

1 Minutes of the Executive Board

2 Linn County Democrats Central Committee

3 Meeting Date: March 13, 2017

4  
5 Members Present: Bret Nilles, Mike Robinson, Norm Sterzenbach, Diane  
6 Peterson, Sunny Story, Catherine Crist

7  
8 Guests: Karen Black, Laura Geary Bell, David Gregory, Michael McGree, Stacey  
9 Walker

10  
11 1. CALL TO ORDER

- 12 a. A regular monthly meeting of the Executive Board of Linn County  
13 Democrat was held on Monday March 13 2017 at the Marion  
14 Public Library in Marion, Iowa. The meeting was called to order  
15 at 6:37 PM by Chair Bret Nilles. Michael McGree recorded the  
16 Minutes. Chair Nilles declared a quorum present.

17 2. STANDING COMMITTEES

18 a. Finance

- 19 i. Financial Secretary Sunny Story presented the report of the  
20 Finance Committee. The focus of the committee's activities  
21 remain on finding a speaker for the upcoming JFK  
22 Fundraiser. A brief discussion regarding possible speakers  
23 ensued.

- 24 ii. It was agreed that a decision would be made at the April 10  
25 meeting about whether to move forward with the event.

26 b. Technology

- 27 i. No report was given as the Technology Chair was absent.

28                   ii. A general discussion about improving the website's utility  
29                   was held. Ideas presented included posting more events on  
30                   the website calendar.

31           c. Hospitality

32                   i. Chair Bret Nilles reported that Hospitality Committee Chair  
33                   Joe Stutler was gratified that the Executive Board  
34                   reimbursed him for the cost of a new microwave.

35           d. Public Relations

36                   i. Public Relations Committee Chair Jason Brown is stepping  
37                   down from the Chair position due to impending family  
38                   responsibilities.

39                   ii. Stacey Walker discussed his interest in assisting Linn  
40                   County Democrat with publicity and outreach activities.

41                   iii. Stacey Walker expressed interest, spoke about thoughts for  
42                   publicity, media strategy, rapid response, outreach strategy

43           e. Candidate Recruitment

44                   i. Chair Nilles reported on ongoing efforts to recruit  
45                   Democratic candidates to run for elective office.

46           3. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION CHAIR

47                   a. Chair Nilles reported that he is continuing to chair meeting of the  
48                   Affirmative Action He stated that the next meeting is scheduled  
49                   for Thursday March 16 at the main branch of the Cedar Rapids  
50                   Public Library.

51           4. DISABILITY CHAIR

52                   a. Committee Chair Catherine Crist reported for the Disability  
53                   Caucus. Ms. Crist discussed upcoming activities. She stated that  
54                   the Iowa Democratic Party Disability Caucus was planning a Get  
55                   Out The Vote event to coincide with National Disability Vote  
56                   Registration Week (July 17-21 2017). Ms. Crist also discussed

57 opportunities to leverage technologies such as Computer-Assisted  
58 Real-time Transcription (CART) and social media to enhance  
59 accessibility of Party activities for all people. She noted that DNC  
60 Chair Tom Perez has voiced support for increasing accessibility  
61 within the Party.

- 62 b. Ms. Crist also provided a brief report on accessibility initiative  
63 with the State Central Committee, county caucus responsibilities  
64 for more localized disability caucus activities, and the recent  
65 activities from the recent State Central Committee retreat.

## 66 5. SECRETARY'S REPORT

### 67 a. Central Committee Members & Contact Detail

- 68 i. Acting Secretary Michael McGree reported on ongoing  
69 efforts to gather, update, and organize data for recording on  
70 the member rolls. Privacy concerns regarding the  
71 publication of members' physical addresses were discussed,  
72 and it was agreed that a possible solution would be for  
73 member to opt-out of the publication of their addresses.

## 74 6. TREASURER'S REPORT

- 75 a. Treasurer Diane Peterson presented the February Treasure's  
76 Report. Ms. Peterson reported that there was one amendment.  
77 She reported that funds collected at the 2017 Odd-Year Caucuses  
78 amounted to approximately \$1,441.

## 79 7. MARCH CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

### 80 a. Biennial Meeting & Officer Elections

- 81 i. Chair Nilles reported that the March Biennial meeting will  
82 be to elect new officers in all positions. He stated that  
83 nominations remain open until they are closed prior to the  
84 election at the Biennial Meeting.

- 85 ii. Laura Geary-Bell and Michael McGree announced their  
86 intention to run as co-Secretaries at the March 22 2017

87 Biennial Meeting of the Central Committee. The Executive  
88 Board agreed that this arrangement was legal and that the  
89 candidacy of the co-Secretaries may be advanced to the  
90 Central Committee.

91 8. OLD BUSINESS

92 a. May fundraiser

93 i. The earlier discussion regarding the May JFK fundraiser  
94 continued. Discussion included topics such as  
95 reimbursement of travel expense for speaker as well as the  
96 selection of a speaker.

97 b. Odd Year Caucus Recap

98 i. Valerie Smith reported that data gathered from sign-in  
99 sheets and interest surveys at the 2017 Caucus were  
100 entered in VAN and that this data is being incorporated in  
101 Linn County Democratic Party records.

102 ii. Karen Black and Sunny Story spoke regarding their  
103 experiences at the Caucuses and the enthusiasm among  
104 voters encountered while canvassing.

105 9. NEW BUSINESS

106 a. St. Patrick's Day Parade

107 i. A brief discussion regarding planning for the Saint Patrick's  
108 Day parade was held.

109 b. Sen. Joni Ernst Forum

110 i. Chair Nilles noted that Senator Joni Ernst was holding a  
111 town hall event on the same day as the Saint Patrick's Day  
112 parade.

113 c. Chair Nilles reported on a series of Building Blocks forums held  
114 statewide to discuss strategic direction and opportunities for  
115 improvement in the wake of the November 2016 elections. He

116 reported that there will be one such forum on Saturday March 25  
117 from 10 AM until noon. Iowa Democratic Party Chair Dereck  
118 Eadon as well as IDP Field Organizer Blair Lawton and State  
119 Central Committee Member Laura Hubka will be sponsoring and  
120 moderating the forum.

121 10. ADJOURNMENT

- 122 a. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.