

1 Draft Minutes

2 Linn County Democratic Central Committee

3 August 23, 2017 – 7:00 pm

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5 OFFICERS PRESENT: Bret Nilles, Valerie Smith, Sam Grey.  
6 Sarah Stutler, Laura Geary Bell, Michael McGree, Diane  
7 Peterson

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9 ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE AUGUST 23 MEETING:

10 1. Motion to approve the Draft Minutes of the July 22,  
11 2017, meeting of the Linn County Democratic Central  
12 Committee as distributed was moved, seconded, and  
13 carried on a voice vote.

14 2. Scott Rolland was elected Alternate Committeeperson  
15 from CR12.

16 3. Motion to approve the July 2017 Treasurer's Report  
17 was moved, seconded, and carried on a voice vote.

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19 I. CALL TO ORDER

20 a. A regular monthly meeting of the Linn County  
21 Democratic Central Committee was held on  
22 August 23, 2017, at the Hiawatha Community

23 Center in Hiawatha, Iowa. Chair Bret Nilles  
24 called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, and  
25 Michael McGree, Recording Secretary, was  
26 present. A quorum was present.

27 II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- 28 a. Chair Bret Nilles led the Central Committee in a  
29 recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 30 b. The Assembly observed a moment of silence in  
31 remembrance of Norm Sterzenbach, Linn County  
32 Democratic activist. Recent events in  
33 Charlottesville were also remembered.

34 III. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS

- 35 a. First time guests were recognized by the Chair  
36 and briefly introduced themselves.
- 37 b. Elected officials and notable guests were  
38 welcomed by the Chair:
- 39 i. Sen. Liz Mathis (Iowa State SD 34);  
40 Councilor Kay Hale (Ely City Council); Swati  
41 Dandekar (US Director, Asian Development  
42 Bank); Troy Price (Chair, Iowa Democratic  
43 Party)
- 44 c. Candidates present were as follows:
- 45 i. Abby Finkenhaur (Iowa First Congressional  
46 District); Thomas Heckroth (Iowa First  
47 Congressional District); Courtney Rowe

48 (Iowa First Congressional District); Tracy  
49 Ehlert (Iowa HD 20); Molly Donahue (Iowa  
50 State HD 68); Scott Foens (Iowa State HD  
51 68); Dierdra DeJear (Iowa Secretary of  
52 State); Monica Vernon (Mayor, Cedar  
53 Rapids); Tyler Olson (Cedar Rapids City  
54 Council); Rachel Wall (Linn-Marr School  
55 Board)

56 d. Candidates for elective office present or  
57 surrogates provided updates on their campaigns.

58 IV. IOWA DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIR – TROY PRICE

59 a. Iowa Democratic Party Chair Troy Price spoke to  
60 the Assembly, presenting his vision for a more  
61 engaged and active Party structure with  
62 emphasis on activism at the local level.

63 V. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES: FINANCIAL SECRETARY SARAH  
64 STUTLER REPORTING

65 a. Ms. Stutler briefly reported on the following  
66 upcoming activities:\

67 i. Dem Good Wine Tasting (Wednesday 9/6)

68 ii. Linn County Democrats Hall of Fame Dinner  
69 (Saturday, 1/21)

70 1. Honorees

71 a. Helane Golden

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- b. Harvey Ross
- c. Iowa State Senator Wally Horn

VI. SECRETARY’S REPORT

- a. The following Alternate Committeepersons were seated:
  - i. Arash Yarpezeshkan (CR09); Courtney Rowe (CR25); Mary Burke (TFRA); Timothy William (MR02)
- b. Approval of minutes
  - i. Motion to approve the Draft Minutes of the July 22, 2017, meeting of the Linn County Democratic Central Committee as distributed was moved, seconded, and carried on a voice vote.
- c. Resignations/Nominations
  - i. Scott Rolland was elected Alternate Committeeperson from CR12.

VII. TREASURER’S REPORT

- a. Approval of monthly report
  - i. Motion to approve the July 2017 Treasurer’s Report was moved, seconded, and carried on a voice vote.
- b. Pass the Hat

VIII. COMMITTEE UPDATE

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- a. Affirmative Action Committee
  - i. No Report
- b. Disability Caucus: Caucus Chair Catherine Crist reporting
  - i. Ms. Crist provided a brief update Disability Caucus upcoming events
    - 1. Accessibility, Inclusion, and Outreach Conference scheduled for the day of Saturday 10/21/2017.
      - a. See website [idpdc.com](http://idpdc.com) for more information
    - 2. National Voter Registration Day (9/25/2017)
  - ii. Disability Caucus meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 5:15 prior to the Central Committee meeting
- c. Stonewall Caucus: Caucus Chair Harvey Ross Reporting
  - i. Mr. Ross extended an invitation to candidates for elective office to attend Stonewall Caucus meetings.
  - ii. Stonewall Caucus meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month in the Market Grille from 6:30 – 8:00 PM at the Mount

120 Vernon Road Hy-Vee (4035 Mt Vernon Rd  
121 SE, Cedar Rapids)

122 IX. LABOR CAUCUS

123 a. Bret Niles reported that Labor Caucus, Linn  
124 County Democrats, Invisible Iowa will be hosting  
125 a Meet the Candidates Forum on Thursday,  
126 October 5, at the IBEW 405 Union Hall located at  
127 I 1211 Wiley Blvd SW in Cedar Rapids.

128 i. Candidates invited include First  
129 Congressional District as well as  
130 gubernatorial, state and local candidate.

131 b. 1:19:00 – meet the candidate – see tape

132 X. 2018 CAUCUSES

133 a. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Valerie Smith reported on the 2018  
134 caucuses:

135 i. Caucuses are scheduled for evening of  
136 Monday, February 5 2018

137 ii. They will be organized by Iowa State House  
138 District

139 iii. Valerie Smith 2/5 Caucuses 1:19:304

140 iv. Caucuses will elect new Central Committee  
141 members

142 v. Event trainings for organizers are  
143 forthcoming

- 144 XI. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 145 a. Linn Phoenix Club will host Democratic
- 146 gubernatorial candidates Cathy Glasson, Andy
- 147 McGuire, and John Norris on Thursday 9/21 from
- 148 5:30 to 7:30 at 825 17th St SE, Cedar Rapids
- 149 (private residence).
- 150 b. Phoenix Thurs 9/21 at Kay's
- 151 c. Dem Good Wine Tasting is Wednesday 9/6 from
- 152 5:30-7 PM at 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Wine House in Cedar
- 153 Rapids.
- 154 d. Upcoming parades in Marion and Hiawatha were
- 155 discussed
- 156 e. Meet the Candidates – Oct. 5 (Indivisible Iowa,
- 157 Hawkeye Labor Council, & Linn County
- 158 Democrats)
- 159 f. Meet the Candidates Forum on Thursday,
- 160 October 5, at the IBEW 405 Union Hall located at
- 161 I 1211 Wiley Blvd SW in Cedar Rapids.

162 XII. OLD BUSINESS

- 163 a. Members who have ideas for meals should
- 164 contact Hospitality Chair Joe Stutler.

165 XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- 166 a. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.