

1 Draft Minutes

2 Linn County Democratic Central Committee

3 May 23, 2017 – 7:00 PM

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

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8 ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE MAY 24, 2018, MEETING:

- 9 1. Central Committee Member Andrew Leonard was elected Treasurer  
10 of Linn County Democrats.
- 11 2. Motion to approve the Draft Minutes of the April 24 2018 meeting of  
12 the Linn County Democratic Central Committee as amended was  
13 moved, seconded, and carried on a voice vote.
- 14 3. Motion to approve the April 2017 Treasurer's Report was moved,  
15 seconded, and carried on a voice vote.
- 16 4. Joey Zahorick (CR 34; Member) and Wendy Cooper (Alternate,  
17 TGRA) were elected to the Central Committee on a voice vote.

18 I. Call to Order

- 19 a. A regular monthly meeting of the Linn County Democratic  
20 Central Committee was held on May 23, 2018, at the Hiawatha  
21 Community Center in Hiawatha, Iowa. Chair Bret Nilles called  
22 the meeting to order at 7:04 PM, and Michael McGree,  
23 Recording Secretary, was present. A quorum was present.

24 II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

27 III. Recognition of Guests, Elected Officials, and Candidates

- 28 a. Chair Nilles welcomed elected officials in attendance

- 29 i. Iowa General Assembly
- 30 1. Sen. Rob Hogg, Sen. Liz Mathis, Rep. Staed, Rep.
- 31 Abby Finkenauer
- 32 ii. Municipal
- 33 1. Cedar Rapids Councilor Ashley Vanorney, Ely
- 34 Councilor Kay Hale
- 35 iii. Linn County
- 36 1. Supervisor Brent Oleson, Supervisor Ben Rodgers,
- 37 Supervisor Stacey Walker, County Attorney Jerry
- 38 Vander Sanden
- 39 b. Chair Niles recognized candidates for Elective Office in
- 40 attendance.
- 41 i. Tracy Ehlert (HD 20), Scott Foens (HD 68), Eric Gjerde
- 42 (HD 67), Abby Finkenaur (IA 1<sup>st</sup> District Rep.), Thomas
- 43 Heckroth (IA 1<sup>st</sup> District Rep.), George Ramsey (IA 1<sup>st</sup>
- 44 District Rep.), Courtney Rowe (IA 1<sup>st</sup> District Rep)
- 45 c. Chair Niles recognized other notable guests.
- 46 i. Amb. Swat Dandikar (Former US Director, Asian
- 47 Development Bank; Former IA legislator)
- 48 d. Candidates for office and elected official addressed the
- 49 Assembly.
- 50 IV. Secretary's Report: Co-Secretaries Laura Geary Bell & Mike McGree
- 51 a. Seating of Alternates
- 52 i. The following Alternate Committeepersons were seated
- 53 for the duration of the meeting:

54 1. Jon Fisher (CR01), Lori Martins (CR07), Helane  
55 Golden (CR14), Sunny Story (CR14); Debora  
56 Engmark (CR18), Andrew Leopold (CR19), Dale  
57 Evans (CR20), Rachel Greene (CR24), Courtney  
58 Rowe (CR25), Laura Kline (CR37); Nicholas  
59 Maybanks (CR39), Brent Oleson (MR05), Noreen  
60 Tonkin (MR06); Mary Burke (TFRA); Robert  
61 Zahorick (TFRA)

62 b. Approval of Minutes

63 i. The April 23 2018 Draft Minutes of the Linn County  
64 Democratic Central Committee were approved as  
65 amended on a voice vote.

66 c. Resignations

67 i. None

68 d. Nominations

69 i. Committeeperson

70 1. Joe Zahorick (CR34)

71 ii. Alternate

72 1. Wendy Cooper (TGRA)

73 iii. Election of nominees

74 1. The persons named above were elected to their  
75 respective offices on the Central Committee on a  
76 voice vote.

77 V. Treasurer's Report : Treasurer Andrew Leonard reporting

78 a. Approval of monthly report

79 i. The Treasurer's Report for April 2018 was approved as  
80 distributed on a voice vote.

81 ii. Cash on hand: \$38,035.42

82 b. Pass the hat

83 i. This fundraising activity generated \$291 in donations from  
84 the Assembly.

85 VI. Finance Chair: Sarah Stutler reporting

86 a. Ms. Stutler reported on planning for upcoming Linn County  
87 fundraising events.

88 VII. Committee Updates

89 a. Affirmative Action: Committee Chair Lindsey Ellickson reporting

90 i. Mrs. Ellickson reported that she continues to attend  
91 constituency caucus meetings to increase her  
92 understanding of issue and initiative of significance to  
93 these caucuses.

94 ii. Ms. Ellickson also discussed the benefits of caucus  
95 membership.

96 b. Disability Caucus: Caucus Chair Catherine Crist reporting

97 i. Ms. Crist reported on accessibility issues as they pertain  
98 to the State Convention.

99 1. She cited Linn County's Convention as a model for  
100 the state.

101 ii. Ms. Crist stated that volunteers were needed to act as  
102 Accessibility Assistant for the State Convention.

103 c. Labor Caucus: Joey Zahorick reporting

- 104 i. Labor Caucus meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at  
105 IBEW local 4015 at 5 P.
- 106 d. Veterans Caucus: Caucus Chair Kevin Techau reporting
- 107 i. Mr. Techau reported on continuing efforts to organize the  
108 Linn County Veterans Caucus as a standing constituency  
109 caucus.
- 110 e. Stonewall Caucus: Caucus Chair Harvey Ross reporting
- 111 i. Mr. Ross reported that Stonewall Caucus will meet on the  
112 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in June and July.
- 113 ii. Pridefest is coming up July 7.
- 114 iii. Mr. Ross announced he will resign as Chair of Stonewall  
115 Caucus after PrideFest.

116 VIII. New Business/Announcements

- 117 a. Primary Election June 5
- 118 i. Kevin Burgess, IDPP 1<sup>st</sup> District Organizer, reported on  
119 activities relating to the Primary election.
- 120 ii. Valerie Smith reported on absentee voting voter  
121 registration, and voter ID requirements.
- 122 b. Additional items of New Business:
- 123 i. Matthew Clay reported on an initiative to audit the State  
124 Central Committee election held at 1<sup>st</sup> District Convention.
- 125 ii. Ashley Vanorney provided event announcements and  
126 spoke about decorum in campaigns.
- 127 iii. Dale Todd spoke about City Council service and an  
128 upcoming event at the History Center on June 2.

129 IX. Old Business

130 a. 2018 Parades

131 i. Angie Spink provided updates to the schedule of  
132 upcoming parades.

133 1. The Linn County Democrats Float will be part of  
134 these parades

135 X. Adjournment

136 a. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM

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