

BEXAR COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
MEETING OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2007

The December meeting of the Bexar County Democratic Executive Committee was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Carla Vela, County Chair, who announced that a quorum was present. After the pledge of allegiance to the flag and recognition of the soldiers fighting in foreign countries, the agenda was approved with several minor corrections.

The following officials were recognized by the Chair: Judge Monica Guerrero, Denver McClendon, Larry Romo, Pater Vallecillo, Jose Gallegos, Roberto Rodriguez (elected to the River Authority), Jesse Alaniz and Belinda Shvets. After correction, the minutes of the meetings of September and October were approved as presented. Due to the election, there was no meeting in November.

Chair's Report. The Chair noted that we have been doing very well. We have had the presidential candidates come in and all of us are working very hard. Although we have come a long way in the last two years, we still have a long way to go. Our focus is to get people elected – to get people out to vote.

Due to remarks being made by those scattered throughout the audience (some without use of the microphone) and due to the Chair making rulings and statements on her microphone located next to the Secretary, the Secretary apologizes if some comments are included with the incorrect committees and also any comments may not have been audible to the Secretary.

Treasurer's Report. Fernando Contreras presented his report for December and November. During discussion Placido Salazar inquired whether salaries had been approved for certain persons. After clarification by Mr. Contreras that those funds have been allocated by the Secretary of State from Primary funds and have nothing to do with the BCDP funds. This will be a separate account that must be set up. There was also much discussion about a bank account with \$99,000. That money and the additional funds sent by the Secretary of State are allocated for 2006 Primary bills only. Carla will be going to the Commissioner's Court on December 18th to request the County accept those funds as payment in full for the 2006 Primary. After further discussion and remarks by John McConnell and Leon Hernandez, **motion** was made to accept the reports for all expenditures. The motion was amended by Peter Vallecillo to accept the Treasurer's report of the 2006 Primary funds when it is presented at the next meeting in January to be inclusive of any finances discussed. The motion carried as amended after suggestion by Mike Putnam to delete the word "audited".

Committee Reports.

1. Special Events/Fundraising – Ralph Galvan reported that the fundraising event, Salute to Judges, did not produce as much money as we hoped. We made \$755.00. This very nice function was a learning experience and it will be an annual event.

2. Precinct Chair Recruitment – Mark Camaan reported four meetings of the Committee. Training will begin as soon as possible after the filing deadline of January 2. Most of the precinct chair applicants are unopposed so instead of waiting to assume office we want all incoming precinct chairs to be immediately appointed as precinct coordinators and invited to take part in training sessions. There will be at least three training sessions – two of which to be held before the March primary. Mr. Camaan then made the following three part **motion** seconded and approved as indicated: a) After January 2, new unopposed applicants for precinct chair should be appointed by the BCDP chair as precinct coordinators and invited to take part in training sessions. Seconded and carried. b) That training sessions begin in January and that \$100 be allocated for rental of facilities for this purpose. Carried. c) That Voter Activation Network (VAN) training take place as part of the CEC May meeting. Carried.

There followed a discussion between Angie Garcia, Nick Pena, John McConnell and Carla Vela. Whether this related to the preceding committee or the following committee is unknown. Finally on **motion** by John McConnell, seconded by Angie Garcia, that because of a misunderstanding the subject should be tabled until the next meeting.

3. Campaign Committee – Ian Straus presented a two page report including a meeting with State Representative Mike Villarreal and Gina Castaneda, political director for US Rep. Ciro Rodriguez. If we want elected officials to bet their futures on close cooperation with the Party's general election campaign, the campaign must have a paid fulltime campaign manager from July until the election. The second page of the report dated October 2, 2007 was a proposed Bexar County campaign budget and fund raising goals for 2008. Report was accepted and a motion to approve the Campaign Budget and hiring a Campaign Manager was approved.

4. Primary – Recommendation re Joint vs. Separate Primary – John Courage presented this question. There was extensive debate. After closing debate, there was a division of the house. Following further discussion John Courage presented two **motions** to be voted on – that the CEC agrees to a joint primary and that Carla Vela is authorized to enter into an agreement concerning this matter. There was a second and additional clarification by Peter Vallecillo, Carla Vela, Nick Pena and Karl amRhein. After insertion of a comment by Odell Garcia that we are all Democrats, Mr. Garcia stated that he and his wife will donate two computers. The vote was 35 to 26 in favor of a joint primary. The second **motion** concerned whether the CEC must approve paying the poll watchers. Zada True-Courage asked if this expense is out of the Primary budget, to which Carla answered that it can't be. We have to decide where the money is coming from. Thereafter, the motion carried.

5. Partner Program – John Courage reported receipt of \$3,000 during the last reporting period.

6. Budget & Finance – Zada True-Courage announced that the cost for poll watchers will come out of the Party budget. We will need a budget and will have to bring the cost back to the CEC in January for approval. She added that she and Fernando are both concerned about how much we are going to have left.

7. Rules (Motion to set up ad hoc subcommittees for each Senatorial District to meet to pair precincts for delegates to the State Convention) – Zada True-Courage stated that the Rules Committee met on November 19 and November 26. The members are Ian Straus, Dick Waits, Nancy Timmer-Fromment and Larry Meads. The Committee stated that the following needs to be done: a) Select a Temporary Chair for the Senatorial District Conventions. b) At the January meeting the Temporary Chair shall provide a report including the reserved Convention location and time, the names of the Temporary Secretary and Temporary Chairs of Nominations, Resolution, Credentials, Platform, Rules & Procedures Committees. c) A meeting for the Pairing of Precincts is scheduled for Saturday December 15th from 10:00m. to 2:00 p.m. Committee Report in the CEC Meeting handout packet included a proposal to add these requirements to the BCDP Continuing Rules.

8. Community Outreach – Ruth Stewart asked that all democratic clubs sign up to select a month to bring donations to Family Assistance Center at BAMC. She made a motion that the Bexar County Democratic Party CEC sign up for January. The motion carried.

SDEC Reports

1. Madeleine Dewar, SDEC. 26 Representative presented two Resolutions authored by two groups to Place as Referenda on the 2008 Texas Democratic Party Primary Ballot. One was on the issue of the Conflict in Iraq. The Resolution asks: “Do you believe that President George W. Bush and the US Congress, in support of our men and women serving in the Armed Forces, should end the occupation of Iraq and plan for the immediate withdrawal of all United States forces?” The other addressed Universal Healthcare and reads: “The US Congress should establish a universal health insurance program of publically financed and privately delivered health care as an improved and expanded Medicare for all Americans, covering all medically necessary services by the physician of their choice, without any co-pays or deductibles.”

2. John Courage presented a Public Campaign Financing Resolution providing that the Texas Democratic Party require enactment of provisions for publicly financed elections to be enacted to promote the compelling interests of democracy in Texas and to this end that the Texas State Democratic Party shall include on the March 5th Primary ballot the following question: “Should the State of Texas during the next session of the Texas State Legislature enact a law and/or pass legislation providing for a constitutional amendment, which would establish a publicly financed elections system in Texas?”

Zada True-Courage moved approval of the above three resolutions. The **motion** was seconded and passed without further discussion.

Unfinished Business: Vote on Rules changes presented in July concerning establishment of a Primary Committee with four members plus the Chair. There is need for expansion and in July it was recommended that this be accomplished. In July Mr. McConnell pointed out that we already have a Primary Committee established but the Committee failed since it was not allowed to do its duty Both Mr. McConnell and Mr. Contreras took the required training two years ago. The report of the Rules Committee as a whole was reaffirmed tonight.

At 8:45 p.m. the group recessed to allow Precinct Chairs from Commissioner’s Precinct Three to elect a new Deputy Chair. There were two applicants – Peter Vallecillo and Jamie Lewis, each of whom spoke briefly. John McConnell objected to manner of voting since a quorum is not present. In spite of his objection a vote was called and Jamie Lewis was elected.

At 9.05 pm the assembly recessed into Senatorial Districts to elect the Senate District Representative and Temporary Chair for the March Senatorial Convention. The following were elected:

Senatorial District 19 - Roman (Nick) Pena
Senatorial District 21 - Bryan Gerard

Senatorial District 25 – Ian Straus
Senatorial District 26 – Angie Garcia

After several announcements (including collection of \$217.15 tonight) Senate Candidate Ray McMurray from Corpus Christi spoke briefly. There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. Humble, Secretary