

Minutes of the Progressive Caucus meeting in Ocean Shores 9-21-2013

The meeting was called to order by Chair Judith Shattuck. The agenda was approved. There was some confusion about the minutes of April 27, 2013 and June 29th, 2013, so approval was postponed until the January 2014 meeting.

Treasurers Report

Carolyn Potts submitted the treasurer's report, which was approved. Our cash balance as of as of 8/31/2013 was \$1,532.94. There is one outstanding bill of \$107.88.

Fundraising letter for a progressive candidate to run against Rodney Tom

A copy of the fundraising letter was reviewed by the body. It was sent out to current members and to former members who have not renewed their membership. We will track the response.

Initiatives

Judith passed out Initiative 594 background check petitions. She attended the opening meeting, which collected almost a million dollar in a single day.. NRA is sponsoring an opposing initiative 591 would make 594 illegal. We endorsed Initiative 594 in July in Ellensburg.

Carin Chase reported that the Initiative 522 campaign (labeling of GMO foods) is doing well—the ad campaign has already started. A handful of out of state corporate opponents have put up \$11 million to fight 522, which by comparison has over 10,000 small donors. She requested that members do phone banking and send in donations. It was moved and seconded to endorse Initiative 522. The motion passed unanimously.

It was voted unanimously to oppose Tim Eyman's Initiative 517 to revise the signature gathering process to his greater profit.

Move to Amend

Alice Woldt reported on the WaMend coalition to rescind corporate personhood and overturn Citizens United. Its goal is to make WA the 17th state to come out in favor of a constitutional amendment. We tried to get the state legislature to do something this year about campaign contributions. We got it through the House, but it got stuck in Pam Roach's Senate Committee, despite having two hearings. 25 organizations around the state have joined the coalition, including Washington Public Campaigns, which Alice now chairs. The goal is to have an initiative in 2014 for a constitutional amendment, a position which is favored across the political spectrum. We have from November through July to get signatures. Every other issue depends on this issue. The campaign will organize by state legislative district. The goal is to obtain 350,000 signatures. Since the initiative has not been filed, it does not have a number. The national Move to Amend organizer will be doing a WA Sate tour, with a major event in Seattle on September 28th. It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to endorse the WaMend Coalition.

Local Organizing

There are a number of ways to organize to get a progressive voice out into the state. PDA organizes by congressional district. In addition to that, we should aim for progressive cells across the state. Martin Chaney, Darcy Burner and Judith Shattuck are organizing an East King County Progressive Caucus, experimenting with different techniques, including electronic meetings. It is essential to pick specific issues to work on—people don't want to go to meetings just to hear about the rotten

state of affairs. They hope to host meetings in various neighborhoods. One project would be to wean Puget Power off of coal. Coal is burned in Montana and electricity transported here. They also plan to build dams on the north fork of the Snoqualmie River. A meeting might include taking a hike to look at the river and potential dam sites.

Congressional district reports

- The 3rd CD may have a viable candidate to run against Jaime Herrera-Beutler. The County Democratic Party chair has been appointed as a representative to the Columbia River Board.
- In the 2nd CD, Congressman Rick Larsen has made much more effort to solicit constituent opinions on issues.
- In the 5th CD there was big demonstration against a possible war in Syria. There was an anti-Scott Walker satellite event at which the antis outnumbered pros. Unfortunately the Spokane Democrats and the regional labor council didn't want to get involved. People are working on getting more progressive Columbia River treaty.
- In the 6th CD the single most important issue is to re-elect Nathan Schlicher to the 26th LD state senate position. His opponent Jan Angel has massive funding advantage. This election is critical to control of the State Senate. Also, Congressman Derek Kilmer has been very responsive to district constituent opinion on Syria.
- In the 9th CD the big issue is the SeaTac living wage initiative, which would raise the wages of airport workers to \$15/hour, in line with what they get at other West Coast airports. This initiative needs need 11,000 votes to win the election.

Other business

In Ellensburg we talked about the possibility of holding electronic meetings and webinars. Paul Spencer volunteered to get information on how to do this.

Candidate endorsements

The following candidates submitted letters requesting endorsements

1. Sue Peters, candidate for Seattle School Board Position 4 and cofounder of Parents Across America, an organization resisting public school privatization and excessive testing.
2. Kathryn Campbell, candidate for SeaTac City Council, who has endorsed the living wage initiative and is running against a teabagger incumbent.
3. Rose Clark, running for Burien City Council Position 5, and who is opposed by a candidate who essentially holds that owning view property is a necessary qualification for being on the council.
4. Judith Personett, running for Spokane Fire Commissioner

The first three candidates were endorsed. It was moved to table the fourth endorsement on the grounds that it was not clear that the request was submitted specifically by the candidate. There was no time to take a vote on candidate donations.

Evening meeting

The after-meeting was held at the Galway Bay Irish Pub.

Martha Koester
Secretary
October 13, 2013