

1 Draft Minutes of the Executive Board

2 Linn County Democrats Central Committee

3 Meeting Date: February 13, 2017

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5 Members Present: Bret Nilles, Mike Robinson, Norm Sterzenbach, Diane Peterson, Sunny  
6 Story

7 Guests: Jason Brown, Michael McGree, Harvey Ross, Valerie Smith

8 1. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS

9 a. A regular monthly meeting of the Executive Board of Linn County  
10 Democrats was held on February 13, 2017, at the Marion Public Library in  
11 Marion, Iowa. The meeting was called to order by Chair Bret Nilles, and  
12 Michael McGree recorded the Minutes. Chair Nilles declared a quorum  
13 present.

14 b. Chair Nilles reported on an initiative to better organize party activity and  
15 recruit candidates in the First District of the Iowa Democratic Party. Early  
16 organizers of this effort include Blair Lawton and Laura Hubka.

17 2. STANDING COMMITTEES

18 a. Finance Committee

19 i. Finance Secretary Sunny Story provided an update on the logistics  
20 for the upcoming JFK dinner. Mike Robinson noted the ongoing  
21 search for speakers at the events. Additional logistical details such  
22 as invoicing procedures were discussed.

23 b. Technology Committee

24 i. Technology Committee Bret Nilles reported on his efforts to update  
25 the Minutes and event calendar on the Party's website. Mr. Ross  
26 note there was an increased effort to post events on the calendar  
27 by new members of the Technology Committee.

- 28 c. Hospitality Committee
- 29 i. Bret Nilles reported that Hospitality Committee Chair Joe Stutler  
30 was reimbursed for the cost of a new microwave pursuant to a  
31 Motion approved at the previous Executive Board meeting.
- 32 d. Public Relations Committee
- 33 i. Jason Brown and Valerie Smith reported for the Public Relation  
34 Committee. Discussion include generating publicity for the  
35 upcoming March 4 Odd-Year Caucuses by distributing flyers and  
36 contacting local media. Ms. Smith discussed her efforts to  
37 coordinate volunteers to canvass homes and make phone calls to  
38 local Democrats. Also discussed was capturing data from interest  
39 surveys distributed at the Caucuses to facilitate activism within the  
40 Party.
- 41 e. Candidate Recruitment Committee
- 42 i. Ongoing efforts to recruit candidates to run for local elective office.  
43 The opportunities to run for nonpartisan offices and commissions  
44 was noted.
- 45 f. Affirmative Action Chair
- 46 i. Chair Bret Nilles reported that he will be facilitating Affirmative  
47 Action Committee meetings on an interim basis as Committee Chair  
48 Joy Mincey Powell is experiencing health difficulties
- 49 g. Disability Caucus Chair
- 50 i. Catherine Crist reported recent activities of the Disability Caucus  
51 including a recent virtual forum during which candidates for DNC  
52 Chair answered pre-submitted questions. Ms. Crist noted that the  
53 forum was well attended nationwide as well as internationally. She  
54 noted several accessibility technologies and features used during  
55 the presentation of the forum, such as use of CART transcription  
56 and ASL interpretation.

57                   ii. Ms. Crist also spoke about a planned march on Washington to  
58                   coincide with the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act  
59                   on July 26.

60       3. SECRETARY'S REPORT

- 61           a. Michael McGree discussed ongoing efforts to update the member rolls  
62           with current and accurate information.
- 63           b. Ideas regarding member recruitment were discussed.
- 64           c. The Executive Board approved a motion to ratify new party members  
65           identified at the 2017 Caucuses after the March 22 election of new officers  
66           of the Linn County Democrats Central Committee.

67       4. TREASURER'S REPORT

- 68           a. Treasurer Diane Peterson reported on incorporating projected future  
69           expenditures into financial planning. Ms. Peterson noted that projected  
70           expenses would include expenditures related to upcoming state, federal,  
71           and local elections. She noted that Linn County Democrats currently  
72           enjoys a balance of over \$8,000. After discussion, it was agreed that the  
73           2017 proposed budget be made an agenda item at the February Central  
74           Committee meeting.

75       5. FEBRUARY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

- 76           a. Bret Nilles reported on ongoing efforts to obtain a speaker for the  
77           meeting.
- 78           b. Event planning for the 2017 Odd Year Caucuses was reviewed,  
79           incorporating previous discussion
- 80           c. Bret Niles reported that Officer Nominations will be taken at the February  
81           Central Committee meeting and nominations will remain open until Officer  
82           Election are held at the Mach meeting.

83

- 84 6. OLD BUSINESS
- 85 a. Mike Robinson reported on ongoing event planning for the May 2017 JFK
- 86 Anniversary dinner.
- 87 b. Valerie Smith and Jason Browed summarize previous discussion regard the
- 88 2017 Odd Year Caucuses.
- 89 7. NEW BUSINESS
- 90 a. Jason Brown discussed the importance of the role of the Public Relation
- 91 Committee for Linn County Democrats.
- 92 8. ADJOURNMENT
- 93 a. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

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