

Minutes of the Progressive Caucus meeting in Carnation 4-6-2013

Attendees: Judith Shattuck, Martin Chaney, Walter Kloefkorn, Don Smith, Jean Thomas, Dorene Carrel, Peggy Kirk, Kathryn Keller, David Spring, Richard Champion, Brian Gunn, Patricia Szot, Elizabeth Hanson, Mary Kanter, and by phone Becky Chaney

Website

Becky and Judith have been working on the website. The page that describes who we are is up. Board members have email aliases that are configured to auto-forward. Board members should try to send email to themselves to make sure this works. CD leaders for the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 8th and 9th are listed. We need to invite people to fill vacancies in the 2nd, 4th, 6th and 10th CDs.

We still have to fill the topics pages. We need definitive statements on what progressives believe about health care and other issues. Members are invited to send statements on issues to Becky. A moderated open forum will be established. In addition, we need a link to PDA and other progressive orgs on the website.

David Spring announced an e-book on the Joomla website which can be downloaded for free. Courses will be available starting on the first of May and the first of June. Information available at www.collegeintheclouds.org.

We don't yet have candidate endorsements listed. When we do this, we will need to vet the candidates. This will be an alternative to FUSE, which aggregates endorsements from a number of other organizations but doesn't do their own vetting. Send requests for endorsements, news, and events to Judith or Becky.

Action alerts will be added as a dropdown. Judith currently emails the membership with occasional alerts. Don Smith brought up the issue of how to coordinate websites on the left because there are so many. It was felt this is impossible.

The archives tab will lead to minutes, bylaws and past endorsements. The "join us" tab will be separate. We can't yet take money electronically. We need to drive people to the site by using social media like Facebook and Twitter. Adding more feeds and links should happen after we have the site better defined.

Candidates

Darcy has advised us that finding someone to run against Rodney Tom should be a top priority. No candidate has stepped forward yet, but Darcy gave Judith the names of a couple of possibilities. Might Cyrus Habib run against Tom? He is fundraising for his House race in 2014 now. We need to tell donors in some detail what we will do with their money. The time frame is key. When someone switches parties, it affects the whole state. Our focus should be on a few campaigns that can make a real difference—we are the 99% . We should consider other races after working to defeat Rodney Tom. LDs where Republicans typically win by less than 5%. We will send a letter to Democratic PCOs soliciting funds to find and train a candidate to run against Rodney Tom (Turncoat Tom.)

Issues

The specific issues of gun violence, corporate personhood/money in politics, the coal train terminal and state tax and budget issues were considered for special emphasis. Martha pointed out that we managed to block legislation fast-tracking the coal terminal and other environmentally dicey projects, but that we failed to pass the Move to Amend joint memorial and gun background checks though this legislation has the support of the majority of the public. We voted to concentrate on money out of politics/corporate personhood and gun violence. As the legislature stated no gun legislation, only by initiative, we can begin with this.

The Republican Senate budget was atrocious. We need to fight more effectively against Eyman initiatives, and get a more progressive state budget. Close loopholes, change the regressive B&O and sales taxes, and fund a state bank. WA is one of only a few states that does not have a capital gains tax.

To do

1. Walter and Martin will draft a letter to PCOs.
2. Brian will draft a letter to former members. Walter also has the PDA data list, which is pretty old and not very well vetted.
3. Richard will draft a resolution on the Senate Republican budget to be board-approved by email.

Meeting in Chelan and Wellstone training

We will subsidize Wellstone training the weekend of the 27th of April. Jean, Judith, Martin, Becky and Brian will attend. This is the weekend of the WSDCC quarterly meeting. Hopefully Coralee will be able to preside.

Martha Koester
Secretary
April 14, 2013

Edited, JS 4/20/13