

Minutes of the Progressive Caucus meeting in Walla Walla April 21, 2017

The minutes of 1-27-2017 were approved. The agenda was approved.

Treasurers Report

Justin Baird submitted the treasurer's report, which was approved.

Beginning Balance 1/1/2017	\$4,921.23
Revenue	
January	\$1,737.05
February	\$311.84
March	\$80.00
Total Revenue	\$2128.89
Expenditures	
January bank fees	\$50.28
February bank fees	\$4.82
March bank fees	\$8.45
January venue rental	\$354.98
Total Expenditures	\$418.53
Ending Balance 3/31/2016	\$ \$6,631.59

Last PDC report filed 12/31/2016

Chair's report

The caucus would like to see advisory boards at the congressional district level for all ten districts and from every county. We should all be able to answer questions about getting involved, and a top priority should be looking for candidates all over the state. This activity will be ad hoc and reliant on social media. There are progressives everywhere. The 3rd CD already has a group. Chad will publish a list of available positions and ask for volunteers. There are progressives anywhere in the state, many of whom have nowhere to go. There are many definitions of progressive, but we have always had a hard time time coming up with one that satisfies everyone.

Western Washington Vicechair Eric Holt yielded his time to Amy Maddux to advocate for an Environmental Caucus. Issues groups need a way to advocate for their issues within the party. An informal majority vote approved this.

Eastern Washington Vicechair Cedar Kennedy asks that members of the caucus devote significant effort going after Newhouse in the fourth congressional district. We are in particular need of people from Chelan and Douglas Counties.

Treasurer Justin Baird reported that our membership has doubled, and that many more people are donating money. As of this meeting our membership is up to 161.

Secretary Martha Koester reported that the caucus has registered for 2017 with the Secretary of State.

Candidate presentations

Three candidates have submitted questionnaires. We will have a formal endorsement meeting in Ellensburg sometime in June.

Dorothy Gasque is running against Herrera-Beutler in the 3rd Congressional district. Democracy must be defended, and this requires direct participation. The enemy is money in politics, not individuals. We can take on big money acting together. Ask what candidates have done, not only about their ideas.

Ben Stuckart is running against McMorris-Rodgers in the 5th congressional district.. His background is in nonprofit organizations and education. He has served on the Spokane City Council and seen it move from a conservative majority to 6 out of 7 members being progressives now. He is working for a sick leave law first, and then will focus on Spokane sustainability. We need not just the Affordable Care Act, but single payer. A carbon tax will help to rebuild the middle class. He has gotten 1464 democracy vouchers already.

Greg (??) spoke for David McDevitt, who is also running for Congress in the 3rd CD. He is a military veteran concerned about the current administration's focused on taking away benefits. He will fight to maintain those benefits, as well as Social Security benefits. He believes that health care is a human right. He believes that stagnant wages lead to economic trouble and advocates for a \$15/hr minimum wage, but notes that we really need living wages.

Formalizing caucus roles

The Rules Committee is working on a process to formalize caucuses, starting with purposes and definitions. The African American Caucus has serious concerns about what formalization actually means. Andrew Villeneuve drafted a proposed document. There is a proposal that only candidates closest to jurisdiction of the office can be endorsed, and that no support will be offered to candidates running in opposition if one candidate is endorsed first. Someone added that this rule applies for only after primaries. No marching orders from the top Martha pointed out that we are registered with the Secretary of State, but that not all caucuses do this. Do contribution limits apply to the state organization only, or are legislative district and county organizations also included? The Women's Federation has a seat on the executive board. Jean Thomas wanted to know how this compares to caucuses.

Judith Shattuck mentioned that we have previously contributed to Joe Pakootas and Darcy Burner. Jaxon subsequently told us that we couldn't do that because it counted toward total party donations. Gigi is concerned that these rules might be a way to shut down progressives. Justin thinks that it is more a matter of branding and control than suppression. Many progressives work inside the party but do not consider themselves beholden to it.

Chad thinks that we should look into supporting another alternative. We can come up with better language, and should try to get this tabled until next meeting. Anita Latch says that caucuses should be for only for protective classes, and that we should not see ourselves as opposition. Members of status caucuses do need protection that progressives don't need per se. Jean Thomas said that we should definitely resist suppression.

Martha Koester
Secretary
May 15, 2017