

Minutes of the 9/18/16 Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Saunders County Democrats

The Executive Committee met Sunday, 9/18/16, at the end of the Annual Picnic which over 25 people attended at Memphis Lake State Recreation Area. These included Phil Richmond, Ed Zeleny, Emily Koehler and her friend Tyler and daughter Lily, Mikel-Jon Divis and his teenage sister Michelle, Maria and Dean Cadwallader, Chelsea Lula, Jack Eager, Martha and Jim Hunter, Merrion Brooks, Jennifer Norris, Alan Meyer, Vern and Nancy Barrett, Mary Jo Horning, Jim and Judy Sanders, David and Nancy Swarts, 2 other Democrats, and State Legislator Jerry Johnson (Republican).

At the picnic, Merrion Brooks reported on what she learned about canvassing voters in Omaha. She said they had lists of the names and addresses of the voters they were canvassing so they could ask for them at the by name. They introduced themselves and asked if the person planned to vote.. If the person did not plan to vote, the canvasser said “I am a Democrat and will vote for Democrats because I want Democrats to win. I think it is important to vote and hope you will vote, too.” They did not try to persuade anyone about voting for Democrats. They asked if they need a ride to vote.

Call to Order

After objecting that there was no need for a meeting and being persuaded otherwise by the other officers, Chair Phil Richmond called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Phil, Secretary Maria Cadwallader, Treasurer Ed Zeleny, and Communications Coordinator Emily Koehler were present. Also present for varying portions of the meeting were other Democrats who attended the picnic:

Treasurer's Report

Ed reported that the current balance in the bank account was \$1072.91. In addition, M-J gave Ed the cash contributions from the picnic, and Maria gave him the check from the Dominas for banquet tickets, to deposit Monday.

Phil moved, Ed seconded the motion, and the officers unanimously approved these expenses:

- \$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 Char Grill, 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 County Club election party venue fee, if the space is available (Shawn Otte to check)

- Free banquet ticket for reporter

Secretary's Report

Phil moved, Emily seconded the motion, and the officers unanimously approved the Minutes of meetings 6/25/16 (with corrections), 7/17/16, and 8/12/16.

Committee Reports

Phil reported that he did not know how many people participated in the Ashland and Wahoo parades. Emily said that Nancy and Alan Meyer were at the Ashland parade.

The Banquet Committee Report is attached.

Unfinished Business

Selection of Vice Chair

Phil moved, Emily seconded the motion, and the group unanimously approved Mikel-Jon Divis to become Vice Chair. M-J was present throughout the meeting.

New Business

Bylaws

Maria handed out copies of the Bylaws she had drafted and emailed to officers earlier, as requested at the 8/12/16 meeting. Phil said the County had never had Bylaws and didn't need them. Emily said that the County did have Bylaws, because her parents had drafted them and gone through a long process of having them approved at County Party Meetings, but that in later years they disappeared. She and her mother have been searching through old records but have given up on finding a copy.

Emily, Ed, Maria, and M-J agreed that Bylaws are necessary for the County Party to function properly. Jennifer Norris, who is our CD1 representative on the Central Committee, commented that Bylaws are important. She recommended approving the draft so that the Executive Committee can present them at a County Meeting for amendment and approval, then follow them as working Bylaws, and present them for final approval at the County Convention. Jennifer also volunteered to go over the draft and propose amendments if she noticed anything inconsistent with State Party guidelines.

Phil moved, Emily seconded, and the officers unanimously approved the draft Bylaws to be handled as Jennifer advised.

Schedule for Regular Monthly Executive Committee Meetings and Special Pre-Election County Meetings

Phil said he did not believe that regular monthly meetings are necessary and that he will not attend monthly meetings. He said he would attend annual meetings and did not believe more than annual meetings were required.

The other officers unanimously agreed that monthly meetings are necessary and should be held in varying communities around the county, followed by County Party Meetings to help build the party and encourage more Democrats to participate actively. M-J, Maria, Ed, and Emily agreed to hold these meetings monthly on the 1st Sunday at 1 p.m.

They also agreed to hold Special Pre-Election County Party Meetings (Sunday afternoons) to encourage party participation and voting. M-J said we should contact County Board candidate Stan Keiser about speaking at these meetings and helping him in the best ways Stan thought we

could help. Maria agreed to contact Stan. The group agreed that possible dates for these County Meetings are Sept. 25 and Oct. 2, 9, 23, and 30. Oct. 16 won't work because the Banquet is Oct. 15. Venues could be Ashland (at the pizza place), Wahoo (at the Union Bank community room), Ceresco (at the Community Center), and Valparaiso (at the Senior Center), but all of these are in the southern part of the county. M-J suggested Cedar Bluffs. Maria agreed to report back to everyone after speaking with Stan. Emily will post meeting notices on Facebook and the website.

Getting Out the Vote

Maria gave printouts of registered Democrats per precinct to the Precinct Leaders present (Phil, Ed, Martha, Jack) and to M-J to distribute to other Precinct Leaders.

Jennifer advised that we immediately begin using Vote Builder online to keep our records updated.

CC Meeting at NDP SCC Meeting Saturday, Sept. 24

Phil said he would not attend the County Chairs Meeting Saturday, Sept. 24 and would not attend future County Chairs Meetings. M-J said he would attend them.

Respectfully Submitted,



Maria M. Cadwallader, Secretary
Saunders County Democrats

Attach: Banquet Report

NOTE: Maria contacted Stan Keiser after the meeting. Stan asked that the Executive Committee to meet and hold a County Meeting of as many people as possible in Yutan at noon on Oct. 2 at the Yutan Kitchen (402-625-2055) for lunch and then, starting at 1:00, help him canvass Yutan, which is where he can get the most votes. He has several helpers lined up and has pamphlets to hand out and thinks that, with enough help, the canvassing should not take long.

ALSO NOTE: Nancy and Alan Meyer have volunteered to host a County Meeting at their home in Cedar Bluffs after Oct. 15.

ALSO NOTE: At the 9/24 CC Meeting, Chair of Chairs Bud Pettigrew advised Vice Chair Divis and Secretary Cadwallader that, after adoption by the Executive Committee, the By-Laws are in effect and do not need further approval until the next County Convention, where they may be revised.

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