

CLALLAM COUNTY DEMOCRATS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

June 12, 2015 at Port Angeles Party Headquarters, 124-A West 1st St.

Attendance: Carlyn Syvanen, Paula Doherty, Julie Johnson, Steve Vause, Barbara Jepsen, Marcia Farrell, LeRoy Martin, Bill Dole, Jr., Jill Dole, Catherine Harper, guests Mark Ozias and Lenore Schoen.

Acting Chair Carlyn Syvanen called the meeting to order at 11:33.

County Commissioner candidate Mark Ozias is here, and will speak briefly about the status of his campaign. Bill Dole, Jr. is his campaign manager.

- Items added to the Agenda: First, Lisa Unger wishes to discuss a possible get-together in support of Bernie Sanders' presidential candidacy; second, LeRoy Martin asks for the status of the Roger Fight Fund, which will be covered in the Treasurer's Report; third, Paula Doherty has brought the business cards to be issued to PCOs to help with outreach, which will be distributed at the June 20th Membership Meeting.
- Approval of the Agenda
- Motion to approve the Agenda as amended, Paula Doherty; LeRoy Martin seconds. Voice vote; motion carries unanimously.
- Approval of Minutes of May 15th Executive Board Meeting.

Motion to accept the Minutes, Paula Doherty; Marcia Farrell seconds. Voice vote, motion carries unanimously.

- Treasurer's Report: Carlyn Syvanen reported, in the absence of Kris Grier

Report was briefly discussed. There is \$2,900 in the Roger Fight Fund. Additionally, we have enough in our current account for five months' office expenses.

It was noted that Patsy Feeley is at Crestwood Hospital; her status is not known, but visitors would be welcome.

There is no update on Roger Fight's condition at this time.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted without formal motion and vote.

- Report of Chair

Carlyn Syvanen noted that Candidate Mark Ozias will be here at 12:30 to discuss his campaign and the fact that he will not be able to attend the June 20th Endorsement Meeting. His campaign manager, Bill Dole, Jr., will be in attendance.

Membership Committee – Catherine Harper

Catherine Harper reported that progress is slow, but all are continuing to work on calling likely prospects and following up. It was discussed that having official office hours is helping to attract visitors who are given some attention. Tim and Joyce Wheeler have been calling prospects and Catherine Harper will follow up. We are still hoping to set up a meeting with Jessica Hernandez, chair of Clallam County Democratic Women.

Jill Dole and LeRoy Martin have been coming up with ideas for how to make the office more attractive to walk-by/walk-in visitors. Some ideas include rearranging the space so that we have what is essentially a "storefront" in the street-side half of the office. We could display items for sale, giveaway items, perhaps a reader board showing membership advantages and current project. The Membership Committee will work on implementing these ideas.

There will be a Membership Committee meeting directly following this E-Board meeting.

Second Wednesday Program Meeting – Paula Doherty

The June Program Meeting, featuring a presentation by representatives of the Charter Review Committee, attracted some 20 people. Five Charter Review Committee members presented, which seemed to cover the full "spectrum" of the committee. Additionally, Treasurer Selinda Barkhuis was present, and reported her frustrations in dealing with the County Commissioners and her work in trying to prevent "money giveaways" that have not been approved by the taxpayers. Her work is made more difficult by the fact that there is nothing specific in the Charter rules to prevent these decisions without taxpayer input. The Charter Review Commission has the power to change the rules and the reporting hierarchy; for instance, it can decide that a public meeting is not needed for certain decisions. Paula Doherty feels that the conservative members of the Committee are trying to dominate the Committee.

County Administrator Jim Jones has been ceded the right to basically make all decisions.

There is a survey asking for citizens' input on the Charter Review Committee, including the possibility of changing the number of County Commissioners; this survey has been published in the PDN and hard copies went out in this month's Port O Call; all are encouraged to fill out and return the survey, either in hard copy or online at surveymonkey.com. It was noted that many surveys are being returned anonymously, which gives rise to concerns about "ballot stuffing" and multiple submissions by interested parties. It is recommended that we put our return addresses on surveys submitted; those which come in anonymously will be placed in a separate pile. The data will be studied and corrected if results seem skewed.

There was a lengthy discussion on some questions being asked on the survey. In general, it is believed that the question of whether to increase the number of County Commissioners has no "right" answer, as there are advantages/disadvantages either way, and the increase in commissioners could have budget impacts or even require redistricting. It is believed also that such an increase could increase divisiveness.

Another serious question is whether to make the Community Development Director position appointed instead of elected. Clallam County's current practice of electing this official is almost unheard-of. One advantage of appointing vs. election is that an appointed official can be fired from the position for cause; by contrast, an elected official is in for his/her full term in the absence of a recall vote, which is an expensive proposition.

All are encouraged to submit the survey, and to attend meetings and hearings; Paula Doherty will send out e-mail reminders.

Norma Turner has concerns regarding the documentation and reporting of changes, a lengthy process. Additional issues she is concerned about include whether to change Charter Review Committee members' terms from eight years to four; it is felt that four years is not enough time for projects to bear fruit. Also, should elected officials be permitted to serve on the Charter Review? The Conservative faction is against this, but it is felt that all should be permitted to serve.

There are many other issues, including whether initiatives/referendums should go to the ballot without going through the County Commissioners; whether a mechanism can be created to investigate County officials for malfeasance (such as Grand Jury or Ombudsman program).

Much to think about; all are encouraged to participate in the process.

Johansens' Going-Away Party

Marcia Farrell reports that a large party hosted by George Fransen will be held on June 20 at 4 p.m., after our Endorsement Meeting. Invitations have been sent to all Members.

Additionally, Marcia Farrell has ordered a plaque for Pat Johansen, expressing our appreciation for her many years of service to the Clallam County Democrats. This will be presented at the party.

Thanks are expressed to Marcia Farrell for all her hard work and planning; this is sure to be a great party.

June 20 Membership/Endorsement Meeting

There are now two Democratic candidates running for District 1 County Commissioner, so the question arises whether our party should formally endorse one of the candidates. This is thorny, as many of our Members were instrumental in persuading Mark Ozias to run, and there was an implicit "promise" of endorsement. Mr. Ozias and Mr. Frazier, the other candidate, were both here on Wednesday, as was Mr. Bateham, a City Council candidate.

Mark Ozias came to today's E-Board Meeting as he will be unable to be present at the Membership/Endorsement Meeting on June 20th. He and his campaign manager, Bill Dole Jr., discussed his campaign. It was suggested that Mr. Ozias prepare a short video presentation to be shown at the June 20th Meeting in his absence. Bill Dole will try to arrange this.

Bill Dole reminded all that members must be paid-up and in good standing in order to vote at the Endorsement Meeting. Jefferson County had some trouble with people signing up and paying on the day of an Endorsement Meeting in order to vote, resulting in some skewed results; it was determined that members should be paid in advance of the meeting.

Mark Ozias announced that his campaign kick-off party will be on June 25th at the Cutting Garden in Sequim; all are encouraged to attend. The campaign is getting organized to start doorbelling in District 1 this weekend. Mr. Ozias reiterated his reasons for wanting to be a County Commissioner, stating that our current leadership is failing us and that their Mission Statement and stated core values are not being met. He stresses collaboration, which he feels is lacking with our present Commissioners. He stresses transparency and accountability.

(At this point, Julie Johnson, State Committeewoman, presented her brief report as she had to leave. She stated that the State Meeting will be held in September; there is nothing else to report at this time.)

To continue, it was decided that the June 20 meeting will be mainly for purposes of candidate support. This would be an opportune time to discuss any resolutions of interest, such as Wild Olympics. Also a good time to recruit for campaign activities, the County Fair booth, parades, and procuring a pickup truck and/or trailer for transporting people, props, etc. An e-mail will go out to all PCOs, encouraging their attendance. Carlyn will draft this.

It was noted that our Bylaws do not require us to endorse any candidate.

However, candidates including Brian Frazier, the "other" democratic from Carlsborg, will be in attendance and will expect the endorsement process. This is questionable right now, as the Bylaws do not preclude our choosing one candidate to endorse, nor do they require us to do so. The Membership will decide; should this be put on the agenda?

John Marrs announced in his column in this month's Port O Call that this WILL be an Endorsement Meeting; however, it was noted that we can announce that we won't be formally endorsing until after the primary, should we so decide. The fact that Mr. Ozias cannot be present at the meeting presents a disadvantage to him.

After much discussion, a Motion was presented: shall we endorse a candidate at the June 20 meeting? Vote by show of hands; motion carries with 6 ayes, 1 abstention.

Motion by LeRoy Martin, seconded by Bill Dole, that we endorse Mark Ozias at the June 20 meeting. Vote by show of hands; motion carries with 6 ayes, 1 abstention.

Roosevelt Dinner

LeRoy Martin reports that he has gotten a commitment for Ambassador/Former Governor Gary Locke to be the keynote speaker at the Roosevelt Dinner. We are looking at dates in October, with 22/23/24 being favored. The dinner is a fundraiser for the November elections. We should have a definite date by June 26th. Mr. Martin noted that we have offered to cover Mr. Locke's transportation and lodging expenses for this event, if asked to do so. We need to get the reservation made at 7 Cedars Casino (preferred venue) as soon as possible. Other venues were discussed, in the event that 7 Cedars is unavailable; a well-received suggestion was Lake Crescent Lodge. LeRoy will work on the details.

- New Business

Buttons and T-Shirts – Bill Dole, Jr.

Bill is researching available paraphernalis to be used as fundraisers and giveaways. He is having trouble finding good new buttons available; they cost about \$1 apiece, so selling them at \$1 is only break-even, so possibly not worth doing. Lisa Unger found one that says "Pun Toting Liberal"; if we can find some fun new ones they may sell well at the Fair.

Of interest as well would be a new T-Shirt, a successful item in the past. Captain T's in Port Angeles can be 20 of each size at \$3.00 apiece for two-color. Selling them for \$5 or \$7 would make it a viable fundraiser. Also, "We Promote You" does pens at less than \$1 each, another possibility.

Jill Dole noted that at last year's Fair there were drawings and prizes, a fun questionnaire. We should do some similar things this year, possible a raffle.

LeRoy Martin agreed that we should be gearing up for the Fair and fundraisers. He also noted that the Headquarters is a wonderful retail space, and that we could rearrange the office to include a "storefront" in front area. We should consider increased office hours, staffing, etc. This will be tabled, to be discussed at the Membership Committee meeting.

Bernie Sanders Info Meeting – Lisa Unger

Linda Sutton is doing such a meeting in Jefferson County, and wonders if there would be an interest in doing a similar meeting in Clallam County. She is working with Lisa Unger. Lisa will send out e-mails to Executive Board members. Paula Doherty says that Ron Richards is working on this as well; we should coordinate efforts.

- Unfinished Business

Paula Doherty reports that the business cards to be used by PCOs have been received and will be distributed at the June 20 meeting.

The next Executive Board Meeting will be July 10.

Catherine Harper reports that she will be unable to attend the August E-Board Meeting, and will need a substitute to take minutes. This will be arranged.

Motion to Adjourn, Barbara Jepson; Bill Dole, Jr. Seconds. Voice vote, motion carries unanimously.

Meeting is adjourned at 1:45 p.m.