

1 Draft Minutes

2 Linn County Democratic Central Committee

3 October 25, 2017 – 7:00 PM

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

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

9 1. Motion to approve the Draft Minutes of the September
10 27 2017, meeting of the Linn County Democratic
11 Central Committee as amended was moved,
12 seconded, and carried on a voice vote.

13 2. Andrew Leonard (CR19), Molly Donahue (MR04),
14 Jonathan Stuelke (Alternate, TWAS) were elected to
15 the Central Committee.

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

19 4. A resolution request Linn County public agencies to
20 provide implicit bias training to all staff was ratified on
21 a voice vote (see attached for full text of resolution)

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23 I. CALL TO ORDER

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

31 II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

32 a. The Chair led the Central Committee in a
33 recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

34 III. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND
35 CANDIDATES

36 a. The Chair recognized first time guest in
37 attendance at the October Central Committee
38 meeting.

39 b. The Chair recognized the following elected
40 officials in attendance at the October meeting:

41 i. Sen. Rob Hogg, Sen. Liz Mathis

42 ii. Rep. Art Staed, Rep. Todd Taylor

43 iii. Linn County Attorney Jerry Vander Sanden

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- iv. Linn County Supervisors Jim Houser, Brent Oleson, Stacey Walker, Ben Rogers
 - v. Swati Dandekar, Executive Director of the Asian Development Bank and former Iowa legislator
- c. The Chair recognized candidates for elective office in attendance, including:
- i. George Ramsey, Iowa gubernatorial candidate
 - ii. Courtney Rowe, candidate for Iowa 1st Congressional District
 - iii. Molly Donahue and Scott Foens, candidates for Iowa House District 68
 - iv. Eric Gjerde, candidate for Iowa House District 67
 - v. Tracy Ehlert, candidate for Iowa House District 70
 - vi. Monica Vernon, Cedar Rapids mayoral candidate
 - vii. Damian Epps, candidate for Cedar Rapids City Council (At-Large)
 - viii. Ashley Vanorny, candidate for Cedar Rapids City Council (District 5)
 - ix. Tracy Ehrery
 - x. Damian Epss, Council

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d. Candidate discussed upcoming campaign activities and events

IV. SPEAKER: KEVIN BURGESS, ORGANIZER WITH THE IOWA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

- i. Mr. Burgess introduced himself as the new IDP Organizer for Iowa's 1st Congressional District.
- ii. Mr. Burgess reported on party-building activities, including the Precinct Caucuses coming up on February 5.
- iii. Persons interest in more information can email Mr. Burgess at kburgess@iowademocrats.org

V. ELECTED OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Elected officials present provided updates on upcoming fundraisers and events.
- b. Iowa Senator Rob Hogg spoke of his tenure as Minority Leader and the need to keep momentum for Democrats in 2018 and beyond.

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

- a. Seating of Alternate Committeepersons
 - i. The following Alternate Committeepersons were seated:
 - 1. Eric Gjerge, CR05
 - 2. Arash Yarpezeshakan ,CR09

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- 3. Courtney Rowe, CR25
- 4. Stacey Walker, CR34
- 5. Frank Reynolds, MR09
- 6. Carolyn Roseberry, TGRA
- 7. Susan Benerson, TMON2

b. Approval of Minutes

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

c. Resignations/Nominations

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

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

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

- 1. Jonathan Stuelke, TWAS

VII. TREASURER’S REPORT

a. Approval of monthly report

- i. Bret Nilles presented the written Treasurer’s Report for September 2017. The September

120 2017 Treasurer's report was approved as
121 distributed on a voice vote.

122 b. The Pass the Hat fundraising activity raised \$250
123 for the Central Committee

124 c. Financial Secretary Sarah Stutler provided a
125 preliminary report on the Hall of Fame

126 i. Event was sold out with approximately 260
127 attendees.

128 ii. Net income from Hall of Fame (after
129 expenses): \$10,500.

130 VIII. COMMITTEE UPDATES (AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, DISABILITY
131 CAUCUS, LABOR CAUCUS & Stonewall)

132 a. Affirmative Action: No Report

133 i. Committee Chair Joy Mincey-Powell is
134 recovering and is anticipated to resume her
135 leadership role shortly.

136 b. Disability Caucus: Caucus Chair Catherine Crist
137 reporting

138 i. Ms. Crist presented a brief report on the
139 outcome of the first annual Accessibility,
140 Outreach, & Inclusion Conference. The
141 event was well-attended and positive
142 feedback was received.

143 ii. AIO and other Disability Caucus
144 merchandise is available for purchase at the

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Iowa Democratic Disability Caucus website at www.idpdc.org.

- iii. Ms. Crist thanked event sponsors, including elected officials.
- iv. Ms. Crist was recognized by the Assembly for the following:

- 1. Work organizing the inaugural Accessibility, Inclusion, and Outreach Conference
- 2. Being elected as Co-Chair of the National Association of Democratic Caucuses, an organization recognize by the Democratic National Committee.

c. Labor Caucus: Caucus Chair: Caucus Chair
Mike Olsen reporting

- i. Mr. Olsen spoke briefly on the scope and purpose of the Linn County Democratic Labor Caucus
- ii. Labor Caucus meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the IBEW 405 Union Hall in Cedar Rapids at 6:30 PM.

d. Stonewall: Caucus Chair Harvey Ross reporting

- i. Mr. Ross briefly reported updates regarding activities of Stonewall Caucus
- ii. Stonewall Caucus meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Market

171 Grille from 6:30 – 8:00 PM at the Mount
172 Vernon Road Hy-Vee (4035 Mt Vernon Rd
173 SE, Cedar Rapids).

174 IX. Community Outreach – ACA signup and New Tax
175 plan (Amy Adams)

176 a. Amy Adams and Cindy Garlock provided updates
177 on activities of Indivisible Iowa and community
178 outreach

179 b. The Keep Iowa Healthy Initiative and other group
180 activities, such as Letters to The Editor, were
181 discussed.

182 c. Interested persons may contact Ms. Garlock or
183 Ms. Adams.

184 X. HOLIDAY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

185 a. December 6, 2017, will be the holiday combined
186 November/December meeting of the Central
187 Committee.

188 XI. 2018 CAUCUS BREAKOUT BY IA HOUSE DISTRICT

189 a. 1st Vice Chairperson Valerie Smith provided
190 instructions to the Assembly to briefly recess and
191 convene into small groups by Iowa House District
192 to resume Precinct Caucus Planning.

193 b. The Central Committee reconvened a short time
194 following this recess.

195 XII. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 196 a. The next meeting of the Central Committee will
197 be December 6.
- 198 b. Sen. Liz Mathis is looking for volunteers to help
199 her organize healthcare forums to inform public
200 action. Sen. Mathis shared that a recent forum
201 was successful and involved informed discussion
202 among healthcare professionals, office
203 candidates, and forum guests.
- 204 c. Teresa Diers spoke briefly on upcoming events
205 she is involved with:
- 206 i. Linn County Democrats float in the CR
207 NewBo/Czech Village on Friday Oct. 27 at 7
208 PM
- 209 ii. Ms. Diers is hosting a fundraiser for Cathy
210 Glasson at the Chrome Horse on Saturday
211 December 2 at 6 PM
- 212 d. Andy Peterson and Stacey Walker jointly
213 presented a resolution request the public
214 agencies within Linn County provide implicit bias
215 training to agency staff (the full resolution is
216 attached).
- 217 i. A motion to ratify the resolution moved, was
218 seconded, and passed on a voice vote.

219 XIII. OLD BUSINESS

- 220 a. No old business was discussed.

221 XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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