

1 Draft Minutes of the Linn County Democratic Central Committee

2 April 26, 2017 – 7:00 pm

3 Hiawatha Community Center, 101 Emmons Street, Hiawatha, IA

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5 1. CALL TO ORDER

6 a. A regular month meeting of the Linn County Democratic Central
7 Committee was held on Wednesday, April 26, 2016 at the Hiawatha
8 Community Center in Hiawatha, Iowa. Chair Bret Nilles presided and
9 Michael McGree, Recording Secretary, was present. The meeting
10 called to order at 7:02 PM.

11 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

12 a. Chair Nilles led the Assembly in a recitation of the Pledge of
13 Allegiance,

14 3. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS

15 a. First time guests at Linn County Central Committee were recognized
16 by the Chair. Each guest briefly introduced themselves.

17 b. Elected officials present at the meeting were recognized.

18 c. Candidates for office present at the meeting were recognized.

19 4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – SEN. ROB HOGG

20 a. Senator Rob Hogg (D – Cedar Rapids) provided a recap of legislative
21 activity during the 2017 Session.

22 b. Senator Hogg spoke of the need to regain a Democratic majority in
23 the Iowa General Assembly.

24 5. VOTER ID LEGISLATION

25 a. Linn County Deputy Auditor Stacey Law highlighted significant
26 changes to voting procedures in Linn County as a result of the
27 Election Integrity Act.

28 i. Absentee voting period will be shortened.

29 ii. A state-issued identification will be required at the polls.

30 iii. Electronic Poll Books will be introduced to help meet the
31 requirements of the new law

32 iv. Straight Party voting will be eliminated

33 b. Deputy Law answered questions from the Assembly about the new
34 voting law.

35 6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

36 a. Approval of Minutes

37 i. A motion to approve the Draft Minutes of the March 22 20117
38 Linn County Democratic Central Committee as Amended was
39 moved, seconded, and passed a voice vote.

40 7. RESIGNATIONS/NOMINATIONS OF COMMITTEEPERSONS

41 i. Resignation

42 1. The resignation of Sharon Gonzalez, Committeeperson
43 from TFAI, was accepted.

44 2. The resignation of Jason Brown, Committeeperson from
45 CR05, was accepted.

46 ii. Nominations

47 1. Sally Williams was nominated for Committeeperson from
48 TFAI. The Assembly approved filling this vacancy at the
49 same meeting at which it was announced by voting two-
50 thirds in the affirmative to elect Sally Williams as
51 Committeeperson from TFAI.

52 a. Ms. Williams briefly introduced herself.

53 b. Election of Alternates

54 i. Vice Chairperson Valerie Smith provided background
55 information regarding the election of Alternates
56 Committeepersons. Chair Bret Nilles then read names of
57 candidates who had already self-nominated in serving as
58 Alternate Committeeperson. The Chair then called for
59 additional nomination from the floor. The Names of Norm
60 Sterzenbach (CR37), Frank Reynolds (MR09), Robin DeCook
61 (HIA01), Tommie Karma (CR23), Steve Almond (CR14), Sarah
62 Riley (CR25), Amen Amer (CR11), Sharon Gonzalez (TFAI),
63 and Mary Burke (TFRA) were entered into nomination

64 ii. The following individuals were elected Alternate
65 Committeeperson by acclamation as they represent precinct
66 with two or fewer candidate for Alternate:

67 1. Devin Mehaffey CR06

68 2. Julius Cavira CR09

69 3. Erin Owen CR10

70 4. Diane Peterson CR11

71 5. Joe Zahorik CR14

72 6. JulieShaw CR18

73 7. Tom Fuller CR19

74	8. Barbara Rhame	CR24
75	9. Stephanie Harris	CR24
76	10. Courtney Rowe	CR25
77	11. Elyse Garlock	CR27
78	12. Jeffery Cooling	CR34
79	13. Mathew Siegal	CR34
80	14. Mary Hilgendorf	CR36
81	15. Kelly McMahon	CR41
82	16. Aime Wichtendahl	HIA02
83	17. Isaac Kurth	MR04
84	18. Sarah Stutler	MR05
85	19. Bobbie Janssen	MR06
86	20. Beverly Phillpot	MR07
87	21. Charles Holecek	MR11
88	22. James Bock	MR11
89	23. Kimberly McDaniel	MR13
90	24. Steph Reddersen	MR13
91	25. Eric Sylvester	MR13
92	26. Ruth Zanoni	MR14
93	27. Mark Busell	MR14
94	28. Isaac Mutha	MVS
95	29. Ashley Anthony	MVS
96	30. Pamela Agan	TBOU
97	31. Carolyn Roseberry	TGRA
98	32. Jennifer Cress-Slife	TMON1
99	33. Susan Benderson	TMON2
100	34. Tommi Karma	CR23
101	35. Steve Almond	CR14
102	36. Sarah Riley	CR25
103	37. Ayman Amer	CR11
104	38. Sharon Gonzalez	TFAI
105	39. Mary Burke	TFRA

iii. An election by ballot was held for Alternates from precincts with three or more candidates.

108 1. Arash Yarpezeskan, Julius Cavira, Paige Penningroth
109 (CR09).

110 2. Kimberly McDaniel, Steph Reddersen, Eric Slyvester
111 (MR13).

112 iv. Tellers were appointed to conduct the election and tabulate the
113 results.

114 1. Catherine Crist, Chairperson of the Tellers

115 2. Mark Fuller

116 3. Sarah Hinds

117 v. Ms. Crist announced the results of the election throughout the
118 evening.

119 1. Arash Yarpezeshkan and Paige Penningroth were elected
120 Alternate Committeepersons from CR09.

121 2. Kimberly McDaniel was elected Alternate
122 Committeeperson from MR13.

123 3. Neither Eric Slyvester nor Stephanie Reddersen obtained
124 50% of votes from Members present and voting. There
125 will be a runoff election for the second Alternate
126 Committeeperson position held during the May Central
127 Committee meeting.

128 8. TREASURER'S REPORT

129 a. Approval of monthly report

130 i. Treasurer Diane Peterson presented the March 2017
131 Treasurer's Report. Ms. Peterson noted that that report did not
132 reflect bills for 2017 Caucus venues. She also spoke about the
133 need for fundraising.

134 ii. A motion to approve the report moved, seconded, and passed
135 on a voice vote.

136 b. Pass the hat plus special collection for Rhonda Shouse

137 i. Diane Peterson spoke briefly about Rhonda Shouse, an
138 advocate for Medicaid reform and for the needs of Medicaid
139 beneficiaries. A moment of silence in remembrance of Ms.
140 Shouse was observed.

141 ii. A Pass-the-Hat special collection was taken for donations in
142 Rhonda's memory. These funds will be used for the creation of
143 a memorial at a center for individuals with disabilities in
144 Maquoketa, Iowa.

145 iii. Funds raised from this collection totaled \$224.

146 c. Sarah Stutler – fundraising goals

- 147 i. Financial Secretary Sarah Stutler reported on Linn County
148 Democratic Central Committee fundraising goals and potential
149 activity.
150 ii. Ms. Stutler reported on the Finance Committee to accomplish
151 these goals. Individuals interested in getting involved with
152 Finance Committee is encouraged to contact Ms. Stutler.

153 9. Committee Updates (Affirmative Action, Disability Caucus & Stonewall)

154 a. Disability Caucus

- 155 i. No report.

156 b. Affirmative Action

- 157 i. No report.

158 c. Stonewall

- 159 i. Stonewall Caucus Chairperson Harvey Ross reported for the
160 Stonewall Caucus. Mr. Ross noted the Cedar Rapids PrideFest
161 is scheduled for July 8, and he stated that Stonewall Caucus
162 had been a presence since the first annual festival.
163 ii. A motion that Linn County Democratic Central Committee
164 provide Linn County Democrats Stonewall Caucus with \$100
165 for the purchase of space for two booths at Cedar Rapids
166 PrideFest was moved, seconded, and passed on a voice vote.

167 10. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 168 a. Courtney Rowe provided an update on her campaign for Congress
169 from Iowa's 2nd District. She reported on the campaign's social
170 media presence and the development of the campaign's website.
171 She also spoke about her strategy for conducting her campaign.
172 b. Lindsey Ellickson reported that the Cedar Rapids City Council will
173 consider allowing the Crestwood Ridge Apartments project to move
174 forward to the May 23 meeting. Ms. Ellickson noted that project
175 planners have proposed improvement to the plan for this second
176 consideration for city council approval. She also noted that
177 Crestwood Ridge would have units for housing tenants who are
178 homeless and who are low income.
179 c. Ms. Ellickson requested that the Body publically support this project.
180 A motion that Linn County Democratic Central Committee support the
181 Crestwood Ridge Apartments projects and recommend that the
182 Cedar Rapids City Council vote in favor of allowing the project to
183 move forward was moved, seconded, and passed of a voice vote.

184 d. Nate Willems provided a brief report on the activities of the Linn
185 Phoenix Club.

186 11. ELECTION OF 1ST DISTRICT CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

187 a. Catherine Crist introduced the procedures for conducting elections for
188 Representatives from Linn County Democratic Central Committee to
189 the Iowa First District Democratic Central Committee. Ms. Crist
190 provided a brief overview of the duties of these Representatives.

191 b. Ms. Crist reported an overview of rules for the election of
192 Representatives pursuant to the 1st District Democratic Central
193 Committee Constitution and Iowa Democratic Party Constitution.
194 Bret Nilles is automatically a Representative to First District as he is
195 Linn County Chair.

196 c. The following names of Members were placed into nomination for
197 Representatives to the Iowa First District Democratic Central
198 Committee:

- 199 i. Bill Falcoln
- 200 ii. Pete Wernimont
- 201 iii. Arash Yarpezeshkan
- 202 iv. Bernard Clayton
- 203 v. Harvey Ross
- 204 vi. Sam Gray
- 205 vii. Norm Sterzenbach
- 206 viii. Michael McGree
- 207 ix. Michael Robinson
- 208 x. Laura Bell
- 209 xi. Catherine Crist
- 210 xii. Valerie Smith
- 211 xiii. Sunny Story
- 212 xiv. Kay Hale
- 213 xv. Mary Burke
- 214 xvi. Myrt Bowers
- 215 xvii. Karen Black
- 216 xviii. Holly Brown
- 217 xix. Teresa Diers

218 d. A motion to elect the individuals nominated to the Iowa First District
219 Democratic Central Committee was moved, seconded, and passed
220 on a voice vote.

221 e. The following names of Members were placed into nomination for
222 Alternate Representatives to the Iowa First District Democratic
223 Central Committee:

- 224 i. Joe Stutler
- 225 ii. Joe Michalec
- 226 iii. Michelle Ray-Michalec
- 227 iv. Sarah Hinds
- 228 v. Courtney Rowe
- 229 vi. Kristin Keast
- 230 vii. Andrew Leonard
- 231 viii. Zach Johnston
- 232 ix. Susan Bendersen
- 233 x. Mark Fuller
- 234 xi. Isaac Kurth
- 235 xii. Isaac Murtha
- 236 xiii. Adam Wright
- 237 xiv. Ruth Zaroni
- 238 xv. Zach Lemka

239 f. A motion to elect the individuals nominated to the Iowa First District
240 Democratic Central Committee was moved, seconded, and passed
241 on a voice vote.

242 12. OLD BUSINESS

243 a. No Old Business was discussed.

244 13. ADJOURNMENT

245 a. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.