

1 Draft Minutes

2 Linn County Democratic Central Committee

3 December 06, 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 DECEMBER 06, 2017, MEETING:

- 9 1. Central Committee Member Andrew Leonard was  
10 elected Treasurer of Linn County Democrats.
- 11 2. Motion to approve the Draft Minutes of the October 25  
12 2017, meeting of the Linn County Democratic Central  
13 Committee as amended was moved, seconded, and  
14 carried on a voice vote.
- 15 3. Motion to approve the October 2017 Treasurer's  
16 Report was moved, seconded, and carried on a voice  
17 vote.
- 18 4. Resignations of Charles Menge (CR36) and Pat Wolf  
19 (TCOL) were accepted by the Central Committee.
- 20 5. Shawn Caldwell was elected Alternate  
21 Committeeperson from CR22 on a voice vote.
- 22 6. Tristan Hines was elected Alternate Committeeperson  
23 from CR22 on a voice vote.

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I. CALL TO ORDER

a. The holiday combined November/December meeting of the Linn County Democratic Central Committee was held on December 06, 2017, at the Hiawatha Community Center in Hiawatha, Iowa. Chair Bret Nilles called the meeting to order at 7:16 PM, and Michael McGree, Recording Secretary, was present. A quorum was present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

a. Chair Bret Nilles led the Central Committee in a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND CANDIDATES

a. Chair Nilles welcomed elected officials in attendance.

1. IA Sen. Rob Hogg, IA Rep. Art Staed, IA Rep. Todd Taylor, IA Rep. Kirsten Running-Marquardt, IA Rep. Liz Bennett ; Ely City Councilor Kay Hale, Hiawatha City Councilor Amy Wichtendahl, Linn County Supervisor Jim Houser, Linn County Supervisor Brent Oleson, Linn County Supervisor Ben Rogers, Cedar Rapids City Councilor Dale Todd, Cedar Rapids City Councilor Ashley Vanorney

51 2. A special welcome was extended to  
52 Troy Price, Chairperson of the Iowa  
53 Democratic Party

54 b. Chair Nilles welcomed candidates for elective  
55 office in attendance.

56 i. Eric Gjerde (HD 67), Molly Donahue (HD  
57 68), Scott Foens (HD 68)

58 ii. Representatives from following campaigns  
59 briefly spoke.

60 1. John Delaney (US President), George  
61 Ramsey (IA 1<sup>st</sup> District), Abby  
62 Finkenhauer (IA 1<sup>st</sup> District), Jim Mowrer  
63 (IA Secretary of State), Nate Boulton  
64 (Governor), Fred Hubbel (Governor),  
65 John Norris (Governor)

66 c. Chair Nilles welcomed guests and first time  
67 visitors in attendance.

#### 68 IV. CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCEMENTS

69 a. Elected officials and campaign representatives  
70 reported updates and announced upcoming  
71 events.

#### 72 V. ELECTION OF TREASURER

73 a. Outgoing Treasurer Diane Peterson was  
74 presented with a Certificate of Appreciation in  
75 recognition of her service to Linn County  
76 Democrats.

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b. Nominations

i. Nominations for Treasurer were opened. The following names were placed in nomination:

- 1. Andrew Leonard
- 2. Michael Bayliss

ii. Candidates were provided an opportunity to address the Assembly. Andrew Leonard spoke briefly. Michael Bayliss was not present to speak.

c. Vote

- i. Alternate Committeepersons were seated prior to the election of Treasurer.
- ii. An election by a show of hands of Central Committee Member present was conducted. Tellers tallied the number of raised hand for each candidate.
- iii. Andrew Leonard was elected Treasurer. He assumed duties immediately.

VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT

a. Approval of minutes

i. The October 25 Draft Minutes of the Linn County Democrats Central Committee as distributed were approved on a voice vote.

b. Resignations/Nominations

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1. Resignations

a. Charles Menge (CR37), Pat Wolf (TCOL)

ii. Nominations

- 1. Shawn Caldwell (Alternate, CR22), Tristan Hines (Alternate, CR22) were nominated.
- 2. Shawn Caldwell was elected Alternate Committeeperson from CR22 on a voice vote.
- 3. Tristan Hines was elected Alternate Committeeperson from CR22 on a voice vote.

VII. TREASURER’S REPORT

a. Approval of monthly report

i. Chair Niles provided presented the September 2017 Treasurer’s Report. The report was approved as distributed on a voice vote.

b. Pass the hat

i. The Pass the Hat fundraising activity was conducted in which members were encouraged to donate to Linn County Democrat.

VIII. COMMITTEE UPDATES (AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, DISABILITY CAUCUS, LABOR & STONEWALL)

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- a. Affirmative Action Committee
  - i. No report was given.
- b. Disability Caucus: Caucus Chair Catherine Crist reporting
  - i. Linn County Democrats Disability Caucus will be moving to a new meeting location and time to be determined.
  - ii. 1<sup>st</sup> District Democrats Disability Caucus will met prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> District Central Committee meeting on 1/20/18.
- c. Labor Caucus
  - i. Mike Olsen provided a brief update regarding Activities of Labor Caucus
- d. Stonewall Caucus
  - i. Stonewall Caucus will change meeting locations in January to the Starlite Room in Cedar Rapids
  - ii. Date and time remain the same: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 6:30-8 PM.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Valerie Smith presented a brief overview of the status of off-year caucus preparations.
  - i. Approximately half of the Chair and Secretary positions have been filled.

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ii. Upcoming Caucus trainings

1. An abbreviated training will be held after the January Central Committee meeting
2. Cedar Rapids Public Library on Saturday Thursday 1/25 6-8 PM
3. Marion Public Library on Saturday 1/27 10 AM - noon
  - a. Designed for general public, not caucus leaders
4. Cedar Rapids Ladd Library, Monday 1/29 6-8 PM
5. Marion Sunday 2/4 3-5 PM

iii. Members are encouraged to visit the Linn County Democrats Facebook page for a link to a Google Form to sign up for a training. An updated list of training dates and times can be found there.

b. Various Central Committee members reported on upcoming events

X. FINAL THOUGHTS

- a. Chair Bret Nilles thanked the Assembly for coming out and showing support.
- b. He spoke about continued evidence of momentum for Democrats going into 2018 and beyond.

178 XI. ADJOURNMENT

179 a. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

DRAFT