suggest we have a canvass where we go around and ask the public what is important to them. This is a great time to get out and listen to the voters when there is not so much of a push to tell them about candidates, issues, etc.
- Martin noted that we have not officially formed a standing PCO committee yet. He asked the board members if we are comfortable that we are now established enough to make a standing PCO committee. He also asked if Bob would accept appointment to chair this committee. Hearing verbal agreement, Martin moved to establish the committee with Bob as chair, subject to approval at the general meeting. The motion was seconded and there was further discussion around the name of the committee ending with agreement on PCO Support Committee.

Decisions / Actions: Passed without objection.

Committee Reports

All committee chairs are encouraged to submit written reports go forward.

- At least have minimal committee reports that include meeting times, attendees, and major decisions.

- Have a secretary
- Utilize the new web pages for committees
- Have new sign-ups directed to the chair of each committee

Elections Committee

Questions were raised around how down ticket election research and issues should be handled and who lead the effort.

Decisions / Actions: Mike Burner volunteered to write up a description of what an Elections Committee would / could do. He will send it to the executive board within two weeks. Martin suggested that he also consider including a statement of what is not in scope for the committee.

Chairs Committee Report

Martin shared an update on the Chairs Committee. Suzy Sheary was elected the chair of this committee. The committee's charter is to organize activities for the Chairs. There will be training for Chairs scheduled in Ellensburg in March.

Publicity

The board was asked if anyone had objections to using Yahoo sign ups and publicizing it on flyers, the website, etc. No objections were expressed.

Old Business / Carry over

Due to time constraints, the following items will be carried over to future meetings:

- Vision Statement
- Calendar / Budget Meeting
- Caucuses

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Priscilla O'Leary, Secretary
45th LD Democrats