

Minutes of the Progressive Caucus meeting in Spokane 6-20-2014

Chair Judith Shattuck opened the meeting

The minutes of February 1, 2014 were approved. The agenda was approved.

Treasurers Report

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

Beginning Balance 1/31/2014	\$1,781.06
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Revenue:

1/31 Dues	\$200.00
2/4 Dues	\$405.00
4/8 Dues	\$80.00
4/16 Dues	\$ 40.00
Total Revenue	\$725.00

Expenditures:

Judith Shattuck	\$ 23.87
Total Expenditures	\$ 23.87

Ending Balance 6/20/2014	\$2,482.19
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(Turncoat Tom Fund balance is \$295.00 – With this amount removed the total WSPC fund balance would be \$2,187.19.)

Chair's report

In 2013 we began looking for a candidate to replace Rodney Tom. Our candidate did not run (due to not wanting to cause divisions in the 48th LD), though she was backed by the leadership of the district. Clearly the party candidate selection process is broken.

Our focus should be on progressive issues chosen by local people. We need representatives in the 2nd CD and the 4th CD. Meetings outside of the party quarterly meetings would help us to gather more people.

Comment from Port Townsend—Jefferson County just won a major victory in getting public power, and we should not regard getting new public power agencies established as a relic of the late 19th century. Maybe we should have a caucus on promoting public power.

Initiatives

Phil Aram reported on I-594. It made the ballot, together with an opposing Initiative 591. This will make for a confusing campaign. Other states are not running such initiatives, so we expect a lot of money to flow in. We need people to volunteer. The organization got a domestic violence bill passed forbidding gun ownership by violators during the last session. This shows the need for an ongoing presence in Olympia. We are getting people to sign pledge to vote cards and doing persuasion lists. WE have started phone banking. It is important to make sure that those who care about the issue know about the initiative. We are expanding our field program and working on literature packets.

Carrie reported that I-1329 signature gathering was still going on. There is still a chance to pull this off. Signatures are due July 3rd—contact the WAMend website to volunteer. Walter pointed out that the next step should be preparing questionnaires for our legislators and letting them know we expect them to call for a constitutional amendment.

Endorsements

The following candidates were endorsed.

- 25th LD: Eric Renz
- 32nd LD: Maralyn Chase and Cindy Ryu. Maralyn thanked us for the endorsement over the phone.
- 6th LD: Ziggy Seigfried. He has been active in Occupy Spokane and will run a grassroots campaign. He filed late, but his candidacy will give the area a full Democratic slate. He was instrumental in getting WSU maintenance workers represented by AFSCME.
- 8th CD: Jason Ritchie running against Dave Reichert. Reichert opposed pay equity and is in favor of no restrictions on spying. He currently has only 32% approval. Jason is using the Empower tool to do very specific targeting and registration of new voters. Wenatchee is blue with a lot of union members, and Ellensburg is a college town. The 167 corridor is also a good place to focus.
- 5th CD: Joe Pakootas running against Cathy McMorris-Rodgers. He has no undergrad degree but got an MBA from the University of Washington, which has also given him an award as the minority business owner of the year. The future of young people is in jeopardy. Rural poverty in the 5th CD is devastating, with one out of five people on food stamps. Reproductive choice is also a big issue.
- 4th CD: Estakio Beltran submitted a detailed letter with issue positions. There was a question about a favorable reference to the Simpson-Bowles deficit reduction commission. He supports the elimination of the Bush tax cuts, and it was pointed out that elsewhere in his letter he stated opposition to Social Security cuts.

There was a question about why Bob Dingenthal was not considered for endorsement in the 3rd CD. No one from the campaign has asked for an endorsement yet. Judith pointed out that an endorsement request could be submitted later, and we could vote online.

CD reports

- 1st—There is a lot of effort being put out to get I-1329 and I-594 passed
- 2nd—
- 3rd—There is a lot of support for I-1329 signature gathering.. Bob Dingenthal is running against Herrera-Beutler. Brian Blake is running for state legislature in the 18th LD.
- 4th—The Republican forum featured eight candidates, four of whom were viable. The rest were a real clown show. A lawyer who has never held political office, George Cicotte, got a solid majority of 136 votes over candidates currently serving in the state legislature. With so many Republicans running and only two Democrats, there is a real possibility of having a Democratic candidate in the general election.
- 5th—there was a well-attended No Iraq War demonstration. Rich Cowan is running for state senate in the 6th LD. I-1329 doesn't look like it will get enough signatures, so we are putting out a questionnaire to pressure candidates on this issue.
- 6th—Port Townsend collected more than 1000 I-1329 signatures—we can still get this on the ballot. Derek Kilmer has signed on. The public power initiative won by 53%.
- 7th—The \$15/hour minimum wage in Seattle passed, though with more compromises than its backers wanted. It will probably be challenged by a business initiative in the general election. There is also work on a proposal for a Seattle City Bank—a number of other cities are also considering this.
- 8th—
- 9th—
- 10th—

Martha Koester
Secretary
July 10, 2014