

Minutes of 25th LDD meeting 6/7/07

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Chair John Thompson with the flag salute.

Chair Thompson announced that publisher Ken Peach has resigned and a new person will have to be found. Ken announced that he would stay through the next month and help a new person get set up.

Chair John Thompson said he received an e-mail from P. C. Chair Nathe Lawver about the caucuses. They have set up a timeline for the caucuses.

There will be a Central Committee Meeting on 6/14 at 7:30 at the Korean Women's Association to discuss caucus issues.

Ray Green asked where county caucuses will be held and Chair Thompson said that it would be held at the Tacoma Dome site.

All dates for caucuses, County conventions, etc. are now available on the website.

Chair Thompson read his letter of resignation due to health reasons. Vice Chair Lauren Adler will be taking over until the Ex Board can make a permanent appointment.

Treasurer Jon Bristol was not present and Carolyn Merrival read Treasurer's Report. M/S/P to accept the Treasurer's report.

Ken Blair of Bethel School District gave his report. Spanaway jr. High opened in May and the kids are very happy. They wrote thank you notes they were so pleased with their new school. There will be three graduation ceremonies held on Sat at the Tacoma Dome. The district will implement an on line program for some students who have dropped out and some who are home schooled.

Joan Cronk gave Cal Goings' report. His campaign is going extremely well and he participated in the Gig Harbor parade with the 26th District Dems on Sat. Town hall meetings have been well attended and a lot of good input has been received. The campaign will be compiling the comments from the meetings into a "Civic Action Agenda" that will be released later this month. The Annual Barnyard Picnic is Sat 7/21 at the Goings Farm and all are welcome. Cal would love to have the endorsements of any who have not yet made the commitment.

Jerry Beckendorf reported on his trip to China. The State committee will have a meeting 6/29 in Richland.

Chair Thompson reported the candidate endorsement committee met once and only two people attended. They need a few more meetings to complete the process.

No old business.

Auditor Pat McCarthy spoke on IRV. Nov 2008 is the first vote of Rank Choice Voting (RCV) which is what Auditor McCarthy calls it. 199 people have filed for office so far for the 2007 election. This is a grass roots election.

Six people are running or Port open position.

The Auditor put into effect a Blue Ribbon Review Panel to study the RCV process. If you go to the website you can access all information for the Blue Ribbon Review Panel meetings.

The term IRV was changed to RCV to help voters understand it is a ranking process.

Next Nov elections for Assessor-Treasurer, Council members (positions 2, 3, 4 and 6), Executive, Sheriff and Environmental Lands Commissioner will be RCV. Winner will take all in general election, there is no primary. 2-3 ballots to handle this type of election.

RC will be on a separate ballot. They cannot merge the two ballots. Voters will choose their first choice, second and third. If they do not make a first choice, their vote will not count.

Software will then redistribute the votes and the losers' votes will be redistributed

Devil is in the details. If the details are not set in place it will be chaos. The system worked in the last Gov election. We had a system in place that worked.

The final two candidates do not necessarily have to be Republican or Democrat.

McCarthy is going to recommend to the County Council that they pay postage on all ballots, as there are three of them and voters would need three stamps. She is worried people may not mail back all three ballots.

RCV will cost over 1 M more.

Auditor McCarthy thinks the county will not be able to maintain polls and all will vote by mail. Her recommendation to the council will be all vote by mail.

Bryan, 47th District chair attended and spoke about winning the 8th Congressional district..the strategy for winning the congressional seat back. Hopefully there will be an 8th Congressional District by this time next week.

M/S/P to have the July meeting with Cal Goings' picnic on 7/21 and the meeting scheduled for 7/5 will be cancelled.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted.

Joan R. Cronk for Charley Stokes, Recording Secretary