

## **Minutes of the Saunders County Democratic Party Executive Committee, April 8, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at the home of Treasurer Ed Zeleny, 2958 Co Rd 25, Morse Bluffs, at 1:10 p.m. Present were Executive Committee members Mikel-Jon Divis, Chair; Renae Feilmeier, Vice Chair; Maria M. Cadwallader, Secretary; Ed Zeleny, Treasurer; and, attending by phone, PR/Media Specialist Emily Koehler. Jennifer Norris and Desiree Hunt also were present.

### **Minutes**

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved at the previous County meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Ed Zeleny reported that the Balance on 3/25/17 was \$3,478.53 and remained the same.

### **Chairman's Report**

Mikel-Jon reported that Vote Builder should be up and running soon and that he will contact Executive Committee members right away with information about how to access it; he will make sure we are all able to use it.

He said that Democrats in the state Legislature are in the minority as there are only 26 of them. He is concentrating on contacting Democrats from long-standing Democratic families about becoming and/or supporting local candidates, and he is encouraging Dale Larsen to run for the Wahoo Rural District County Supervisor seat.

In answer to a question, Maria, Renae, Jennifer, and Emily reported they have registered to participate in the online Democratic Party training called T3. Registrants are supposed to receive links for signing on, via email.

### **Public Relations**

Emily reported that she has been checking on PR materials including t-shirts for parades and staffing booths, logo trinkets, bumper stickers (\$35-\$45/hundred from Gotschalk's), stickers, cards/pamphlets to hand out, and so on.

Jennifer and others suggested using sport pinnies for parades and booths, because they are cheaper and could be handed out for people to wear over their clothes and to give back for re-use. She also suggested including the flag and the word "Democracy" in the logo and trying to stress general principles that are inclusive to make our PR materials appealing rather than off-putting.

Emily said she thought \$200 would cover pennies to re-use, t-shirts to sell, stickers and bumper stickers to hand out and/or sell, and cards/pamphlets to hand out. At the next County meeting, she will have mockups to show so we can take orders for t-shirts.

Emily said she had \$60 in in-kind donations to report and would give Ed the receipts so that he can record them.

She also suggested using the "BAND" app (Google Play) for communication, for example, among committee members.

### **County Convention and By-Laws Committee**

The group agreed that June is too soon and July or August may not be a good time for the County Convention because so many people will be on vacation. October may be better. The date and location

must be set fairly soon and announced online and given lots of publicity. The By-Laws must be completed and posted online at least 30 days (preferably longer) in advance of the Convention.

By-Laws committee members will include: Vern Barrett, Merrion Brooks, Maria Cadwallader, Jack Eager, Renae Feilmeier, Jennifer Norris, and Paul Ploof.

### **General Discussion**

The state budget is cutting all social services. Can we sponsor some sort of activity to help?

When we find people willing to run for office, we should insist they attend meetings of the Boards they are running for so that they are up-to-date about Board member responsibilities and current issues and therefore will have something to campaign about. We also should get a list of the dates and times for the Board meetings throughout the County – County Supervisors, all the various Town Boards and School Boards, and so on.

Vern Barrett will be up for re-election to the NRD in 2018. Nancy Barrett is an Independent but very supportive of Democratic efforts.

County Meetings will attract more people if they are not business meetings but work meetings (letter writing, making signs, etc.), or meetings open to the general public which educate on issues, or activities for special days like Memorial Day or Flag Day (June 14) which celebrate democracy and also attract young people and families with children. Suggestions included events at the Wahoo Park or at the new Wahoo Lake -- sack races, water balloons, watermelon feeds (and seed spitting contests), potlucks, entertainment (get high school students to dress up like famous historical characters and give a speech— e.g., Kennedy at the Berlin wall, MLK, Lincoln).

We need to reach the farming community and remember how important farming issues are in Saunders County.

Jennifer distributed copies of *On Tyranny* by Timothy Sneider and urged us to read and then circulate it.

M-J announced that the County Party Outreach position has been eliminated.

### **Next Meeting**

The date for the next meeting was set for 4:00 p.m. Sunday, April 30, in Ashland at the pizza shop\*, with M-J providing the pizza. It will be a general County meeting, not an Executive Committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Maria M. Cadwallader, Secretary  
Saunders County Democrats

\*Because Bordeaux Pizza is closed Sundays, the venue was changed to the Ashland Public Library.