

Minutes – April 15, 2009
34th Legislative District Democrats
Executive Board Meeting

7:03 PM Call to order

Chair Report

Chair recounts his visit to Olympia, WA to spend the day with Joe McDermott. Some of the high points of the day include: McDermott leading the floor of the Senate; a rally held by union members demanding better healthcare; the House debated on extending unemployment insurances; and the Democratic House Caucus working to preserve I-937 as voted by the people.

Chair reviewed 34th District support for Dow at the 36th District meeting. It was a success and a “Democrat Love Fest”. On April 16, he is in the 46th District and will be working for their endorsement. McCreery and Treall are encouraged to reach out to their committee members, and PCOs, to see if they can attend.

There is a collaborative meeting scheduled to handle the overall membership drive. Membership, Fundraising, PCO and Outreach Committees will meet to discuss roles within this campaign. Meeting is on April 29, 7:00 p.m. at Kim Becklund’s house. A Speaker’s Bureau meeting will be held separately, more information to come on that.

White Center Now has announced a Tamale Dinner for Chief Sealth High School at the Boring Building, cost is \$15.

All Board e-mail blasts need to include Stephen Lamphear.

Regarding e-mails in general. Broader discussions and debates need to happen at the committee level and not on e-mail. Several board members weigh in that in person communications result in less miscommunication and better understanding by all.

7:14 **Bylaw – Endorsement Process and District Lists**

Earl reviews all the changes to the endorsement process and the distribution of member lists, which is and is not eligible to receive a contact list of our members. First Earl took the Board through every change to the Bylaws. While there were changes outside of those related to the district member lists, the Board focused much of its attention and debate regarding this issue. In the end, the consensus was that PCO lists will be made available to any district PCO, endorsed candidate or endorsed campaign without charge, as the information is public record. District member lists will be available to endorsed candidates and endorses campaigns. A list of all eligible district voters will be made available to any candidate running for a position on the Executive Board or any member seeking appointment to the Legislature. Additionally, the Executive Board, by 2/3 vote, may release

the member list to seated, elected officials known to be Democrats representing the district in the State Legislature.

Next, Earl took the Board through each change made to the existing endorsement process. There was a great deal of discussion regarding these changes from minor word changes to big-picture-concept debates. In the end, the Board did come to a consensus regarding the changes, and everyone is in agreement that the changes will provide the following new protocols: private ballot voting, an emphasis on sole endorsement per race to leverage the value of the district's endorsement and an early endorsement process for those candidates known to the district while still providing adequate notification to the membership. Once approved by the members, these rules and bylaws will go into effect in the June Meeting.

8:29 Chair asks the Board if there is a motion. Christi Stapleton moves to vote on the proposed endorsement process and bylaws as altered per this discussion and that the entire Executive Board gets to review these documents prior to their submission to the membership. Her motion is seconded, and passes unanimously.

8:31 Fundraising Committee Report – Chris Porter – Work has started on the Garden Party. The venue will most likely remain the same. A master of ceremony is being vetted with high stake donors. Copies of Bruce Stotler's donor list have been given to Bill Schrier and the Chair as backup copies. First meeting is April 30, 7:00 p.m. at a location to be determined. All Board members are asked to commit to working together to get donations for the Garden Party.

NOTE: During this discussion, it was decided that all donors would be tagged in Complete Campaigns and this would be updated in tandem with the current donor list. Jackie commits to training Chris on how to do this.

8:37 Membership Committee Report – Jeff Upthegrove – There are 370 for now, but the recruitment campaign has not begun. Over the last couple of months, membership has finalized a set of tasks to help. Then there will be coordination with other committees, like focusing on lower income members through outreach, and coordinating with Chris regarding fundraising. Volunteer coordinating is coming together very well.

8:41 Programs Committee Report – Beth – This report turns into a debate about the business meeting program calendar for the next three months, due to the pending election cycle. The main issue centers on when or if to schedule the candidates' forum, which is normally scheduled in June. If the 34th does the candidates' forum in June then that will leave the July meeting for endorsements and that could be problematic due to the timing of the mail ballots. Chair opens this to the floor for conversation. Board decides that the candidates' forum will happen at the June meeting and the July meeting will be the endorsement meeting. A sample ballot will take two days to put together and will be delivered to the PCOs on July 10th or 11th.

Chair mentions that at the May meeting there are seven candidates that have requested time to speak. The number of candidates will divide the amount of time for new business and they will each receive equitable time to speak. There might 10 to 11 people speaking for two minutes a piece.

Newsletter Collation – Chair opens the discussion regarding manual or automated newsletter collation to the floor. After the discussion ends, the Chair suggests trying the automated process for a month. Board agrees.

9:05 New Business

Fundraiser at Salty's for Southwest Youth and Family Services, it is \$150 for a table. Sive points out that the budget has \$200 to give that organization. Chair says he is buying a seat, and that this is something that is usually not done using district money, but individually.

9:09 Meahan requests that a resolution to prevent the closure of Evergreen Pool be presented to the district for an endorsement vote at the next meeting. Upthegrove speaks for resolution. Grieser agrees and points out the issues. Stone points out that this can be taken to Plymate and Weiss to be taken to the KC Resolution Committee. Board decides the resolution will go to the newsletter and Meahan will to work to get this to KCDC.

9:13 Upthegrove moves to early endorse all candidates that are hard working members of the 34th in the May meeting including notification in the newsletter. Chair rules this out of order, on the grounds that new endorsement process will not yet be approved and will lack transparency. Shirer thinks this motion is premature, since many candidates are still not sure of their positions. Board decides to readdress this at the next board meeting in May for the June candidates' forum meeting.

9:16 Schrier wants to know who the 34th district endorsement contact for the candidates will be. It is decided that a link will go on the web site and the Chair will be a contact for the candidates. Grieser will coordinate the documentation.

9:18 Adjourn.