Linn County Democratic Central Committee

Draft Minutes

February 22, 2017

Motion passed at the February 22, 2017 meeting:

1) The Draft Minutes of the January 25, 2017, meeting were approved.
2) Karen Black was elected as Committeeperson from CR20.
3) The January 25 2017 Treasurer's Report was approved.
4) The Proposed 2017 Budget for Linn County Democrats was approved.
5) The meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

1. CALL TO ORDER: A regular monthly meeting of the Linn County Democrats was held on March 22, 2017, at the Hiawatha Community Center in Hiawatha, Iowa. Chair Bret Nilles called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM, and Michael McGree recorded the Minutes. Chair Niles declared a quorum present. The Chair noted that the meeting was well-attended, and he invited those in attendance to post pictures of the crowd gathered at the meeting on social media
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
   a. Chair Bret Niles led the Committee in a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS
   a. Chair Bret Niles recognized the elected officials and guests present at the meeting. Elected officials present included Linn County Supervisors Stacey Walker and James Houser as well as Linn County Auditor. Mr. Miller briefly introduced the new Deputy Auditor, Rebecca Stonawski. Ms. Stonawski then made some brief remarks. Chair Niles welcomed all guests, particularly first time visitors, to the meeting.

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4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

   a. Acting Secretary Michael McGree proposed a Motion to approve the Draft Minutes as posted on the Linn County Democrats website. The approval of the Minutes was moved and seconded. The Motion carried on a voice vote.

   b. Chair Bret Nilles opened the floor to nominations for election of committeepersons. There were no nominations. Chair Niles then called for notification of resignations. Kathy Robinson (Maine Township) resigned from the Central Committee.

   c. Karen Black (CR20) was nominated for Associate Committeeperson. The Chair assumed a Motion to accept this nomination. The Motion passed on a voice vote.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

   a. Treasurer Diane Peterson presented the January Treasurer's Report. Ms. Peterson requested a motion to approve the report as distributed. A motion was made, seconded, and carried on a voice vote.

   b. Ms. Peterson discussed a proposed 2017 Budget for Linn County Democrats. She noted that the Party would need to account for several upcoming expenditures related to 2017 Legislative elections and other Party-related activities. Ms. Peterson requested a motion to approve the 2017 Budget. The motion was made, seconded, and carried on a voice vote.

   c. Possible fundraising activities were discussed, including the return of a raffle for door prizes at each Central Committee meeting. Chair Bret Nilles requested that ideas for fundraising activities be directed to Financial Secretary Sunny Story.

   d. The "Pass the Hat" fundraising activity generated $324 in donations from Members in attendance. The addition of one additional "Sustaining" Member was noted.

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6. COMMITTEE UPDATES

a. Affirmative Action Committee: Committee Chair Joy Mincey Powell was absent due to her ongoing recovery from recent health difficulties. No report was given.

b. Disability Caucus: Committee Secretary Sarah Hinds reported for the Disability Caucus. Ms. Hinds provided updates regarding efforts to enhance the role of the disability community in the Democratic Party. She reported on the National Association of Democratic Disability Caucuses (NADDC), a unified body representing state Democratic disability caucuses. She noted NADDC has a presence of Facebook, and that this organization recently sponsored a virtual forum for DNC Chair Candidates. Ms. Hinds state that Committee Chair Catherine Crist was attending a meeting of NADDC coinciding with the Democratic National Committee meeting in Atlanta, GA.

c. Stonewall Caucus: Committee Chair Harvey Ross reminded the Central Committee that the Stonewall Caucus meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the Market Grille located in the Hy-Vee located at 4035 Mount Vernon Road SE in Cedar Rapids.

d. Linn County Supervisor Stacey Walker briefly discussed recent legislative action taken by the Board of Supervisors.

7. CALL TO ACTION DISCUSSION

a. Chair Bret Nilles led a discussion regarding ways in which Linn County Democrats could respond to recent actions by both the Branstad and Trump administrations that affect marginalized populations. Ideas voiced by members of the Central Committee were captured on large poster paper, and the Chair stated a summary of ideas generated as a result of the discussion would be sent out to Members via email.

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8. New Business/Announcement

   a. Biennial Meeting & Election of Officers – March 22, 2017

      1. Chair Bret Nilles reported that every March in odd-numbered years Linn County Democrats Central Committee holds elections of officers. Chair Nilles opened nominations and announced that nominations would remain open until closure immediately prior to elections at the March meeting.

      2. Initial nominations were as follows: Bret Nilles for Chairperson; Michael Robinson for Vice Chairperson; Sam Grey for Second Vice Chairperson; Laura Bell for Secretary; Michael McGree for Secretary; Sunny Story for Finance Secretary; Diane Peterson for Treasurer.

      3. Chair Nilles stated additional nominations could be submitted to him. Nominations will also be in order from the Floor at the March Biennial Meeting.

9. OLD BUSINESS

   a. Odd Year Caucus Meeting Plans

      1. Valerie Smith discussed Plans for the March 4 2017 Caucuses. She encouraged Members to help her raise awareness for the event by making phone calls of knocking on doors.

   b. Other

      1. Linn County Supervisor Jim Houser discussed activities of the Board of Supervisors in relation to recent legislative attacks on public workers.

      2. Courtney Rowe discussed the current legislative climate and her decision to run for Representative from Iowa's First Congressional District.

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c. Senate District Organizational Discussion

1. Logistics of each Senate District within Linn County organizing its own March Caucus was briefly reviewed.

10. ADJOURNMENT

a. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

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