

45th LD Democrats
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2007
Redmond Library

Attendees: Martin Chaney, Priscilla O'Leary, Kris Rubenaker, Lynn Norwood, Judith Shattuck, Ken Jauch, Terry Linkletter, Ralph Gorin, Diane Slota, Paul Yarbrough, Andrew Villeneuve, Kathleen Reynolds, Bob Horn, Mike Burner

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Martin Chaney, Chair.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and adopted with the addition of the discussion topic "Switching to the Google list."

Previous Meeting Minutes

The February 2007 meeting minutes were approved.

Proposed General Meeting Agenda Review

Copies of the proposed General Meeting agenda were distributed and specific items were discussed, as follows:

- Elected Officials and Guest Speakers – The proposed agenda had the speakers ordered as Darcy Burner, Alec Fisker, and then Mary Illingsworth from Washington Education Association. It was determined we would reverse this order and have Mary Illingsworth speak first, followed by Alec Fisker and then Darcy Burner.
- Endorsements and Resolutions – The first agenda item under this topic will be the adoption of the proposed endorsement procedures. Discussion followed:
 - Martin noted that this could be an issue of concern as some object to having early endorsements.
 - Judith indicated she felt it was not a concern with it comes to know candidates such as Darcy, Roger, Larry, Eric, etc., but she was unsure about early endorsement of lesser known candidates.
 - A question arose about if we can choose correctly. Paul noted that the process is self-correcting – people can choose to not endorse a specific candidate.
 - Martin commented that there is nothing to preclude endorsing a second candidate in the same race. He shared that Dwight Pelz looks closely at endorsements by the legislative districts when making decisions about candidate support such as giving them voter file access. He gives weight to what the grass roots organizations are telling him by making the endorsements.

- Diane asked if there is an affect on fundraising for candidates who receive early endorsements. Martin responded that it might persuade some people to give donations, but the candidates own ability to fund raise probably has more impact. However, endorsing candidates is a requirement before the legislative district can give contributions to candidates.
 - Lynn asked if she would be able to vote on the endorsements by proxy since she won't be able to attend this month's meeting. Martin advised that we do not have a process to vote by proxy and there are concerns about allowing this sort of activity.
- Remainder of Agenda – The rest of the proposed agenda is pretty much the standard items:
 - Short Topics
 - PCO Appointments
 - Chair's Report
 - Committee and Officer and Representatives Report
 - King County Democrats Central Committee Report
 - Washington State Democrats Committee Report
 - Treasurer's Report
 - 45th LD Committees Reports
 - Old Business
 - New Business
 - Good of the Order
 - Adjourn
- Terry Linkletter noted that we also need to include the budget report so that we can have a motion to adopt and vote on it. Martin and Ralph confirmed that this could be done under the Treasurer's report topic.
- Chairs Report: Martin shared that some members have asked him to share more about future plans. By setting the focus of specific future meetings, it will also help in setting expectations of people who are requesting to speak at future meetings. Current known plans are:
 - May – Legislative Wrap Up
 - June – Tony Ventrella has been promised time to speak at this meeting. He is considering running for the 8th Congressional District Seat. This meeting will have a focus on endorsements.
 - August – Last meeting before the primary
 - Month Not Yet Determined – PCO Training
 - The Endorsement Committee recommended moving the June meeting one week later than usual so that it will be after the filing period is closed. Making this change enables us to have an endorsement meeting as close after the filing period ends as possible. Ralph noted that the primary is scheduled for August 20th, so making endorsements in June gives the

endorsement 10 weeks of life rather. Endorsing candidates in July only allows the endorsement to be in place for 6 weeks before the primary. Making the change in this meeting date will allow more time to motivate PCOs to do more for endorsed candidates.

- Ralph made a motion to move the June general meeting from June 6th to June 13th and also move the July general meeting from July 4th to July 11th in recognition of the holiday. The motion was seconded.

Decisions / Actions: Motion passed, unanimously

- Martin will also add to the Chair's Report section the status of moving the Announce List and Discussion List to the Google platform. He has given Andrew the go ahead to set up the lists. As part of the task, Andrew has been asked to help clean up the Announce List so that names are associated with every email address. Andrew is keeping a list of those addresses that cannot be identified with a name so that we can eventually work through the list to identify them. The conversion should be done within the next couple of weeks.

Decisions / Actions: The General Meeting Agenda was approved.

Committee, Officer, and Representative Reports

- Parade Plans
 - Woodinville parade this Saturday
 - Lynn to put out an announcement and news item to remind people about where to park and other logistics
 - Martin will bring the two person banner
 - Ralph gave a reminder that we need to be sure we don't have any signs or anything saying to vote for any of our legislators as they are not allowed to campaign while still in session.
- Budget Committee Report
 - Terry distributed versions A & B of the budget proposal and noted that version A was reviewed and approved by Budget Committee
 - Terry reviewed projected expenses and revenues for 2007 & 2008 included in version A. Caucus expenses include rent, mailings, and supplies. Ralph noted that we should plan on sending mailings to the 2004 and 2006 caucus attendees.
 - Lynn asked if Mike had submitted the cost for getting the t-shirts printed. Terry noted that Mike had not yet submitted this expense.
 - Terry expressed concerns that there have been expenses incurred in the past that were not submitted. This type of activity can skew the budget. Also, even if someone chooses to cover costs

themselves, it is considered to be an in kind donation and must be declared. Receipts need to be given to Terry with a note that it is an in kind contribution so that it can be properly reported. If someone is donating something that is a part of their profession, their time must also be declared as an in kind donation.

- Terry then reviewed version B of the budget proposal. He noted that he considers it a more challenging and it has four major differences.
 - Discretionary line – This line item is for committees and the money is to be used at their discretion
 - Revenues – Other contributions is a bit lower in this version and matches more closely with the contribution expenses
 - Fund Raisers – This line item was added in this version. It calls for \$1,000 in 2007 and \$2,000 in 2008.
 - Other Contributions – This line item was raised slightly in recognition of the fact that we are close to half of this goal for the year.
- Terry recommended that version B be adopted.
- Martin said that he like the notion of committing to fund raiser for the legislative district, but wondered who might be appointed to be in charge of the effort.
- Ralph noted that other districts typically have some sort of picnic in the summer that is a fund raising event.
- Martin asked if someone would like to volunteer to be in charge of picnics, fund raising events and other related activities.
- Judith volunteered to organize a picnic fundraiser this summer.
- Diane signed up to bring food to the general meetings.
- Martin indicated that he feels version B brings our organization more in the direction it should be going and he likes having the line item for discretionary funds for the committees.
- Mike asked about the \$600 KDCC donation that was previously requested.
- Judith moved that we adopt version B for presentation at the general meeting. Andrew seconded the motion. Terry noted that it could be broken down to about \$6 per dues-paid member. Done in this manner, we could pay approximately \$300 now. This sends the message to the county that we are willing to participate, but what we can give is based on what we collect from members.
Decisions / Actions: Motion passed, unanimously
- Terry noted that in future meetings he will bring statements of how doing against budget.
- Endorsement Committee Report
 - Kathleen Reynolds reviewed the proposed procedures document and specifically changes to the third point in section 5 regarding

presentation by the Endorsement Committee of perceived weaknesses of recommended candidates.

- Kathleen noted that due to changes in the close of the filing period, our generally meeting would fall in the middle of the filing period. It was noted that the board was made aware of this earlier in the meeting and has already elected to adjust the schedule to remove this conflict.
- Kathleen shared that she has received feedback since the last time the Endorsement Committee met and is becoming more aware that there is opposition to early endorsement process. She noted that the committee needs to give careful consideration before presenting early endorsements to avoid too much contention and harm to the credibility of the committee.
- Martin had mentioned earlier that he thought we would need to suspend the rules at the April general meeting to allow for early endorsements to be completed. Mike asked why suspending the rules was necessary as there is nothing that says we cannot do an early endorsement at any time. After review, the board agreed that we will not need to suspend the rules for early endorsements to take place.
- Martin noted that the bylaws that were approved as part of the reorganization meeting were an older version that does not include last year's change to allow for a simple majority. The bylaws still require a 2/3 majority. The 2/3 majority is also in the recommended endorsement procedures. The board discussed this issue and determined that for the early endorsements being considered at this time, it is likely that the 2/3 majority would be met. It was generally felt that it would be less confusing to the bylaws as they are for now and revisit a change to the bylaws later rather than attempt a bylaws change at the general meeting before addressing early endorsements.
- Ralph moved to recommend the procedures presented by the Endorsement Committee. Andrew seconded the motion.
- Ralph provided a copy of technical corrections to the procedures to Kathleen. It was agreed that she would incorporate those changes and provide an updated copy to Priscilla for the record.

Decisions / Actions: Motion passed, unanimously

- PCO Support Committee Report
 - Bob provided a written report from the PCO Support Committee and reviewed the highlights.
 - The committee recently met and developed their goals.
 - It also became clear that the PCO Support Committee needs to merge or work with the Caucus Committee and the feeling is that the sooner

this is done the better it will be. The PCO Committee requests to know as soon as possible who the chair of the Caucus Committee will be. They would like to know how soon we can get started working on the caucuses, as there is a lot of work to be done.

- Paul asked if we have anyone for the caucus chair. Martin said that he has been meeting with Terry Thorsos, who would like to be involved with planning, but that we do not yet have a formed committee. Martin will check back with Terry to see what her involvement will be.
- Bob asked that he report back to the PCO Support Committee what is currently on the table and how they can get involved.
- Bob also asked for thoughts about how our caucuses might be affected with the national movement towards a “Super Tuesday.” There is concern that participation could be affected. Martin noted that it may depend on how the state organization advertises the purpose of the caucuses. Bob then asked if there was someone in charge at the state level who could provide clarification. Martin indicated he was not certain who that would be. Andrew asked if the state party has the authority to move the caucus to an earlier date, subject to the approval of the DNC. Neither Ralph nor Martin is aware of any discussions.

Old Business

- Strategic Planning / Mission Statement work – It was agreed to table this topic due to time constraints.

New Business

- Executive Board Meeting Location – Martin expressed his delight with the number of people showing up for the meetings, but this also means the size of the meeting room could be a problem. The room we typically use is sized for 13 attendees. We tell our membership that they are welcome to attend the meetings, so we could potentially surpass the capacity of the room.
 - Ralph brought up the fact that holding meetings at the library means the meetings are open to everyone. This extends to the fact that you can not ask anyone to leave or ban cameras at a public meetings
 - It was noted that in the past (pre-2004) when the general meetings were around this size, we rented a room from the Family Resource Center for around \$30. It was also noted that it might be worth inquiring about using a room at City Hall.
 - Martin indicated he would be interested in moving the meeting if we can find a suitable space.
 - Andrew asked if there were any democratic business owners who might be willing to let us use their space. McDonald’s bookstore was mentioned, but it was felt the space is too limited.
 - Paul volunteered to check out some places in Kirkland.

- Terry mentioned that he could guarantee the use of his home, or the ability to move the meeting to his home if it needed to adjourn and reconvene later for some reason. Kris noted, however, that his home is not accessible for the disabled.
- Martin asked that if anyone comes up with alternative spaces that they send the information to the board for consideration.
- Voting Credentials
 - Martin has received several inquiries about the potential abuse of voting and possibility of astroturfing. Questions were raised about what constitutes voting privileges and the definition of a member. Inquiries in this area include handling and publication of membership information, donations, PCO lists, etc. Martin expressed that he likes to feel we are open, but he also has concerns about protecting confidentiality. Also, we do have some obligations to publish certain information based on public disclosure requirements. He shared a document outlining his de facto policy for handling inquiries along these lines. He noted that donor information is required to be available on the PDC database (greater than \$25 or cash) and the books must be available for inspection. Terry advised that the PDC software determines when these thresholds are met.
 - Martin asked that if anyone has concerns about the policy he is using that they provide him with feedback. He also noted that we can adopt the policy if we feel the document is good enough. Ken advised he would like time to read it more thoroughly. It was agreed that any feedback will be provided to Martin.
 - Lynn asked about the logistics of providing credentials to those voting in a meeting. It was agreed that this would be difficult to do consistently and accurately. Martin noted that if there is an issue at a meeting, anyone can raise the question about the credentials of those voting. This has the possibility of stalling the meeting, so this option should be used only when there is significant enough concern to warrant the action.
 - It was asked if we could try having a list of paid members and recent attendees preprinted for use in signing in at the meetings. Priscilla will work with the lists and the database to see what can be compiled.
- Martin would like to explore a way to validate information for PCOs and the ability to publish some of the information on the website. He will ask the PCO Support Committee to manage the gather of the data from the PCOs.
- Bylaws review – Due to time constraints, this topic was tabled.
- WSDCC meetings in Bellingham April 27th & April 28th – Everyone is invited to attend to observe the meetings, though they cannot participate.

It would be great if we had enough district members to cover all the meetings.

Good of the Order

- No topics were covered under this section due to time constraints.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Priscilla O'Leary, Secretary
45th LD Democrats