

**Minutes of the 9/12/16 Emergency Meeting of the Executive Committee,
Saunders County Democrats**

The 9/12/16 Emergency Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Saunders County Democrats met in the home of Treasurer Ed Zeleny in Morse Bluff, NE, at 7:10 p.m.

Officers present were Treasurer Ed Zeleny and Secretary Maria Cadwallader. Chair Phil Richmond was absent by choice; he notified Ed Zeleny by phone that he would not attend and said he had not read the email about the meeting. Communications Coordinator Emily Koehler was excused absent due to being stranded in South Dakota and having notified the Secretary of that fact by email at 11:49 a.m.; in that Emily also stated her proxy vote for M-J Divis to become Vice Chair, replacing resigned Vice Chair Dene Oglesby. Bud Pettigrew was invited to give a presentation about the *Handbook for County Chairs* but was not able to attend.

Since there was not a quorum, the meeting continued only as a discussion of issues to provide recommendations which can be voted on at the next meeting. That meeting will be at the Saunders County Democrats Annual Picnic on 9/18, because all Officers are expected to be there. The Minutes and Banquet Committee Report will be dealt with then.

Also present were members of the other committees: Alan Meyer, Picnic Committee; and Nancy Meyer, Shawn Otte, Desi Hunt, and, by phone, M-J Divis, Banquet Committee.

Budget Recommendations

Ed reported that the current balance in the Saunders Democratic Party's bank account is \$1,072.91.

Those attending made these recommendations for expenditures:

- \$35.88/year starting September 2017, for the WordPress.com website host
- \$35 for the picnic
- \$200 maximum for decorations and door prizes for the Banquet
- Committee members to provide banquet signage, auction item and donor cards, posters, invitations, programs, etc.
- \$50 Hilltop Country Club banquet venue fee
- \$1050 or same per person banquet catering cost, South CharGrill, Lincoln
- \$50/year contribution to subscription through Lancaster County Democrats to a database which will be updated monthly and on which we can maintain additional information such as emails and cell phone numbers of registered Democrats in Saunders County. Contact is Ted Kessler, Lancaster County Democrats.
- \$50 Hilltop Country Club election party venue fee, if the space is available (Shawn to check)
- Free banquet ticket for reporter

By-Laws

The group discussed the need for by-laws for the county party organization. Maria showed sample by-laws from Sarpy and Lancaster Counties. The group agreed she should compile a draft for Saunders County Democrats based on these counties' by-laws and bring them to the picnic for discussion.

Replacing the Vice Chair

Those present agreed that they support M-J Divis as Vice Chair to replace Dene Oglesby, and M-J agreed that he would accept that position if so appointed or elected. Ed Zeleny had no opinion

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and had not met M-J yet but talked to him by phone to arrange a time when M-J could bring him banquet tickets.

Picnic Preparations

Alan Meyer reported that he phoned Phil today to find out if Phil had, as promised, contacted the local butcher about providing hot dogs for the picnic. Phil said that he had not and would not have time to do that, so Alan did. Alan said \$35 should cover the cost of hot dogs, buns, condiments, and charcoal for the picnic.

Publicity

Emily has the website and facebook pages up and posted ads for the picnic and banquet. Nancy and Maria have helped by posting additional information and updated ads. Shawn said Emily also should post ads for the picnic and banquet on the facebook pages for Wahoo and Valparaiso and other communities which have them, if possible.

Maria placed an ad for the picnic in this week's Wahoo paper for \$45, and Emily placed ads for the picnic on Facebook for \$12; Maria paid for these ads and will pay for Facebook ads for the banquet. The Treasurer should record these as contributions.

Shawn said that she thinks we should put ads in the paper for the banquet. She also mentioned that the paper has covered the banquet in the past and that we provided a free ticket for the reporter and should do so again. Maria said she would consider paying for liner ads for the banquet. The group agreed that the larger display ads are too costly.

Advertising by mail is cost-prohibitive. Maria reported that the mass mail permit fee is \$215 per year and there may be more fees. The per piece cost is minimally \$0.20. The registration roles list over 3900 Democrats in Saunders County.

The WordPress website has been upgraded for \$35.88/year (Maria paid for the first year) to allow the web address to be SaundersCountyDemocrats.org or .com (whichever we choose). This fee also provides significantly more storage space for archiving records and tech support via chat and email. Those in attendance thought the budget for future years should include this expense.

Committee members are printing and hand-distributing posters and invitations for the events. Maria will re-send PDFs of these items for members to use.

Banquet Ticket Sales/ Contacting Precinct Leaders

Nancy stressed that all of us must make a special effort to sell tickets. Maria passed out a spreadsheet of tickets sold to date and another spreadsheet of ticket sales leads. She gave Ed the printout for his precinct (Cedar Bluffs) and kept the printout for Valparaiso, as she will contact as many Democrats in that Precinct as possible, since the Precinct Leaders there have resigned.

Shawn repeated that Phil was very clear about not wanting to have anything to do with the Banquet or with contacting Precinct Leaders. M-J agreed to contact Precinct Leaders for help selling tickets and, if they are unable to help, other Democrats in the Precincts. Maria will give M-J the printouts of Registered Democrats for each Precinct except Valparaiso and Cedar Bluffs.

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Nancy stressed that it is of great importance to know the exact number and positions of tables which will be available for the banquet, so that we do not oversell tables. This means that we need the Fire Marshall's maximum capacity number as well as the number and sizes of tables for seating in the dining room, in the bar area, and on the patio, right away. Shawn said Emily was to get this information.

Maria will make sure we have sent email invitations to all the Saunders County caucus attendees and delegates that we can locate information about. She will contact Martha Hunter for more information and, if necessary, Tom Tilden.

Regular Meetings/Outreach

The group agreed that Executive Committee meetings should be public and that regular meetings should be held monthly and predictably, on a day and at a time when the most officers and currently active party members can attend (e.g., second Sunday at 1:00). Nancy and Alan suggested calling such meetings County Party meetings, with the Executive Committee conducting any necessary business at the beginning and then having discussion with those in attendance to find out about local issues concerning them and to encourage more participation in the party.

Maria suggested having several such meetings on Sunday afternoons in various parts of the county ASAP, leading up to the election, perhaps featuring candidate speakers, organizing transportation to the polls, and so on. M-J said he would be very willing to help organize these meetings and to participate. Ed said that he would be willing to participate in daytime meetings (but not at night, especially at a distance) and see whether we could get people to attend. Nancy said we should be prepared to not see anyone show up and be willing to keep trying. Possible dates are:

- Wahoo, Sept 25 or October 2 (_____ arrange venue)
- Ashland, October 2 or 9 (_____ arrange venue)
- Valparaiso, October 9 or 23 (Maria arrange venue)
- Ceresco, October 23 or 30 (_____ arrange venue)
- After November, monthly meetings at other communities TBA

Nancy said Jack Eager regretted not being able to attend and suggested contacting him for more ideas.

The discussion ended at about 9:15 p.m.

Sincerely,



Maria M. Cadwallader, Secretary

Saunders County Democrats Banquet Committee
Report to the Executive Committee 9/12/16

The Banquet Committee met July 17 and August 22. Members are Emily Koehler, Maria Cadwallader, Nancy Meyer, Shawn Otte, Desi Hunt, Chelsea Lulla, and M-J Divis. The Banquet will be October 15, starting at 5:30 p.m.

Nancy gathered information about previous banquets from Martha Hunter, the Barretts, Ed Zeleny, and others so that we could get organized. Nancy is in charge of the program. She has arranged for speakers, including a Hillary NE Campaign Rep, State Party Rep Tom Tilden, and candidates Dr. Dan Wik and Stan Kaiser. She also has arranged for Don Domina to be auctioneer and is arranging for a backup auctioneer. She has sold tickets for several complete (reserved) tables.

Emily is in charge of publicity. She posted information about the banquet on the website and facebook and is posting ads on facebook. With help from the other committee members, Maria made posters and invitations; all committee members have been and are emailing and distributing them.

Shawn arranged for the venue, The Hilltop Country Club in Wahoo. She, Emily, and Desi are in charge of decorations and door prizes, setup, and cleanup, including recycling. Chelsea arranged for and will be supervising the caterer. Desi also is soliciting auction items from Wahoo businesses and individuals.

MJ is in charge of distributing and keeping track of ticket sales. Emily created the tickets, which this year include a stub of name and contact information which will be used in the door prize drawing and for our records. All committee members are selling tickets but need help from Precinct Leaders.

At the event, Desi will take tickets and sell tickets at the entrance to the CC. Shawn will take bidder info cards, assign bidder numbers, and give bidder number signs out at the dining room entrance (and later give completed cards to Ed). Nancy will take donor/item info cards and assign item numbers to auction donations at the dining room entrance (and keep item cards for later use). Alan Meyers and Maria will arrange auction items (with attached item numbers) on the auction item table(s). Nancy will assist the auctioneer by completing and retaining the item info card. (and, after the auction, will use the cards to help Ed). MJ and Maria will take items to winning bidders. Ed Zeleny will collect on the bids and record receipts as winners leave the dining room. Nancy will assist him.

A sample poster and print invitation is attached.

Sincerely,



Maria M. Cadwallader, Secretary
Saunders County Democrats