

**Thurston County Democrats  
Executive Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, March 13, 2017**

Olympia Center, Room 205; 222 Columbia St NW; Olympia, WA 98501

**Summary**

- Decision to find a new permanent location for TCDEC meetings was made.
- Motion to appoint Sarah Boyd to fulfill Secretary duties during Angie Vega's leave of absence passed.
- Decision that LD2 PCO must be approved by the TCDEC if the precinct is in Thurston Co.
- Motion to ratify appointments of Sherri Goulet, Kevin Pestinger and Adam Peterson to the PCO Recruitment Committee. Ratified.
- Report on plans for PCO Training to be provided at next TCDEC meeting by Patrick McLaughlin and Jim Reitz.
- Motion to ratify appointment of Sandia Slaby to the Membership Recruitment Committee ratified.
- Motion to ratify appointment of Kevin Pestinger to the Finance Committee ratified.
- Adjustments to be made to the 2017 Budget after Finance Committee Meeting and approval by TCDEC members to be via email before the next TCD meeting on March 27th.
- Decision that a leader other than Chair, Katie Nelson, will be explicitly designated for all future actions, steering committees, and ad hoc committees was made.
- Decision that Sarah Boyd be designated to lead the TCD Meeting Location Steering Committee was made.
- Decision to change the locks of the burger booth and limit access to be approved by TCDEC was made.
- Decision to acquire Google Suite for 16 members was made, contingent on finding room in the budget.
- Decision to reallocate funds previously allocated to the Democrat newsletter for the 2017 budget was made.
- Discussion on whether to request funds from JZ Knight in order to have the funds needed for the Kennedy Dinner fundraiser to continue after report from Committeeman, Patrick McLaughlin on state party divestment.
- Report on success of first outreach event and plans for future events provided.
- Decision to develop a proposal for a new subcommittee to engage community members in direct political action was made. Proposal to be presented to the body in April.
- Report on plans for Burger Booth season presented to the board.
- Motion for standing rule to limit discussion to be made at next TCD meeting.

## **Meeting Detail**

Chair, Katie Nelson, acknowledged Sue Stack being present to temporarily fill the **LD2 representative vacancy**. Sue reports a permanent proxy for LD2 chair will be determined at the next LD2 meeting.

Chair, Katie Nelson, also mentioned the need for a new permanent location for the **Executive Committee meetings**. Katie reports that the union hall is no longer an option due to the loss of T Scott Brineman. Discussion to continue.

Secretary, Angie Vega, requested a two-month **leave of absence**, effective 3/14/17, to consider resignation due to the amount of time the position requires, the level of stress she has experienced, and her desire to avoid burnout. Various board members expressed their appreciation for the dedication Angie has had to the position and extended support for whatever decision she makes. Angie recommended Sarah Boyd to fulfill Secretary duties during the leave of absence. Eric Miller moved to appoint Sarah. Jessica seconded. Motion passed.

First Vice Chair, Jim Reitz, reports a **loss of 2 PCOs** due to the recent deaths of long-standing members. Representative for LD 2, Sue Stack reports LD 2 has appointed a new PCO for one of those vacancies. Discussion on whether the PCO needs to be approved by the TCD Executive Committee took place due to the confusion that Pierce County PCOs are approved by LD Executive Committees and not by the County Executive Committee. A decision was made that the PCO must be approved by the TCD Executive Committee because the precinct is in Thurston County, not Pierce County.

First Vice-Chair, Jim Reitz, presented a **new PCO Proxy form** that will be available on the TCD website.

First Vice-Chair, Jim Reitz, requested board ratification of Sherri Goulet, Kevin Pestinger and Adam Peterson being appointed to the **PCO Recruitment Committee**. Ratification was unanimous. Katie Nelson requested information on PCO training, engagement, and recruitment. Patrick McLaughlin stated that he and Jim have been working on plans for PCO training. Katie requested an update at the next meeting.

First Vice-Chair, Jim Reitz, requested board ratification of Sandia Slaby being appointed to the **Membership Recruitment Committee**. Ratification was unanimous. Eric Miller recommended Jim reach out to Florence Vincent for this committee as well because she is already involved in voter outreach through Our Revolution Thurston.

Treasurer, Nick Fediay, requested board ratification of Kevin Pestinger being appointed to the **Finance Committee**. Ratification was unanimous.

Treasurer, Nick Fediay, presented a **prospective budget for 2017** for review. Nick reported, as it stood, we would be operating with a deficit for the year. Discussion on how to reduce expenditures for the year ensued. The greatest point of concern was our printed newsletter, The Democrat, which it was decided, would be further discussed after the presentation scheduled later in the agenda. Nick requested time for another finance committee meeting prior to presenting the 2017 budget to the TCD body. A decision was made that Executive Committee members would approve the amended budget via email in order to have the budget ready for the Central Committee meeting on March 27th.

Committeewoman, Jessica Blose, presented information indicating a **perpetual breakdown in communication** among board members that is impeding progress and interrupting efforts to maintain organization. Jessica expressed concern regarding the stress level of the chair and the chair's ability to manage the current workload of the chair position. Jessica asked if there was a need for the chair to take a leave of absence in order to regain ground in other areas of life, and if not, what we need to do to ensure the communication breakdowns do not continue to happen. Discussion on the issue ensued with various board members sharing similar concerns. Katie Nelson thanked Jessica for her concern and shared that her outside stress levels will be reduced this week. Katie also expressed how difficult dealing with the Glen Morgan issues has been and asked for discussion on how to spread out the responsibility. A decision was also made to explicitly assign a designee to lead any plans for action in order to avoid the assumption that the chair is responsible for any undesignated plans for action.

Chair, Katie Nelson, requested suggestions for a designee to take the lead on the **TCD Meeting Location Steering Committee**. Sarah Boyd was designated. Katie requested further discussion continue regarding the Executive Committee Retreat and strategies to spread out the Glen Morgan issues.

LD 35 Representative, Jody Alfieri, raised concern about the **Burger Booth being accessed** and equipment being lent out by unknown persons with copies of the keys after the board decision was made to develop a contract before lending items out. A decision was made to change the locks on the burger booth and provide a very limited number of keys to the new lock. Another decision was made to start keeping better records of inventory and revisit the possibility of renting a climate controlled storage facility.

Interim-webmaster, Patrick McLaughlin, reported on the **acquisition of google suite for TCDEC**. He stated that the initial quote of \$5/year was in error. In fact it is \$5/user/year for a basic suite. Patrick quoted a \$780 yearly cost for just TCDEC members to have accounts, and \$960 for TCDEC+ a few key subcommittee members. These quotes are still lower than the cost for the Microsoft product. Concern about cost and how to make this an option that fits within the projected budget were voiced. A decision to pursue the \$960 option contingent on the ability to make room in the budget was made.

Finance Committee member, Kevin Pestinger, was invited to present **financial information on the Democrat** publication from the past two years. Kevin provided a summary of his experience in local, print advertising to support the credibility of his perspective and interpretation of the information, and performed a profit and loss analysis on the newsletter (below), noting that advertisements consisted mainly of campaign ads and only one business ad:

	2015	2016
<b>Expense</b>		
Print:	-\$7,300	-\$5,100
Postage:	-\$15,600	-\$16,000
<b>Revenue</b>		
Ads:	\$4,400	\$8,100
<b>LOSS:</b>	<b>-\$18,500</b>	<b>-\$13,000</b>

The executive committee discussed the purpose of the Democrat and how effective the use of these funds were to outreach to new members, informing established voters, and influencing swing votes. There was a general consensus that the funds could be better distributed. A decision to redistribute these funds to other areas for the current budget was made.

Treasurer, Nick Fediay, moved to suspend the rules to allow the Kennedy Dinner to be moved up on the agenda. There was no vote.

Member-at-large, Suzanne Kline, proceeded to report on the **Kennedy Dinner** and her plans/intentions for this event. Suzanne shared that she felt a lack of support from the TCDEC for events and fundraising. Suzanne stated how difficult and stressful the job was to learn, due to the lack of direction, support, and guidelines to follow, and has affected her health. Fortunately, the support of great, hardworking colunteers has made a huge difference.

Member-at-large, Suzanne Kline requested the approval of **sponsorship from JZ Knight**, stating that concerns about accusations of bigotry were mostly trumped up by Glen Morgan. Board members mentioned the divestment of the state party and that we should follow suit. Discussion was tabled pending inquiry from Patrick McLaughlin about why state divested.

TCD Member, Roger Cummings, reported on the **outreach event** filling backpacks stating that it was successful and fun. Future outreach events will be at the Thurston County Food Bank on April 15th; Well-Fed, Well-Read on April 17th; and Stamp out Hunger on May 20th.

Member-at-large, Sarah Boyd, proposed a new sub committee, and possible board position for **direct political action** due to the influx of new visitors that have attended recent meetings and left frustrated that there is nothing to get involved with. The Direct Action Committee, as proposed, will run a separate monthly meeting, similar to the TCD meetings, for members and PCOs to engage with existing activist groups that will present existing opportunities for political action, as well as having some specific action from the action committee itself. These meetings are to run as a trial basis for an added TCDEC member in the amended bylaws. A decision to fine-tune the idea was made. Discussion to continue.

Member-at-large, Sarah Boyd, presented **detailed plans for Burger Booth season**. In the interest of time, she requested TCDEC members review the information on their own and inform her of any concerns they may have. Sarah specifically requested feedback on the number of events on the calendar, the possibility of having the booth professionally cleaned up to 10 times over the course of the season, and the volunteer acknowledgment form. Board members were encouraged to give feedback through direct correspondence with Sarah.

First Vice-Chair, Jim Reitz, brought up **ending TCD meetings on time**. Jim would like to create a standing rule to limit discussion topics to 3 for and 3 against and also require the use of a microphone. Jessica Blose recommended allowing the TCD body the ability to suspend the rule during exceptional circumstances to allow additional speakers. Motion to be brought before the body at the next TCD meeting on March 27th.

Sarah Boyd moved to adjourn. Motion passed. **Meeting adjourned** at 8:20 PM.