

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Saunders County Democrats, Oct. 23, 2016**

The Saunders County Democrats met immediately after the Executive Committee in the Myer's home at 2042 Co. Rd Y, Cedar Bluffs, NE 68015. Chair Mikel-Jon Divis called the meeting to order at 1:55 p.m. Committee members present were Chair Divis, Secretary Maria M. Cadwallader, Treasurer Ed Zeleny, and PR/Media Specialist Emily Koehler. Also present were Saunders County Democrats Alan Meyer, Nancy Meyer, Vern Barrett, Merrion Brooks, Jim Hunter, Martha Hunter, Jennifer Norris, Shawn Otte, Desiree Hunt, and Jack Eager. Mina Davis from Omaha and Aaron Ratigan from Lincoln also attended.

### **Approval of Vice Chair's installation as Chair**

Maria Cadwallader moved, Alan Meyer seconded the motion, and those present unanimously approved the motion to accept Mikel-Jon Divis as Chair of the Saunders County Democratic Party, as the Bylaws require.

### **Banquet Committee 2016 Fall Banquet Review**

Maria circulated copies of a report (attached) from committee members which lists things that went well, things we could improve (about facilities, program, attendance, advertising, committee process, auction, other), and comments from attenders and asked everyone to add anything else they think of about the banquet. The committee will use the list to decide what to repeat and what to do differently for the 2017 banquet. The committee will meet again beginning in November, with the same people and additional members, hopefully including Mary Hornung and Jane Harpineau.

Emily will donate stationery for thank-you notes, printed with "Saunders County Democrats Thank You" and logo art, and Mikel-Jon will hand write them (except for one that Emily will write to the person who donated the kolaches; and except that Desi's sister, who contributed the cloth tote bags, prefers an email).

These thank you notes are to go to:

For purchasing tables at the banquet – the Dominas; Seward County Democrats; Lancaster County Democrats; Janet Stewart and Richard Register; the Richmond family; the Koehler family, ElainePike.

For the plants donated as centerpieces and floor prizes: Mary Jo Hornung

For being speakers: Tom Tilden, Hillary Rep. Carmen Chang, Dan Wik, and Stan Keiser

For cash contributions: Shirley Neimeier, Ashland (\$400); Helen Raikes (\$?); Local 16 (must first confirm contribution and amount received); and any others (confirm with Ed)

For exceptional auction contributions: Ray Richmond (carved bird); Harriet Gould (5 course dinner for 8)

### **Unfinished Business**

#### 2016-17 Meeting Calendar and Potential Speakers

Maria distributed copies of a list of potential speakers which was added to during the discussion (see attached), as well as a list of proposed meeting dates/places/speakers, which was amended to during the discussion and accepted by consensus, as appears below.

The communities which could be used as locations include: Ashland, Cedar Bluffs, Center, Ceresco, Colon, Ithaca, Leshara, Malmo, Marietta, Mead, Morse Bluff, Prague, Valparaiso, Wahoo, Weston, Yutan. Nancy Meyer said that their home was always available for Cedar Bluffs meetings.

The group agreed that we should publicize these events widely, including by listing them in the community events sections of the local papers, and make sure to notify groups we think should attend, such as the NRD Board on climate issues, and Democrats from other counties who share our interests.

The group strongly supported the suggestion to hold these meetings as family activities, with baby sitting and activities for children, and to sponsor additional family activities, with publicity centering on the activity and listing the party sponsorship in smaller print.

Draft Calendar

*Pre-Election*

Sunday Oct. 30, 1:00 p.m. Community Center, 217 S. 2nd St., Ceresco 68017, (402) 665-2391. Meet fellow Democrats and talk about issues that concern us and Get out the Vote/ Transportation to the Polls efforts. Speaker: Fran Kaye, Retain A Just Nebraska (ballot issue).

Sunday Nov. 6, 1:00 p.m. Community Room in Union Bank and Trust, 328 W 3rd St., (402) 443-4128, Wahoo. Meet fellow Democrats and talk about issues that concern us and Get out the Vote/ Transportation to the Polls efforts. Speaker: Don Wilhite, 'Dr. Drought,' Effects of Climate Change on Nebraska, part 1. Notify NRD members (see their website). Publicize widely.

*Monthly, unless holidays conflict, first Sundays, following Executive Committee Meetings*

Sunday Dec. 4, 2016, 1:00 p.m. Valparaiso (address TBA). Speaker: John Atkeison, Effects of Climate Change on Nebraska, Part 2, Farmers.

Sunday Jan. 8, 2017, 1:00 p.m. Venue TBA. Speaker ??? County Jails – \$ misuse, missing Rx, unused rape kits (also advertise to Douglas County Democrats – this is of interest to them).

Sunday Feb. 5, 2017, 1:00 p.m. Venue TBA. Speaker, Mina Davis, County Party Challenges and Solutions.

Sunday March 5, 2017, 1:00 p.m. Venue TBA (south Saunders). Speaker: Lucas Sabalka, Citizens' Climate Lobby. Notify NRD members (see their website). Publicize widely.

Sunday April 2, 2017, 1:00 p.m.,

Sunday May 4, 2017, 1:00 p.m.,

Sunday June 4, 2017, 1:00 p.m.,

No July County Meeting because of Parades (Exec Committee will meet July 9)

Sunday August 6, 2017, 1:00 p.m.,

Sunday Sept. 3, 2017, 1:00 p.m.,

Sunday Oct. 1, 2017, 1:00 p.m.,

Sunday Nov. 5, 2017, 1:00 p.m.,

Sunday Dec. 3, 2017, 1:00 p.m.,

**New Business**

Everyone introduced themselves and their primary political concerns. They included: Mina, uniting people to work for common goals; Aaron, sustainable manufacturing, ecology; Jack, climate change, environment, education; Emily, social work policy; M-J, developmental disabilities; Jennifer, State party rules, state issues; Jim and Martha, Democratic Party issues and candidates; Vern, rural environmental issues; Merrion, Democratic Party issues, immigration, getting out the vote; Shawn, need to teach civics and be politically active; Alan, geothermal and solar energy, OPPD; Nancy, bees, environment; Ed, doing his part; Maria, Democratic Party issues.

Discussion included the need to recruit Precinct Captains who were willing and able to be very active and fulfill PC responsibilities to get out the vote and help build the party. The Precinct Captains list was modified to include: Ashland 1, Merrion Brooks; Ceresco, Martha Hunter; Wahoo Rural, Emily Koehler; Weston, Mikel-Jon Divis. Shawn volunteered to contact Ken Havelka about his ability to be active as PC of Wahoo 1, to contact Joan J. Welzel about her ability to be active as PC of Wahoo 3, and to recruit an active PC of Wahoo 2 or serve in that function herself. Mikel-Jon is to contact current PCs of Ashland 2, Cedar Bluffs, Marietta, Prague, and Yutan with the same questions. Center, D-4, and Malmo are without PCs.

Discussion also included the need to make sure we participated in all of the community parades. Martha has the parade banner. Jack hopes we can find someone with a donkey who will walk with it in the parades. Alan and Jack suggested and the group agreed that the next meeting should include the parade schedule.

Sincerely,



Maria M. Cadwallader, Secretary