

CLALLAM COUNTY DEMOCRATS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

November 13, 2015 at Port Angeles Party Headquarters, 124-A West 1st St.

Attendance: Carlyn Syvanen, Roger Fight, Paula Doherty, Julie Johnson, Steve Vause, Marcia Farrell, LeRoy Martin, Bill Dole, Jr., Lisa Unger, Kris Grier, Catherine Harper; guests Norma Turner, Mr. And Mrs. Bill Ellis, John Marrs, Jill Dole, Kristi Fight, District 2 Commissioner Mike Chapman, District 1 Commissioner-elect Mark Ozias.

Acting Chair Carlyn Syvanen called the meeting to order at 11:38.

- Items added to the Agenda

1. Presentation by Mr. Bill Ellis. This item will be taken before regular business.
2. LeRoy Martin – Membership Drive 2016. This will be placed under "New Business."
3. Julie Johnson -- 6th District Meeting. This will be placed under "Caucuses."
4. Marcia Farrell – "Miss Lillian Speaks" presentation on January 23, 2016. This will be placed under "New Business."

Both Commissioner Chapman and Commissioner-elect Ozias will be dropping by as their time allows to speak to the Executive Board.

- Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Agenda as amended, Julie Johnson, Kris Grier seconds. Voice vote, motion carries unanimously.

- Approval of Minutes of October Executive Board Meeting

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

At this point, Mr. Bill Ellis gave a short presentation on his new bumper sticker idea; in addition to the "What have the Republicans done for you" sticker he proposes to add a "What have the Democrats done for you" sticker, and the word "Think." It is his theory that this "bipartisan" approach will create more critical thinking. His main point is that most people would not vote Republican if they knew that their proposed budget includes abolishing Social Security. He left a sample of the new bumper stickers for the Board's use.

- Treasurer's Report: Kris Grier reported that we had a great month, with 151 dinners sold at the Franklin and Eleanor dinner, for a profit of \$3600. Additionally, the silent auction has shown a profit of \$2510 so far, expected to top out at \$2800.

- Kris Grier also reported on funds available in Unlimited Account, Limited Account, and Roger Fight Fund.

Jill Dole asks if there is a committee in place to send acknowledgments for contributions? Not at this time, but this is a good idea.

This Roosevelt dinner was the most successful to date. Gary Locke was a great speaker, and he was impressed by the tribal involvement in this area. He ended up speaking for 45 minutes instead of the planned 20 minutes.

Carlyn Syvanen had one criticism of the Roosevelt Dinner, that being that there were not committee members for the amount of work involved. She feels that there should be a separate committee for each aspect of the Dinner; this is planned for next year.

LeRoy Martin proposed that all the documents related to putting on this dinner be gathered in a binder for use by future committees. It was agreed that the Roosevelt Dinner committee will meet one more time for a "post-mortem" meeting to address this and other concerns. Marcia Farrell will call this meeting soon.

At this point. Commissioner Mike Chapman spoke to the Executive Board. He is joining the Clallam County Democrats, as our platform comports with his beliefs. He pledge to help Commissioner-elect Mark Ozias in any way possible, and believes he will be a great Commissioner. He spoke of the budget mess that Mr. Ozias is inheriting, and pledges to work with him and to stress collaboration.

Mr. Chapman also expressed regret and not always showing respect to others, specifically to former Commissioner Mike Doherty; he apologized and affirmed his love and respect for Mr. Doherty.

Norma Turner spoke regarding the place of religion in politics; she expressed frustration that the Republicans seem to have co-opted faith as their party's property, and this is wrong. There is room for faith in politics and it's time to stop letting the Republicans own it.

- Rent Party – Kris Grier

4 Kris has hired musicians for a concert on December 5th, from 2-4 p.m. After the concert, from pm on, we will have our Holiday Party. Donations will be asked to fund the band, who will be paid \$200. \$20 is the suggested ticket price, but a sliding scale will be used.

Jill Dole asked if the redecoration of the office that she proposes could be done by the day of the party; Kris Grier says that is not possible, but it can be done by the start of the "election season."

A committee was chosen for the Holiday Party, including Marcia Farrell, Julie Johnson, LeRoy Martin, Kris Grier, and Catherine Harper.

- Membership Drive – LeRoy Martin

We need a committee for a Membership Drive in the first quarter of 2016. It would be ideal to get 50 new members. The Mark Ozias victory was a big win for us, and we need to keep the momentum going as we enter the presidential election season. The new committee will include LeRoy Martin (Chair), Bill Dole Jr., Roger Fight.

It was noted that all memberships now renew on January 1. If people sign up in November/December, it is good for the next year.

Marcia Farrell suggests we invest in some small gifts, such as pens or coffee cups with the Clallam County Democrats logo, to give to new members. Carlyn Syvanen has some info about this and will pursue.

- "Miss Lillian Speaks" – Marcia Farrell

Stage actress Carol Swarback has offered to do a "practice run" of this presentation for the Clallam County Democrats as a fundraiser. This fun show will be presented on January 23rd at the CCD Headquarters. The ticket price will be \$35 and this will include hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer.

- State Committeewoman – Julie Johnson

Julie is the Chair of the Native American Caucus Committee. She reported that five Native American candidates won their elections, including Deborah Juarez in Seattle, Theresa Taylor in Ferndale, Roxane Murphy in Bellingham; two Hispanic people also won. Another "first" is that Matt Tomascon, a Native American, is Chair of the Yakima County Democratic Party.

There will be a reception on February 1 at Suquamish Report, including 57 tribes from the West Coast.

Six more Native American candidates will be running in 2016.

The tribes are now the fourth largest employer in the state of Washington. It is believed that they are the second largest donor to political candidates.

Julie looks forward to even more Native American involvement. She hopes to host a meeting in Neah Bay as part of a membership drive, and to include the Quileute tribe.

- State Committeeman – Joe McGimpsey

Joe McGimpsey is not present; there is no report.

Commissioner-elect Mark Ozias spoke to the Executive Board. He reports that he is doing double duty at the Food Bank, as the Assistant Director has accepted a new job. Mr. Ozias expressed gratitude for the hard work that helped him win; support from the Clallam County Democrats was invaluable. He is proud to be a CCD members.

He is anxious to get to work, and predicts that good things are coming. The County is ready for a change, a new attitude. He reports that defeated Jim McEntire has been entirely gracious and helpful. Mr. Ozias intends to operate differently than the previous Commissioner, to think beyond the job description, and stress collaboration with people and agencies.

Kris Grier asked about Mr. Ozias' finances, and Mr. Ozias replied that there was more than enough money raised and that a small amount remains. He raised approximately \$32-33K which made good advertising possible. He stressed that this win was a team effort, and that he is gratified and humbled by the support he was given. He will work to make us proud.

The Food Bank is actively looking for a new Director, as well as driver/warehouseperson. They hope to be fully staffed by the end of the year; in any event, Mr. Ozias will give his new position as Commissioner 100% of his attention as of January 1st.

He says that a big job will be reinvigorating the spirits of County employees. Roger Fight asks if Selinda Barkhuis will be included. Yes, absolutely. Mr. Ozias will set up meetings with all department heads and elected officials; it will be top priority to work together. Communication and collaboration will be key.

Julie Johnson, who has experience as a grant writer, stated that community input is crucial and that that has been lacking in Clallam County. She feels that Selinda Barkhuis, for example, was right and that she was treated unfairly. Mark Ozias talked about moving beyond the public comment period, and that all need to be more engaged and all voices need to be heard. Julie Johnson agreed that some meetings work better than others; she cited Listening Sessions held by Mike Doherty as a great way for the Native Americans to get to know Mr. Doherty and facilitated their working together.

- **Caucuses – Julie Johnson**

Precinct caucuses will be held on Saturday, March 26, at 10 a.m., around the state. The County Convention will be on May 1 at 1 p.m. (Sunday). There will be District Caucuses on Saturday, May 21.

Port Angeles has been suggested as the site for the 6th District meeting. We need to jump on this opportunity.

The State Convention will be on June 17th in Tacoma. The National Convention will be held on July 25-28 in Philadelphia.

There is a checklist for Caucus Preparation. The first completion date is January 4 – we need to report to the State who the coordinator will be. Carlyn Syvanen will likely be the point person for this. Kris Grier, Mike and Paula Doherty, Roger Fight can assist.

We need to secure the facilities we will need, then tell people where and when to show up.

Pre-training for caucuses will be held in February; Headquarters would be a good venue. There is a lot of information regarding delegate selection, etc., and new rules in place, which we will need to get.

Carlyn asked if Greywolf School in Sequim was one of the probable locations. Kris Grier will show us the precinct boundaries and make suggestions for venues. He feels that schools will now charge for the use of their facilities.

Jill Dole asked what the turnout was likely to be for the caucuses. It was reported that in 2008 more than two thousand people attended. 2016 may not be quite as large, but still a lot of people. Bruce Cowan of the Jefferson County Democrats wants to get permission to hold Jefferson and Clallam County meetings together; this might be approved, but the two counties will not be able to vote together. Mr. Cowan will apply to the State for permission.

Carlyn Syvanen proposes starting a committee on organization for the caucuses. Kris Grier, Paula Doherty, Julie Johnson, LeRoy Martin, Marcia Farrell, Carlyn Syvanen are proposed committee members.

LeRoy Martin recommended reaching out to the PCOs. They will be in charge of meetings for their precincts. Precincts without PCOs will need to find volunteers. The State can provide materials for how to run meetings.

Mark Ozias has offered names from his contributors list, and will reach out to people.

Carlyn Syvanen proposes having a meeting as soon as possible to get this started. Carlyn will call a meeting in the next two weeks.

- New Business/Discussion

PCO Appointments

Carole Woods has been active in the Bernie Sanders group in Sequim. She was a PCO in Seattle and has done lots of volunteer work for Mark Ozias, the Roosevelt Dinner, etc. Carlyn Syvanen proposes to appoint her acting PCO for Precinct 214, Carlsborg.

Motion to appoint Carole Woods as acting PCO in Precinct 214, Julie Johnson, Paula Doherty seconds. Voice vote, motion carries unanimously.

Watch Parties

There will be a watch party at Headquarters tomorrow night, 5:30 p.m., to watch the debate. The e-mail announcement will go out today. The debate will start at 6:00.

Sequim is also having a watch party at the Unitarian Fellowship; all welcome.

Use of Headquarters

Carlyn Syvanen notes that all scheduled events need to be put on the CCD calendar. Paula Doherty is currently the only person who can update the calendar; she will work with Catherine Harper to get her a password that will provide access.

Jill Dole stated that all outside parties who want to use the Headquarters should pay a use fee. Membership dues are so minimal that expenses are difficult to cover. We need to set guidelines for loaning out our Headquarters. It was proposed that instead of set fees, donations be requested; people are liable to be generous. Jill Dole believes we should market the Headquarters as a meeting space and put a sign in the window offering it for rent; please note that landlord Catherine Harper is adamantly opposed to such a sign.

We do need to decide on rules for this and codify them.

- **Unfinished Business**

Second Wednesday Programs

Paula Barnes has volunteered to take this on again. It is proposed that programs resume in January. There should be a standing agenda item for suggested topics.

Norma Turner has suggested an article for discussion.

One suggested topic would be an "after election" discussion to discuss the Mark Ozias campaign (successful) vs. the Sissi Bruch campaign (not successful), and the results of the Charter Review amendments. Paula Doherty feels we do not really have enough input to make this worthwhile.

Julie Johnson suggests that we should send out our endorsements more broadly, including the ones for Amendments; she states that the Charter Review amendments were overwhelming for voters without more input from us. It was noted that the Executive Board would need to endorse before broadly distributing recommendations.

Trust Land Advisory Committee Update

None. The Board has started discussion, but there is no meeting scheduled yet. It is felt that outgoing Commissioner McEntire will want to get this finalized before his departure.

- **Good of the Order**

Next E-Board Meeting – January 15, 2016. We are returning to our 3rd Friday schedule.

LeRoy Martin presented the Tuna Drive trophy to the Executive Board, showing that District 2 won (Captains were LrRoy Martin and Marcia Farrell).

There will be another Canned Food Drive/Food Bank Challenge in March 2016.

The trophy and the awards for the Roosevelt Dinner were made by Hanson's Awards in Port Angeles. This supports a local business, and potential CCD members.

Marcia Farrell spoke of the Mosaic "Tour of Italy" dinner last week. She proposes that the Clallam County Democrats should buy a ticket to any such functions hosted by non-profits as a way to show support for groups that share our values. This would be a small investment that could reap good results. This will be an agenda item for our next meeting.

Continuing membership in local Chambers was also discussed. We need to think about this. This community involvement item will be on our January meeting agenda.

Marcia Farrell is doing thank you letters, and may need some help with addresses.

Motion to Adjourn, Steve Vause, Marcia Farrell seconds. Voice voice, motion carries unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:38.