

## Minutes of the Progressive Caucus meeting in Pasco 4-18-2015

The minutes of January 17, 1915 were approved. The agenda was approved.

### ***Treasurers Report***

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

Beginning Balance 1/25/2015 \$859.19

### **Revenue**

1/22/15 dues \$ 140.00

1/26/15 dues \$437.00

2/2/15 dues \$20.00

3/18/15 dues \$20.00

**Total Revenue \$ 617.00**

Other: In-kind Donation (Martha Koester) filing fee Non-Profit Corp. State of WA \$10.00

### **Expenditures**

2/23/15 Go-Daddy.com \$ 11.20

3/9/15 Pretecs Networks Inc. \$66.38

**Total Expenditures \$77.58**

Ending Balance 3/18/2015 \$1,398.61

### ***Chair's Report***

The supporters of the 2016 Clinton campaign may call out critics of policies she has supported. As progressives, we must push progressive issues and work for all, not just the wealthy. Some Democrats are now siding with Republicans on issues like cutting Social Security and the Keystone SL pipeline. It was unthinkable thirty years ago for Democrats to advocate against maintaining New Deal programs.

### ***Resolutions***

Resolution 737 on payday lending (SB 5899/HB 1922) was submitted for consideration. Sarajane Siegfriedt proposed an amendment censuring those Democrats who cosponsored the bills. The con argument was that this addition would not be useful. The pro argument was that we need to express our dismay to Democrats who promote bad legislation. The reference to the 32<sup>nd</sup> LD should be replaced with the Progressive Caucus. The vote was 8 to 5 to pass the amendments. The amended resolution passed.

The Obama Administration is seeking Fast Track Authority that would speed up the ratification process for the Trans Pacific Partnership, which would further limit public input on pro-corporate trade agreements. We have created a petition to Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, who have yet to take a position opposing fast track or secretive trade negotiations, which can be signed on our website.

We voted unanimously to support I-735, "The Government of, by, and for the People Act," which would make Washington the 17th state to call on Congress to amend the US Constitution to clarify that corporations are not people and money is not speech. Volunteers are needed to help with signature gathering. Contact Josh Castle ([joshcastle@wamend.org](mailto:joshcastle@wamend.org) or 206-334-0508).

Andrew Villeneuve (founder of Northwest Progressive Institute, which has been fighting Tim Eyman initiatives since 2002) reported on Eyman's latest initiative (I-1336), which would cut the sales tax from 6.5% to 5.5%, resulting in the loss of approximately a billion dollars a year from the state treasury unless the Washington State Legislature approves a constitutional amendment to require a two-thirds vote to raise revenue by April of 2016. Every progressive organization needs to get its members to fight back. Eyman's backers plan to spend \$1 million to push 1366 to gullible people. Even though, if passed, 1366 will go to the State Supreme Court, it is dangerous to rely on the courts to save us. We voted unanimously to oppose 1366. For more information, see <http://www.no1366.org/>

There is a Platform/Resolutions subcommittee which will work on converting resolutions to legislation. We need to get input from progressive organizations on their issues.

### ***Endorsements***

Rule modifications and a proposed endorsement questionnaire are on our website at <http://waprogressives.org/endorsements>. Please comment on them before our next meeting, when endorsements will be considered.

The following members announced their candidacies. Eric Herde is running for the Pierce County Charter Commission. Rick Dewitt is running for the Snohomish County Charter Review Board. Sarajane Siegfriedt and Chris Porter have signed up for the Seattle City Council caretaker position to replace Sally Clark.

### ***Other business***

Jamal Raad was introduced as the new communications director for the Washington State Democrats.

David Spring reported that our website is now more secure and user friendly. You can use it to subscribe to our newsletter. Judith Shattuck pointed out that our Facebook page administrators should be careful to exert control over posters who might not reflect our views.

Our "meeting after the meeting" will be held at the Ice Harbor Brewing Company in Kennewick.

Martha Koester  
Secretary  
May 10, 1915