

Minutes of the Progressive Caucus meeting in Tacoma 6-17-2016

The minutes of 6-13-16 and 1-29-2016 were approved. The agenda was approved.

Treasurers Report

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

Beginning Balance 12/31/2015	\$1,687.93
Revenue	
1/6/16 – 6/1/16 dues	\$1,036.85
Total Revenue	\$1,036.85
Expenditures	
2/28/16 Brian Gunn reimbursement Pizza meeting	\$235.81
3/3/16 additional online fee	\$2.90
Total Expenditures	\$238.71
Ending Balance 12/31/2016	\$2,486.07

Chair's Report

We have received 32 requests for endorsement. We have done dual endorsements for the first time. Progressive voices are becoming the norm in the party. Many first time candidates inspired by Bernie Sanders have been previously endorsed. Our ideas have always been there, for instance Medicare for All and fair trade. We have been calling for these a long time regardless of primary outcome. Our website is up to date with lists of current endorsed candidates.

New business

Jean Thomas showed a video on nonviolent communication lessons from Undercover. Everyone thinks they are the good guys. Disarm your enemies by listening to them.

Judith Shattuck gave a brief history of the caucus process in WA State. We now have enough power so that progressive voices are heard statewide. Linda Sutton is organizing in Mason County, where there is a large number of independent voters. 24 people have filed for PCO, and there are 10 contested races. The voice of a combined CD is more powerful than maintaining separate enclaves.

Coralee Brewer advocated organizing at the Congressional District level. Chad Lupkes recalled organizing progressives in the 46th LD. Their group disbanded when all members got on to the eboard. If we all start now we can be the party leadership.. Step up and stay engaged.

Senator Maralyn Chase stood in for Senator Bob Hasegawa on the WA State Investment Trust (WA State bank).. We pay \$2 billion/biennium to the Bank of America—keep it here instead. We need to pick our own candidates. We need a bank account to process tax payments. It would help in the enactment of comprehensive progressive tax reform by keeping our tax dollars here. The Bank of North Dakota was started in 1919 by a 3rd party which took over the state legislator and elected its candidate for governor. They were sued, but prevailed up to and including the Supreme Court. ND state became a state in same year as WA, and the two states have similar constitutions. The most recent bill has 44 cosponsors—a big number, but it does not include people on the banking committee. Infrastructure loans are definitely a public purpose. . The BND had record profits last year, despite the complete bust of the oil industry.

Candidate endorsements

Chris Reykdahl spoke in support of his candidacy for OSPI. He voted no on charter schools, and has a 99% labor voting record and a 97% environmental voting record, and had been endorsed by WEA and the State Labor Council. He voted no to the Boeing tax break. David Spring recommended no endorsement because of Reykdahl's support for GED and privatization of testing. Motion to endorse failed with 5 for and 9 against.

Eric Holt requested endorsement for State Senate in the 18th LD. It is a conservative district, but we should still keep progressive ideas front and center. He is running against Ann Rivers. The endorsement passed with 19 for and 0 against.

Other candidates

Kelsey Hulse is running for Thurston County Commissioner. We viewed the candidate's video. The county needs to find solutions to take care of community members in need, create jobs that can sustain a family and protect the environment and rural/agricultural lands

Noel Frame from the 36th LD was elected chair of the convention. The progressive majority in WA State will continue electing progressives. We must have a state income tax in order to fund education.

A representative from Initiative 1491 (Alliance for Gun Responsibilities) asked for support to prevent people with violent histories from accessing guns.

Mike Cloverdale is running for CD 6 representative six as an independent.

Mary Turner is running for Public Lands Commissioner to fight against current pressure to be dominated by large rather than local interests.

Jim Moeller running in CD 3 and Mike LaPointe thanked us for our prior endorsement.

Martha Koester
Secretary
August 16, 2016