

1 Draft Minutes

2 Linn County Democratic Central Committee

3 October 25, 2017 – 7:00 PM

4  
5 OFFICERS PRESENT: Bret Nilles, Valerie Smith, Sam Gray. Sarah Stutler, Laura Geary  
6 Bell, Michael McGree

7  
8 ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE OCTOBER 25, 2017, MEETING:

- 9 1. Motion to approve the Draft Minutes of the September 27 2017, meeting of the  
10 Linn County Democratic Central Committee as amended was moved, seconded,  
11 and carried on a voice vote.
- 12 2. Andrew Leonard (CR19), Molly Donahue (MR04), Jonathan Stuelke (Alternate,  
13 TWAS) were elected to the Central Committee.
- 14 3. Motion to approve the September 2017 Treasurer's Report was moved,  
15 seconded, and carried on a voice vote.
- 16 4. A resolution request Linn County public agencies to provide implicit bias training  
17 to all staff was ratified on a voice vote (see attached for full text of resolution)

18  
19 I. CALL TO ORDER

- 20 a. A regular monthly meeting of the Linn County Democratic Central  
21 Committee was held on October 25, 2017, at the Hiawatha Community  
22 Center in Hiawatha, Iowa. Chair Bret Nilles called the meeting to order at  
23 7:02 PM, and Michael McGree, Recording Secretary, was present. A  
24 quorum was present.

25 II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- 26 a. The Chair led the Central Committee in a recitation of the Pledge of  
27 Allegiance.

28 III. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND CANDIDATES

- 29 a. The Chair recognized first time guest in attendance at the October Central  
30 Committee meeting.
- 31 b. The Chair recognized the following elected officials in attendance at the  
32 October meeting:

- 33 i. Sen. Rob Hogg, Sen. Liz Mathis  
34 ii. Rep. Art Staed, Rep. Todd Taylor  
35 iii. Linn County Attorney Jerry Vander Sanden  
36 iv. Linn County Supervisors Jim Houser, Brent Oleson, Stacey Walker,  
37 Ben Rogers  
38 v. Swati Dandekar, Executive Director of the Asian Development  
39 Bank and former Iowa legislator  
40 c. The Chair recognized candidates for elective office in attendace, including:  
41 i. George Ramsey, Iowa gubernatorial candidate  
42 ii. Courtney Rowe, candidate for Iowa 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District  
43 iii. Molly Donahue and Scott Foens, candidates for Iowa House District  
44 68  
45 iv. Eric Gjerde, candidate for Iowa House District 67  
46 v. Tracy Ehlert, candidate for Iowa House District 70  
47 vi. Monica Vernon, Cedar Rapids mayoral candidate  
48 vii. Damian Epps, candidate for Cedar Rapids City Council (At-Large)  
49 viii. Ashley Vanorny, candidate for Cedar Rapids City Council (District  
50 5)  
51 ix. Tracy Ehrery  
52 x. Damian Epss, Council  
53 d. Candidate discussed upcoming campaign activitties and events  
54 IV. SPEAKER: KEVIN BURGESS, ORGANIZER WITH THE IOWA DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
55 i. Mr. Burgess introduced himself as the new IDP Organizer for  
56 Iowa's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District.  
57 ii. Mr. Burgess reported on party-building activities, including the  
58 Precinct Caucuses coming up on February 5.  
59 iii. Persons interest in more information can email Mr. Burgess at  
60 kburgess@iowademocrats.org  
61 V. ELECTED OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS  
62 a. Elected officials present provided updates on upcoming fundraisers and  
63 events.  
64 b. Iowa Senator Rob Hogg spoke of his tenure as Minority Leader and the  
65 need to keep momentum for Democrats in 2018 and beyond.

66 VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT: CO-SECRETARIES LAURA GEARY BELL AND MIKE MCGREE

67 a. Seating of Alternate Committeepersons

68 i. The following Alternate Committeepersons were seated:

- 69 1. Eric Gjerge, CR05
- 70 2. Arash Yarpezeshakan ,CR09
- 71 3. Courtney Rowe, CR25
- 72 4. Stacey Walker, CR34
- 73 5. Frank Reynolds, MR09
- 74 6. Carolyn Roseberry, TGRA
- 75 7. Susan Benerson, TMON2

76 b. Approval of Minutes

- 77 i. After discussion, a motion to approve the Draft Minutes of the
- 78 September 27, 2017 Meeting of Linn County Democratic Central
- 79 Committee as amended was moved, seconded, and passed on a
- 80 voice vote.

81 c. Resignations/Nominations

- 82 i. The following nominations to the position of Committeeperson were
- 83 confirmed by the Central Committee on a voice vote:

- 84 1. Andrew Leonard, CR19
- 85 2. Molly Donahue, MR03

- 86 ii. The following nominations to the position of Alternate
- 87 Committeeperson were confirmed by the Central Committee on a
- 88 voice vote:

- 89 1. Jonathan Stuelke, TWAS

90 VII. TREASURER'S REPORT

91 a. Approval of monthly report

- 92 i. Bret Nilles presented the written Treasurer's Report for September
- 93 2017. The September 2017 Treasurer's report was approved as
- 94 distributed on a voice vote.

95 b. The Pass the Hat fundraising activity raised \$250 for the Central

96 Committee

97 c. Financial Secretary Sarah Stutler provided a preliminary report on the Hall

98 of Fame

- 99 i. Event was sold out with approximately 260 attendees.

- 100                           ii. Net income from Hall of Fame (after expenses): \$10,500.
- 101 VIII. COMMITTEE UPDATES (AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, DISABILITY CAUCUS, LABOR CAUCUS &  
102 Stonewall)
- 103           a. Affirmative Action: No Report
- 104                           i. Committee Chair Joy Mincey-Powell is recovering and is  
105                           anticipated to resume her leadership role shortly.
- 106           b. Disability Caucus: Caucus Chair Catherine Crist reporting
- 107                           i. Ms. Crist presented a brief report on the outcome of the first annual  
108                           Accessibility, Outreach, & Inclusion Conference. The event was  
109                           well-attended and positive feedback was received.
- 110                           ii. AIO and other Disability Caucus merchandise is available for  
111                           purchase at the Iowa Democratic Disability Caucus website at  
112                           www.idpdc.org.
- 113                           iii. Ms. Crist thanked event sponsors, including elected officials.
- 114                           iv. Ms. Crist was recognized by the Assembly for the following:
- 115   1. Work organizing the inaugural Accessibility, Inclusion, and  
116   Outreach Conference
- 117   2. Being elected as Co-Chair of the National Association of  
118   Democratic Caucuses, an organization recognize by the  
119   Democratic National Committee.
- 120           c. Labor Caucus: Caucus Chair: Caucus Chair Mike Olsen reporting
- 121                           i. Mr. Olsen spoke briefly on the scope and purpose of the Linn  
122                           County Democratic Labor Caucus
- 123                           ii. Labor Caucus meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at the  
124                           IBEW 405 Union Hall in Cedar Rapids at 6:30 PM.
- 125           d. Stonewall: Caucus Chair Harvey Ross reporting
- 126                           i. Mr. Ross briefly reported updates regarding activities of Stonewall  
127                           Caucus
- 128                           ii. Stonewall Caucus meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month in  
129                           the Market Grille from 6:30 – 8:00 PM at the Mount Vernon Road  
130                           Hy-Vee (4035 Mt Vernon Rd SE, Cedar Rapids).
- 131 IX. Community Outreach – ACA signup and New Tax plan (Amy Adams)
- 132           a. Amy Adams and Cindy Garlock provided updates on activities of  
133           Indivisible Iowa and community outreach

- 134                   b. The Keep Iowa Healthy Initiative and other group activities, such as  
135                   Letters to The Editor, were discussed.
- 136                   c. Interested persons may contact Ms. Garlock or Ms. Adams.
- 137    X.    HOLIDAY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING
- 138                   a. December 6, 2017, will be the holiday combined November/December  
139                   meeting of the Central Committee.
- 140    XI.   2018 CAUCUS BREAKOUT BY IA HOUSE DISTRICT
- 141                   a. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson Valerie Smith provided instructions to the Assembly  
142                   to briefly recess and convene into small groups by Iowa House District to  
143                   resume Precinct Caucus Planning.
- 144                   b. The Central Committee reconvened a short time following this recess.
- 145    XII.   NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 146                   a. The next meeting of the Central Committee will be December 6.
- 147                   b. Sen. Liz Mathis is looking for volunteers to help her organize healthcare  
148                   forums to inform public action. Sen. Mathis shared that a recent forum  
149                   was successful and involved informed discussion among healthcare  
150                   professionals, office candidates, and forum guests.
- 151                   c. Teresa Diers spoke briefly on upcoming events she is involved with:
- 152                                i. Linn County Democrats float in the CR NewBo/Czech Village on  
153                                Friday Oct. 27 at 7 PM
- 154                                ii. Ms. Diers is hosting a fundraiser for Cathy Glasson at the Chrome  
155                                Horse on Saturday December 2 at 6 PM
- 156                   d. Andy Peterson and Stacey Walker jointly presented a resolution request  
157                   the public agencies within Linn County provide implicit bias training to  
158                   agency staff (the full resolution is attached).
- 159                                i. A motion to ratify the resolution moved, was seconded, and passed  
160                                on a voice vote.
- 161    XIII.   OLD BUSINESS
- 162                   a. No old business was discussed.
- 163    XIV.   ADJOURNMENT
- 164                   a. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

## Linn County Democratic Central Committee Resolution

WHEREAS, feeling safe is a cornerstone to the well-being and quality of life for all citizens of Linn County, Iowa; and

WHEREAS, in the context of criminal justice and community safety, implicit bias has been shown to have significant influence in the outcomes of interactions between police and citizens; and

WHEREAS, as with all types of bias, implicit bias can distort one's perception and subsequent treatment-either positive or negative-of a given person or group. In policing, this has resulted in widespread practices that focus undeserved suspicion on some groups and presume other groups innocent; and

WHEREAS, reducing the influence of implicit bias is vitally important to strengthening relationships between law enforcement and minority communities; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that bias reduction over time is possible for all employees, but there are extra advantages for those in leadership positions, as their biases are more likely to impact performance; and

WHEREAS, given the small cost to creating and implementing an implicit bias training program, organizations have little reason not to; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court made implicit bias training a priority during his 2016 State of the Judiciary Address where he stated, "One response has been to seek better understanding of the many causes of racial disparity. Last year, the judicial branch trained 716 judges, magistrates, and other judicial branch staff to recognize implicit biases that may contribute to racial disparities. We will continue this training this year."; and

WHEREAS, neuroscience research demonstrates through implicit bias training our brains are malleable, thus giving us the capacity to mitigate the effect of unconscious bias; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Linn County Democratic Central Committee do hereby resolve and request that all public agencies in Linn County Iowa including and especially all legal systems and institutions to provide for all staff expert in-person implicit bias training.

*Ratified October 25, 2017*