

Linn County Democrats
Draft Minutes of the Central Committee
January 25, 2016 Regular Meeting

Summary of Motion Passed:

1. Laurie Martin was elected Committeeperson for CR07
2. Sierra Lewis was elected Committeeperson for CR 03
3. Joel Emery was elected Committeeperson for CR 30
4. William Brandt was elected Committeeperson for MR 09
5. Virginia Schlefter was elected Committeeperson for Linn Township
6. Casey Guest was elected Committeeperson for CR 38
7. Norm Sternenbach (CR37), Isaac Murtha (MR05), Joe Zahorick (CR14), Marie Conried (MR07), Elyse Garlock (CR27), and Vicki Bouska (HA01) were elected as Associate Committeepersons
8. The Linn County Democrats Central Committee accepts the December 2016 Treasurer's Report
9. A letter of appreciation be sent to former Secretary Angie Spinks in recognition of her service to Linn County Democrats
10. The Constitution and Bylaws and Bylaws are amended to include provisions for the election of Alternate Committeepersons
11. Linn County Democrats spend up to \$500 on operational expenses related to Odd Year Caucuses

Officer Present: Bret Nilles, Michael Robinson, Norm Sternezbach, Sunny Story, Diane Peterson

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. A regular meeting of the Linn County Democrats Central Committee was held at the Hiawatha Community Center in Hiawatha, Iowa, on January 25, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Chair Bret Nilles and Committeeperson Michael McGree recorded the Minutes. Chair Nilles declared a quorum present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- A. The Assembly rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Chair Bret Nilles. The Body then observed a Moment of Silence in honor of Dr. Percy Harris, Cedar Rapid's first African-American physician.

3. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS

- A. Chair Bret Nile welcomed guests and elected officials to the meeting. Elected official present were Linn County Supervisor James Houser (District 1), Linn County Supervisor Stacey Walker (District 2), and Snooks Bouska, former Mayor of Marion.

35 4. IDP STATE CHAIR REPORT

- 36 A. Chair Bret Nilles reported on the result of the officer elections for the Iowa Democratic Party.
37 Results were reported as follows: Dereck Eadon, Chair; Andrea Phillips, 1st Vice Chair; Jordan
38 Pope, 2nd Vice Chair; June Owens, 3rd Vice Chair.
- 39 B. Stacey Walker discussed the importance of grassroots and youth involvement in Democratic
40 politics.

41 5. SECRETARY'S REPORT

- 42 A. Chair Nilles announced the Secretary Angie Spinks had resigned from her position. No report
43 was given. Committeeperson Michael McGree was appointed as Acting Secretary.
- 44 B. Resignations/Nominations to vacancies
- 45 1. Resignations
- 46 i. Elyse Garlock (CR29); Norm Sterzenbach (CR35)
- 47 2. Committeeperson elections (Motion for each individual elected)
- 48 i. Laurie Martin (CR07); Sierra Lewis (CR02); Joel Emery (CR30); William Brandt
49 (MR09); Virginia Schlefter (TLIN); Casey Guet (CR38)
- 50 3. Associate Committeeperson elections (Motion for group)
- 51 i. Norm Sterzenbach (CR37); Isaac Murtha (MV5); Joe Zahorick (CR14); Marie
52 Conried (MR07); Elyse Garlock (CR27); Vicki Bouska (HIA 01)

53 6. TREASURER'S REPORT

- 54 A. Treasurer Diane Peterson presented the December 2016 Treasurer's Report to the Central
55 Committee. Major expenditures contained in the report included a deposit on the dinner hall for
56 the JFK 100th Anniversary Dinner in May and expenses related to clearing out storage of
57 material owned by Linn County Democrats from Sally Williams' barn. Chair Bret Nilles noted
58 the Sen. Wally Horn (IA Senate District 35) made a substantial to cover the costs of the Linn
59 County Democrats Central Committee end-of-year meeting and celebration.
- 60 B. It was moved and seconded that the Linn County Democrats Central accept the December 2016
61 Treasurer's Report. The motion carried on a voice vote.

62 7. COMMITTEE/CAUCUS UPDATES

- 63 A. Affirmative Action Committee: No update was presented as Committee Chair Joy Mincey-
64 Powell was absent. Affirmative Action Committee is scheduled to meet third Tuesday of each
65 month at the downtown location of the Cedar Rapids Public Library.
- 66 B. Disability Caucus: Caucus Chair Catherine Crist presented update for the Disability Caucus. The
67 Disability Caucus meets at 5:30 PM on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Hiawatha
68 Community Center prior to the Central Committee meeting. Chair Crist reported on recent
69 accomplishments of the Disability Caucus, including using Computer-Assisted Real-time
70 Transcription (CART) as to increase the accessibility of Party events for everyone, including

71 people with disabilities. Ms. Crist also reported on efforts to increase awareness of issues of
72 concern to the Disability Caucus at the level through the formation of the National Association
73 of Democratic Disability Caucuses. She noted that the Iowa Democratic Party Disability Caucus
74 will be holding a virtual candidate forum of February 5 at 7 PM.

75 C. Stonewall Caucus: Caucus Chair Harvey Ross reported for the Stonewall Caucus. Mr. Ross
76 presented a brief update on activities, and reminded the assembly that Stonewall Caucus meets
77 monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at the HyVee Market Grille located at 4035
78 Mount Vernon Road SE in Cedar Rapids.

79 D. Nate Willems of the Linn County Phoenix Club spoke on the benefits of becoming a member of
80 the club. The Phoenix Club supports Democratic candidates from Linn County. Basic annual
81 membership is \$100 which includes discounts on Phoenix Club Events. Additional annual
82 memberships are silver (\$250) and Gold (\$500). Mr. Willems also requested volunteers to assist
83 with Club operations. Persons interested in joining or volunteering are encouraged to contact
84 Nate Willems or Bret Nilles at monthly Central Committee meetings. The Phoenix Club website
85 is www.linnphoenixclub.org.

86 8. OLD BUSINESS

87 A. 1st Vice Chair Mike Robinson reported on the upcoming JFK 100th Anniversary Fundraiser
88 scheduled for Saturday May 6 at 5 PM. Current pricing is at \$50 plate. The Finance Committee
89 will take the lead on operational details; participation by interested members is encouraged. Mr.
90 Robinson also donated a pack of tickets to the Linn Country Democrats Central Committee.

91 B. Chair Bret Nilles presented Committeeperson Mike Olson (CR28) a Certificate of Appreciation
92 in recognition of his performance and contribution to the 2016 Democratic Party Campaign.

93 9. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

94 A. Committeeperson Bernard (CR23) moved that that a letter of appreciation be sent to former
95 Secretary Angie Spinks in recognition of her service to Linn County Democrats. The Chair
96 assumed the motion. Motion was seconded and passed by unanimous consent.

97 B. Linn County Supervisor Stacey Walker reported on The Political Party, an organization designed
98 to connect millennials to political issues happening nationally and locally. Mr. Walker spoke
99 about an upcoming Political Party live podcast scheduled for Tuesday January 31 at 6:30 PM
100 broadcasting from The Mill in Iowa City. The Political Party on Facebook at
101 www.facebook.com/thepoliticalpartyIA.

102 C. Bylaws & Constitution Amendment

- 103 1. Committeeperson Valarie Smith (HIA01) spoke on the scope and purposes of the
104 proposed amendment to create two Alternate Committeeperson positions per precinct
105 represented in the assembly. Alternate Committeepersons would have voting rights in the
106 absence of a Committeeperson. Ms. Smith moved to amend the Constitution and Bylaws
107 as proposed (see Attachment II). The motion was seconded and discussion followed. The
108 motion passed on a voice vote. The Constitution and Bylaws and Bylaws are amended to
109 include provisions for the election of Alternate Committeeperson.

110 D. Committeeperson Jason Brown (CR05) reported on existing vacancies in municipal offices
111 throughout Linn County. Mr. Brown noted that a list of these vacancies can be found on the Linn
112 County Website. Also noted was that opportunities exist to get elected to school board or get
113 involved with municipal or county commissions. Stacy Walker offered to assist any member who
114 would like to run for an office

115 E. Chair Bret Nilles discussed upcoming party events, including the First District meeting in
116 Waterloo on Saturday January 28 and an Iowa Democratic Fundraiser featuring Martin O'Malley
117 also on January 28

118 F. Committeeperson Joe Stutler (MR05) discussed the importance of the Hospitality Committee
119 and invited people interested in volunteering to contact him.

120 G. Odd-Year Caucus Meeting Plans

- 121 1. A discussion was held regarding Odd Year Caucuses and its proposed scope and import
122 for the Linn County Democrats. The use of the Odd Year Caucuses as a Party building
123 tool was discussed. These Caucuses will be held in each State Senate District on March 4.
124 Committeeperson Valerie Smith moved that Linn County Democrats spend up to \$500 on
125 operational expenses related to Odd Year Caucuses. The motion was seconded and
126 passed on a voice vote after discussion

127 H. Senate District Organizational Discussion

- 128 1. The Assembly broke into discussion groups by Senate District. After approximately 15
129 minutes, the Assembly reconvened and reported on their district plans for operating their
130 Odd Year Caucus. A spokesperson from each group provided a written report to Chair
131 Bret Nilles. Discussion of Odd Year Caucuses will continue at the February 22 meeting
132 of the Central Committee.

133 10. ADJOURNMENT

- 134 1. The January 25, 2016 meeting of the Linn County Democrats Central Committee
135 adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Motion to Create the position of Alternate Precinct Committeeperson

(this is consistent with the provisions of the Constitution of the Iowa Democratic Party)

I move to amend the Linn County Democrats CONSTITUTION as follows:

ARTICLE IV

Recognizing citizens of our county who contribute to and desire involvement in the political process, and further recognizing the Democratic Party of Linn County desires to give our citizens expanded forum to represent their ideas, it is hereby established by this Constitution that each precinct may have Associate members in addition to two Precinct Committeepersons *[and two Alternate Committeepersons. (From here out in this document these positions will be referred to as Committeeperson, Alternate, and Associate.)*

Alternates shall be elected in the same manner as Committeepersons. The date of election of each Alternate shall be recorded. The Alternate elected on the earliest date shall be seated first. If both Alternates were elected on the same date they shall draw straws. Any Alternate shall have reached the age of 18, will have all the rights and privileges of any Associate listed below, plus the right to vote when formally seated in the absence of one of their precinct's Committeepersons.]

Any Associate Committeepersons shall have reached the age of 15, will have all rights and privileges of the Precinct Committeepersons, except the right to vote at Central Committee meetings.

The rights of said Associate shall include but not be limited to:

- A. The right to participate in all debates of the Central Committee;
- B. The right to make motions for consideration by the Central Committee;
- C. The right to be named to and fully participate in committees created by the Central Committee and/or its Chairperson.

And to ammend the the Linn County Democrats BY-LAWS as follows:

ARTICLE I – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

1. All vacancies in the Central Committee membership, including *[alternates, associates and]* officers, shall be filled by election by the voting membership of the Central Committee
4. No officer shall be entitled to vote unless said officer is also a committeeperson *[or an alternate officially filling the seat of an absent committeeperson for their precinct].*

ARTICLE V – GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Add *[9. Alternate Committeepersons shall be elected by the same method as, and their term of office shall be concurrent with that of, Committeepersons. The date of election of Alternate Committeepersons shall be kept on the roles to allow for correct seating. The Alternate with the earlier election date shall be seated first. If both have the same election date then they shall draw straws.]*

Re-number following sections 9, 10 and 11 to 10, 11 and 12.