

Minutes of the Progressive Caucus reorganization meeting in Olympia 1-17-2015

The minutes of September 13, 2014 were approved. The agenda was approved.

Treasurers Report

Carolyn Potts submitted the treasurer's report, which was approved.

Beginning Balance 9/13/2014	\$2,632.19
Revenue: Ferndale pizza meeting	\$17.00

Expenditures:

9/28 Maralyn Chase for Senate 32 nd LD	\$200.00
9/28 Friends for Cindy Ryu 32 nd LD	\$200.00
9/28 Friends of Ziggy 6 th LD	\$200.00
9/29 Eric Renz 25 th LD	\$200.00
10/15 David Spring Coalition for Peace Now	\$200.00

Total Expenditures	\$1800.00
Ending Balance 1/24/2015	\$859.19

Reorganization

Current Chair Judith Shattuck gave a brief history of the Progressive Caucus. At planning meetings after the 2004 national convention, people from the Dean and Kucinich presidential campaigns discussed how they could continue working both within and outside of the Democratic Party. Attendees offered to support Paul Berendt's re-election as state party chair in return for recognition of a Progressive Caucus. We registered with the State of Washington as a non-profit. In January 2005, Larry Kalb was elected as the first chair of the caucus. Subsequent chairs included Chad Lupkes and Judith Shattuck. We need to consider how to go forward from here, either as a caucus of the Democratic Party or an independent organization. We should have a subcommittee to review our bylaws and decide how to proceed so that we can support congressional candidates.

Mark Hintz oversaw the election of the new chair as temporary chair. Judith nominated Brian Gunn, who was endorsed by acclamation. Brian is looking forward to making our voices heard on issues like the TPP.

Marjorie McNae moved that we express appreciation to Judith for her years as chair. Carried by acclamation.

Walter Kloefkorn was nominated as eastern Washington vice-chair. He acknowledged Coralee Brewer's tenure and reported that she was unable to continue owing to family issues. Election by acclamation.

Martin Chaney (currently chair of the 5th LD Democrats) was nominated as western Washington vice-chair. Elected by acclamation. He looks forward to building partnerships with other organizations to work for progressive issues locally.

Martha Koester and Carrie Potts were renominated as secretary and treasurer respectively, and elected by acclamation.

Our bylaws do not yet specify work areas for at large board members, but we have been informally assigning roles in communications, technology, membership/training and fundraising. Steve Zemke was nominated for at large member focusing on communications, and elected by acclamation. He would like to get a newsletter going.

Jean Thomas was nominated for at large member focusing on membership/training and elected by acclamation. She would like to get a platform together where all of us have our voices heard.

The nomination for member at large focusing on technology was contested, with two candidates, Becky Chaney and David Spring. Becky noted that Judith had invited her participation a couple of years ago, and that she has done a solid job keeping the site up to date. David stated that the website needs more content, and that we should be more involved with social media like YouTube, Facebook and Twitter. Voting was by written ballot. Results were David Spring 13, Becky Chaney 11 and one spoiled ballot.

Richard Champion was nominated for at large member dealing with fundraising, and elected by acclamation. He wants to make sure our voices are heard during the presidential nominating process.

Other business

We need to decide on how to affiliate with the Democratic Party. Also we need to devote some time at the next meeting deciding on issues focus for the next couple of years. We previously focused on I 594, Move to Amend and health care. Other suggestions were income inequality, fighting privatization of schools and other public goods, and raising the minimum wage. Eric Herde stopped in briefly to advocate for action on raising the minimum wage.

It was moved and seconded that website content be approved by the board before posting, with the chair doing initial review. Passed.

Chair Brian Gunn called for volunteers to assist at large board members with committee duties. Rick DeWitt, Ken Aldinger, Judith Shattuck and Becky Chaney volunteered to work on training. Martha Koester, Elizabeth Hanson and Marjorie McNae volunteered to work on membership. Richard Champion and Elizabeth Hansen volunteered for technology. David Spring and Elizabeth Hansen volunteered for fundraising.

We were invited to a potluck with Senator Maralyn Chase at her apartment in Olympia, 103 22nd Ave SW.

Martha Koester
Secretary
February 4, 2015