

LINN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 24, 2016 at Hiawatha Civic Center, 101 Emmons St, Hiawatha

Officers in Attendance: Chairman Bret Nilles, First Vice-Chair Mike Robinson, Second Vice-Chair Norm Sterzenbach, Treasurer Diane Peterson and Parliamentarian Roy Porterfield. (Absent: Secretary Spink and Financial Chair Story.)

Meeting called to order by Chairman Nilles at 7:05 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Chair recognized all guests and elected officials in attendance. Elected officials present: Chairperson of the Iowa Democratic Party Dr. Andy McGuire, State Senators Rob Hogg and Liz Mathis, State Representatives Art Staed, Kirsten Running-Marquardt and Liz Bennett, Linn County Supervisors Ben Rogers and James Houser, County Attorney Jerry Vander Sanden, Cedar Rapids City Councilperson Susie Weinacht and Hiawatha City Councilperson Amy Wichtendahl.

Central Committee members heard campaign updates from candidates Staed, Bennett, and Rogers and from Mark Seidl, who is seeking election in House District 67, and from surrogate speakers from the Monica Vernon for Congress Campaign, Molly Donahue for House 68 Campaign, and Mr. David Rogers spoke on behalf of the Senator Liz Mathis Re-election Committee. Valerie Smith spoke on behalf of the MoveOn.org Campaign Against Hate efforts. Supervisor Ben Rogers discussed Linn County's efforts to raise the county minimum wage to \$10.25 per hour. Jenny Nathans of the IDP Coordinated Campaign based in Linn County announced the statewide Weekend of Action will be held on September 17 and 18 and she made an appeal for volunteer help at the campaign headquarters.

Secretary Angie Spink was absent for this meeting, and the review / approval of the minutes from previous meetings were tabled until the next meeting of the LCDCC.

The Central Committee voted to accept the resignation of member Beverly Hannen of precinct Marion 04.

The Central Committee nominated and unanimously elected Ms. Ashley Glassberg as Precinct Committee Person for Hiawatha 01.

(**Ashley's contact info: 319.654.6484 and glashberg@gmail.com**)

The Central Committee nominated and unanimously elected Ms. Kelly McMahon as Associate Member for precinct Cedar Rapids 41.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved by the Central Committee. The Pass-the-Hat free will donation made of those in attendance collected \$247.00. (Thank you, everyone!)

Treasurer Diane Peterson presented to the members that the LCDCC has a surplus of funds this year, owing to the fact that the Iowa Democratic Party Coordinated Campaign was paying for Linn County office spaces instead of the county party renting these buildings. Treasurer Peterson made the following recommendations for motions:

1. A motion and a second were offered by the membership in support of increasing the parade budget from \$2,000.00 to \$4,000.00 due to cost incurred by the repairing of the county parade float. The motion carried without objection.
2. An initial motion and a second were offered by the members in support of contributing \$500.00 to each of the campaigns committees for Patty Judge for US Senate and for Monice Vernon for US Congress, but the motion was amended and seconded that a \$1,000.00 contribution would be made to the Vernon for Congress Campaign only. Following a discussion period, the Central Committee voted to allot the \$1,000.00 to the Monica Vernon Campaign alone. (Note: The Patty Judge Campaign did not receive a contribution from the Linn County Democrats due the fact that county parties are limited to only one thousand dollars total for contributions to candidates seeking federal office.)
3. A motion and a second were offered by the members in support of contributing funds to local candidate committees that had competitive races and that had not already received funds from the Linn County Democrats. The motion / second supported the following contributions: To the Scott Peterson for State Senate Campaign, \$1,000.00; to the Liz Bennett Re-election Committee, \$1,000.00; to the Mark Seidl for State Representative Campaign, \$1,000.00; to the Molly Donahue for State Representative Campaign, \$1,000.00; to the Dick Whitehead for State Representative , \$1,000.00; and , to the Todd Taylor Re-election Committee, \$500.00 (this figure based on the candidate's estimate of campaign needs). Following a discussion period, a vote was taken and the motion passed. The results were not unanimous.
4. A motion and a second were offered by the members in support of County Supervisor Brent Oleson receiving \$500.00 for his re-election bid. Following a discussion period, a vote was taken and the motion passed. (Supervisor candidates Stacy Walker and Ben Rogers had received funds on a previous occasion.)

Financial Chairperson Sunny Story was absent this night. Accordingly, discussions for an upcoming pancake breakfast were tabled until the next meeting of the LCDCC.

Under the category of Old Business, the matter of Alternate Members to the First Congressional District Central Committee was discussed. Multiple names were put into nomination. All of the following people were elected as Alternate Members to the District Central Committee: Courtney Rowe, Mike McGree, Jason Brown, Chase Bolton, Bill Falcon, Lindsey Nicole Veasey, Don Weatherwax, Holly Brown, Barbara Stanislaw, Valerie Smith, Tammy Wawro, and Zach (**Last Name Needed**). The next district meeting will be Saturday, October 1 at 1 pm at the Black Hawk County Headquarters.

New Business brought before the Central Committee tonight:

1. Parades: The next parade would be in Hiawatha on Saturday, August 27
2. The registration fee for the domain name for the county website is to come due again soon.
3. Supervisor Ben Rogers spoke to the Central Committee regarding the matter of a ballot issue that will appear on the general election ballots. The question will in effect read: Shall the number of Linn County Supervisors remain at five or be reduced to three? Supervisor Rogers is not in favor of the ballot issue and wishes the number of supervisors to remain at five in order provide adequate representation throughout Linn County. If voter approval is acquired, the measure will go into effect January 1, 2019.
4. Bernard Clayton, representing the organization One Strong, gave an update on and thanked the Central Committee for our commitment to end gun violence in Linn County.
5. State Senator Rob Hogg gave a brief speech for the benefit of the organization.
6. Chairperson of the Linn County Disabilities Caucus Catherine Crist gave a brief update and stated that next Disability Caucus meeting would be on September 7 at 6 pm.
7. Chairperson of the Linn County Affirmative Action Committee Joy Mincey Powell requested of the Central Committee \$25.00 for an entry fee for a table / booth at Festival Latino on September 18. The LCDCC offered a motion and a second to provide the Affirmative Action Committee \$50.00 for expenses at the festival. The motion carried unanimously. Festival Latino will be held on Mays' Island in Cedar Rapids.
8. Hospitality Chairperson Joe Stutler requested that someone other than himself provide drinks for the attendees because he provides the main course, and the two duties are too difficult for one person to do. He also requested volunteer assistance in the managing of the many duties needed in the providing of the monthly meals.
9. Delegate to last month's National Convention Jason Brown thanked the Central Committee for donating funds to local delegates to lessen the financial burdens associated with attending the convention.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Robinson, First Vice-Chair (in Secretary Spink's absence)

Precinct: Maine Township