

CLALLAM COUNTY DEMOCRATS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

November 18, 2016 at Port Angeles Party Headquarters, 124-A West 1st St.

Attendance: Chair Roger Fight, Vice Chair Carlyn Syvanen, Treasurer Kris Grier, Recording Secretary Catherine Harper, Corresponding Secretary Paula Doherty, LeRoy Martin, Marcia Farrell, Lisa Unger, Bill Kildall, Jennie Peterson, Virginia Shogren, Chanda Parypa-Masta, Becky Acevedo, Bob Hosek, Paula Obrebski, Barbara Jepson, Tree Stocken. Absent: State Committeeman Joe McGimpsey, State Committeewoman Julie Johnson, Ric Mahurin, Andy Pascua, George Miller.

Virginia Shogren has a voting proxy for George Miller.

Chair Roger Fight called the meeting to order at 11:33.

Additions to the Agenda

LeRoy Martin wishes the Board to consider a Resolution Endorsing a Call for an Investigation of Russian Hacking of the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election. This will be added under "New Business."

Motion to accept the Agenda as amended, Virginia Shogren; Marcia Farrell seconds. Voice vote; motion passes unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of October 21, 2016 Executive Board Meeting

One correction was noted, a misspelling of Marcia Farrell's name; this will be corrected.

Motion to accept the Minutes as corrected, Kris Grier; Carlyn Syvanen seconds. Voice vote; motion carries unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Kris Grier stated that we have \$7,687.17 in our Unlimited Account and \$257.39 in our Limited account. Mike Chapman intends to donate \$1,000.

The Roosevelt dinner raised \$3,041 in the Silent Auction and we made almost \$2,994.46 on paid dinners. This was by far our most successful Dinner. The 7 Cedars venue is more cost-effective than the Red Lion.

Mr. Grier announced that we now have 360 members.

Bill Kildall asked if Mr. Grier would consider heading the left-hand column "Expenditures" and the right-hand column "Income", broken down for dues, events, etc., and then putting totals at the bottom. Mr. Grier agreed to do this.

Marcia Farrell noted that she has one more receipt for expenses.

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

Reports

Tribal Field Trips – Roger Fight. There is nothing to report. No contact has been made yet. Mr. Fight has discussed this project with Frances Charles; it is intended as a chance to learn about the Lower Elwha. There has been no follow-up yet with Sherry Curran, Administrative Assistant. Linda Barnfather has a van we could use, as does Ed Grier; we could essentially carpool.

Virginia Shogren asked if Frances Charles initiated this contact; Mr. Fight explained that he initiated this project and hopes to extend it to the other tribes as well.

Marcia Farrell suggested another contact, "Mack". Tree stated she has contact with Ellen Charles and Janet Cameron and could liase with them.

Office Hours Post-Election – Carlyn Syvanen

So far, full office hours have continued. The traffic has slowed down since the first week after the election, and we should consider cutting back on hours.

Tree: People need support. We should keep it open. Some people are afraid.

Virginia Shogren: Next week is a short week, so maybe another two weeks.

Norma Turner: We need to check with the volunteers.

Bob Hosek: I hope we'll keep it open. Encourage people to hold meetings and activities here, to keep it vital.

Carlyn Syvanen: So the consensus is to keep it open as is for another month. I will contact the volunteers.

LeRoy Martin: Will we have abbreviated hours in December during the holidays? We should see that on the calendar.

Carlyn Syvanen: Will check with the volunteers. Any cutback or change in hours will be posted.

Fundraising – Marcia Farrell

Marcia Farrell: There are only two events upcoming. First is "Jazz at the Q" – our holiday party, Saturday, December 10th, 4-7 p.m. We'll start working on that. The second is Eleanor Roosevelt: One-woman show by Jane van Buskirk. We'll see if we can afford to have her put on this show, it will depend on her tour. We're probably looking at April. We might set this up as a luncheon event at 7 Cedars, and we could use their stage, etc. This is a work in progress.

Membership – LeRoy Martin

It's good that we have more new members; that bodes well for the future. We plan to have a Membership Table at the Reorganization Meeting on 12/3.

Volunteer Coordinator – Jennie Peterson

Jennie Peterson is not present; there is no report.

State Committee Report – Julie Johnson and Joe McGimpsey

Neither Julie Johnson nor Joe McGimpsey is present; there is no report.

Nominating Committee – Kris Grier and Chanda Masta

The Logistics of using Jefferson School for the 12/3 meeting were discussed. There is lots of seating. PCOs' chairs will be labeled with their names/precincts.

Bill Kildall: Will there be printed ballots?

Kris Grier: Handwritten. Nominations can come from the floor, so even if we had pre-printed ballots, we would need to write in candidates. We'll need pens and paper.

Chanda Masta: A logistics meeting of the Nominating Committee will be called. Need to determine how long candidates can speak, how questions will be handled, etc.

Roger Fight: I hope we can settle this today.

Kris Grier: Probably not today. Nominating Committee members will stay a few minutes after today's meeting and discuss.

Chanda Masta: We need committees: Credentials, Tally, New Members, Refreshments.

Kris Grier: We'll make up lists and make check-in easier.

Chanda Masta: We can have a table to sell snacks.

Progressives Committee – Virginia Shogren/Chanda Masta

Chanda Masta: Meetings are being held every Friday. They've done phonebanking for I-35, very successfully; sign waving for Ron Richards; homeless outreach. They have received a letter from Seattle regarding awareness of Judge Porter's "debtor's prison" pay-or-appear system; Clallam is one of 5 counties being investigated. Outreach to homeless, including Homeless Forum at 7 Cedars this week. Bank Exit (moving money from banks that support DAPL) may create temporary difficulty accessing money. TPP may not be pursued, but if it is, we will be fighting it. We need to support the Racial Justice Group.

Tree: We have bi-monthly meetings at the Library; the largest gathering yet was this week.

Chanda Masta: Our group is growing. 35 last week – 8 new members – we are starting to reach District 3.

New Business/Discussion

Reorganization Meeting/Greeting/Check In/Credentialing

Roger Fight: Should greeting and credentialing be separate functions?

Kris Grier: We need one greeter on the east door. People will probably park in front; need a greeter there.

Tree volunteers as greeter, and she will get more volunteers. Virginia Shogren will ask Nancy Martin, who was a great greeter at the Convention.

Roger Fight: Credentialing table. Identify PCOs, tell them they have reserved seats.

PCOs vote for the first 4 elected positions; after that, all members may vote.

Discussion: We need a New Membership table, need to divide the Membership, need a PCO table, etc.

Virginia Shogren: Will there be ID tags once people are credentialed?

Kris Grier: Yes. We need to identify people who are eligible to vote.

Norma Turner: At another meeting, voting members got colored cards and held them up to vote.

Kris Grier: This will be a secret ballot.

Norma Turner: There are lots of ways to make this work.

Bob Hosek: Will we be contacting the PCOs to remind them of the meeting?

Kris Grier: Steve Schneider is on it; he has sent the lists out twice.

Virginia Shogren: We need 4 volunteers; will consult on credentialing process.

Bob Hosek: How do proxies work?

Roger Fight: There are no proxies, as specified in the by-laws. Names will be placed in nomination, a slate announced, and then three times we will ask for nominations from the floor. What kind of process do we want to use to hear from nominees or their surrogates?

Chanda Masta: Nominees for Chair and other top-tier positions may submit their bio if they wish (this is recommended); maybe have one minute to make statement, then one person may speak on candidate's behalf.

Norma Turner: Why can a surrogate be present when proxies are not allowed?

Roger Fight: It has not been determined that you must be there to be a candidate.

Becky Acevedo: I'd like to have questions and answers.

Chanda Masta: We'll have the bios passed out.

Becky Acevedo: I'd like public questions and public answers.

There are many candidates, so discussion followed regarding limiting number of questions, times to answer, whether questions should be submitted in writing beforehand, and how it would be determined which questions would be asked, etc. It was noted that we will need a timer.

Bill Kildall stated that in order to carry out a coherent election, we need some control over candidates' time and presentation, and questions should be submitted in writing and then each question presented to each candidate; this would prevent "bushwhacking" and keep it fairer.

Marcia Farrell noted that a person might have a specific question for one candidate based on his/her bio as submitted. Ms. Farrell believes that "cookie cutter" questions limit our ability to ask questions based on a candidate's bio/resume.

Becky Acevedo: We'll be electing our Chair. That's a pretty big deal.

Bob Hosek: Approximately how many speaking candidates will there be?

Roger Fight: Probably just the top 4.

Chanda Masta: There are 7.

Roger Fight: For Secretary, etc., probably just a voice vote. The position of Treasurer is not usually contested either. Members break into 3 separate groups to discuss Trustees for each District.

Norma Turner: The League of Women Voters used to ask for written questions and then screen them, and they got a lot of complaints. That style is not workable. We will probably need to let people ask questions and limit their answers.

Bill Kildall: So will surrogates be involved or not? Top-tier candidates should have a minimum of 2 minutes to speak.

Roger Fight: Do you think the candidate should speak for him/herself, no surrogates?

Discussion: It was determined that if a candidate cannot be present, s/he may submit a written statement. There was discussion of the amount of time candidates will have to answer questions, whether questions should be asked of all candidates or just one, how to limit time for questions and answers. It was decided to limit time on questions, and set time limits for each candidate.

Virginia Shogren: Yesterday one of our members was attacked by another member. I don't want to start out with a divided party.

Becky Acevedo: I feel it has been a divided party.

Roger Fight: So how do we address that?

Virginia Shogren: It's going to have to be by rules.

Lisa Unger: Like Hillary Clinton said about Trump, let's all keep an open mind.

Bill Kildall: There is hostility. A reluctance of some people to let go. We've got to get past this, or we'll end up unable to withstand right-wing attacks. What we need to do is let go, and let us all work together.

Kris Grier: I suggest that we have no questions, candidates just make statements.

Carlyn Syvanen: If you have questions for members, take them aside and talk to them. You don't need to bring it up publicly; talk to each other, and you might find that you're on the same page.

Motion that there be no question and comment program for candidates, people may simply talk to candidates, Kris Grier; Bill Kildall seconds.

Discussion: Marcia Farrell said that this sounds undemocratic; there are some things I will need to know, such as support for the Democratic party. This provides no give-and-take.

Bob Hosek: Quote: "Work from your better angels." You can't just ask people to let it go, it's still being processed. We need to go with the allies we have, not the allies we wish we had.

Kris Grier: Do you ask a person a question privately, or make it public? It's not a debate.

Becky Acevedo: But people are running for office.

Norma Turner: Why are there two sets of rules? In endorsement meetings we ask candidates questions. Why are we afraid to ask the candidates at the Reorganization Meeting? We need to be polite, set limits on time for questions.

Chanda Masta: It's not a debate, it's an election. If we need a debate, we can have one.

Kris Grier: I'll withdraw my Motion then.

Roger Fight: We have no apparent consensus, so just the Executive Board has votes. We have 12 Executive Board members present, so we will vote on whether to have public questioning of candidates.

(By secret ballot there was a 5 to 5 tie vote. The Chair voted nay, breaking the tie. Questions of candidates will be allowed.)

Roger Fight: Do we have a tally committee for the meeting?

Chanda Masta: No. We'd like to have an even number.

Roger Fight: So, candidates will have 2 minutes for their statement, there will be 30 seconds for a question, 1 minute for response. We'll need a timekeeper.

Norma Turner: We could have signs held up like the League does, showing time remaining.

Kris Grier: Could you organize ballot counting?

Norma Turner: Yes. I'm a PCO, though.

Becky Acevedo: Would she have time to vote?

Roger Fight: It shouldn't be a PCO. Bob Hosek, can you organize this?

Bob Hosek: Yes. I already have my first volunteer.

Roger Fight: We will do all of this in a respectful manner.

Kris Grier: You had mentioned a Chair Pro Tem.

Roger Fight: I'm willing to be Chair Pro Tem, but I don't need to be. This will be handled by Motion at the meeting and someone will be elected. If it's someone who hasn't been in on this conversation, s/he will need to be briefed.

Is there anything further on the elections of the first 7 positions?

The question was asked: Can questions be limited to people who are eligible to vote?

Roger Fight: That seems like a reasonable restriction. Yes. For the first 4 positions, PCOs will ask the questions.

Paula Doherty: So each candidate will be requested to provide a resume?

Roger Fight: Yes.

Paula Doherty: Shall I send those out with the reminder notice and agenda?

Roger Fight: Yes.

Paula Doherty: I will need to have the digital copy by the deadline.

Roger Fight: Notice/Agenda/Curriculum Vitae/Nominating Committee's slate are needed by November 27th.

There was discussion of exactly what candidates need to provide, e.g. bio vs. resume, 1/2 page or 100 words, etc.

Chanda Masta: People nominated from the floor would bypass all these requirements?

Kris Grier: Yes, but people nominated from the floor are seen as less credible candidates.

LeRoy Martin: So people who plan to nominate themselves from the floor should bring copies of their resume or bio or whatever?

Norma Turner: How many copies are you making?

Roger Fight: 200.

Kris Grier: Candidates may be asked to provide the copies that will be needed. 200 are expected.

Bob Hosek: Will wi-fi be available?

Kris Grier: No.

Bob Kildall: Kris, you feel that anyone nominated from the floor is at a disadvantage compared to candidates on the slate?

Kris Grier: That's my general feeling.

Bill Kildall: So, therefore those candidates do place themselves at a disadvantage; they would be considered straw persons.

Kris Grier: I wouldn't take these people seriously.

Carlyn Syvanen: The Nominating Committee is looking for people who have been involved, and would have had an opportunity to declare their candidacy.

Marcia Farrell: What if someone knows they want to run but was not nominated?

Roger Fight: The Nominating Committee will meet . . .

Paula Doherty: This could be posted on the landing page of our website.

Kris Grier: The Nominating Committee doesn't get to say who can and can't run.

Bill Kildall: Paula will put this on the website as a link.

Paula Doherty: Listing the position and all known nominees, with resumes/statements linked. How about calling it "Candidate's Statement"?

Virginia Shogren: I've just been requesting bios/resumes.

It was agreed that that will work. The Nominating Committee is to consider candidates for all positions – 2 for each is hoped for – not just a definite list of names.

The next Nominating Committee meeting will be on Monday at 3 p.m.

Roger Fight: Election of Trustees will be by County Commissioner district. Kris Grier will find a way to separate the 3 groups. Our instructions would be to decide on a Chair among the current Trustees, who then will manage the election. It will be a secret ballot, majority required. Chair asks for candidates, then a list will be made, and blank papers distributed – must vote for 3 to be a valid ballot. Tally – more than 50%, they're elected. After that, do the gender test: no more than three people of each gender may be elected. Re-vote, ask people to withdraw if needed. Drop the lowest one and re-vote.

Kris Grier: We will do an instruction sheet. We have had contested votes. We also need a Tally Committee – the Chairs will appoint (2-3 people).

Steve Vause: Did you say one of the current Trustees in each District will Chair? What if they all want to be re-elected?

Roger Fight: It would be better to have someone not running to be the Chair. Find a Trustee who isn't running, or get a volunteer. All Trustees should be familiar with the rules.

Virginia Shogren: There are lots of newbies in the Party, so District maps should be available.

Kris Grier: They will be available.

Bob Hosak: Who can vote for Trustees?

Kris Grier: All members, same as for Secretaries.

Roger Fight: There should not be contentious elections for Secretary, Treasurer.

Kris Grier: Make sure you write down the full name and address for everyone who is elected – especially Trustees.

Becky Acevedo: Will there be a form to report who the new Trustees are?

Kris Grier: We just need the names. They should all be in VoteBuilder.

Roger Fight: After that, we typically get back together and announce the results, then close the meeting. But the newly elected Chair should say a few words. The Chair Pro Tem hands over the "virtual gavel" and then we adjourn.

LeRoy Martin: So no other business will come before that body?

Roger Fight: Yes, there will be Resolutions, etc. So the new Chair will then conduct New Business. Regarding Food and Drink, has a committee been formed to see to that? Will we need to seek somebody out?

LeRoy Martin: Let's refer that to the Volunteer Coordinator.

Kris Grier: Monday at 3 p.m.

Tree: The afternoon group will discuss this too.

Roger Fight: I'll contact Tom and Helga Montgomery re timekeepers as done by the League of Women Voters. So, are we all on the same page regarding the meeting?

Kris Grier: If you have questions before Monday's meeting, go ahead and send them to the committee.

Roger Fight: Resolution on Russian Hacking. Shall the Executive Board recommend to Membership that they consider this?

LeRoy Martin: It deals with a profound national security issue, Russian hacking influencing our recent election. Republican Senators Lindsay Graham and John McCain have asked for an investigation. This Resolution asks our senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray to join in this request.

Motion that this Resolution be forwarded to the General Membership at the December 3rd meeting, LeRoy Martin; Paula Doherty seconds.

Discussion followed. Virginia Shogren learned yesterday that James Clapper, Director of the National Safety Agency, is resigning. It is stated that it cannot be determined whether WikiLeaks came from Russia.

LeRoy Martin – We don't know; that's why we need an investigation.

Maricia Farrell: The Resolution goes beyond hacking; a lot needs to be investigated.

Voice vote; the ayes have it. The Resolution will be forwarded.

Unfinished Business

Paula Doherty: Is there a Nominating Committee report?

Roger Fight: Not yet. Written report will follow Monday's meeting.

Marcia Farrell: I'm in touch with Kathy Marshall in Rob Ferguson's office. He can't accept a gift, but will buy the copper salmon. We'll buy it and give it to him at the final bid price.

Bill Kildall: Since Parliamentarian is not on the agenda, will that position be appointed by the new Chair?

Roger Fight: Yes. We need a Sergeant-at-Arms, too. (to Kris Grier) You're not available to be Parliamentarian?

Kris Grier: I hope we can get Rod Fleck.

LeRoy Martin: Or John Marrs.

Kris Grier: He'd be great, if he shows up at the meeting.

LeRoy Martin: We need to invite him.

Roger Fight: I'll contact him. Sergeants-at-Arms? Lee Whetham would be good.

Good of the Order

Roger Fight: The next Executive Board meeting will be called by the new administration. Would we suggest waiting until January? How about the Friday after the 24th LD meeting?

Virginia Shogren: New times and dates for the Executive Board meetings are proposed.

Roger Fight: Let's leave it open for now. The new Administration will meet to decide.

Tree Stokken: I wanted to suggest that one can be a good Democrat and not vote for the top of the ticket. Jill Stein was the best candidate, and I needed to vote my conscience.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn, Virginia Shogren; Bill Kildall seconds. Voice vote; Motion carries unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50.