

BEXAR COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
MEETING OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2008

Due to the illness of Carla Vela, County Chair, the meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Ian Straus, deputy chair. A quorum was not present. Following the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for our fallen comrades, especially those in Iraq and Afghanistan, the meeting continued.

Brent de la Paz, who is running for County Chair, was the only announced candidate present. Mr. Trent Cheyney, Precinct 2041, asked for an opportunity to meet the individual who has filed against him in the primary. He did not know her name, but the precinct list identifies her as Barbara Bustos.

Treasurer's Report. Mr. Fernando Contreras presented his report which indicates an operating fund balance of \$19,057.23 on January 31, 2008. Bryan Gerard questioned one error in the report. Mr. Contreras begged indulgence for the mistake, which will be corrected. After clarification by Mr. Contreras, the report was accepted as written.

Committee Reports:

1. Special Events/Fundraising. Lila Aguirre stated that the 2nd Annual Bragging Breakfast is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., Saturday, February 23, 2008. The location is La Hacienda Santa Maria, 2121 North St. Mary's Street, across from the Enchilada Warehouse. The cost is \$15.00. Lila asked for written, single-page nominations to be mailed to the Special Events Committee by February 12, 2008.
2. Precinct Chair Recruitment. Mark Camann was late in arriving, and the report was made by Madeleine Dewar. The first session of precinct chair training is scheduled for Saturday, February 9th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at St. Mary's University AT&T Center. The next training session will be on February 23rd, also at St. Mary's AT&T Center. We do not need to wait for a quorum.
3. Campaign Committee. Ian Straus reported that the most significant event on the Campaign Committee agenda is to advertise for a campaign manager. The other significant thing we did was to find out how to raise the \$198,000 campaign budget the CEC approved last month.
4. Communications Committee. Madeleine Dewar reported that we now have a functioning committee. They have had two meetings, and another is scheduled for tomorrow night (February 6). They are actually working and expect to have a newsletter ready in April.
5. Primary Committee. John Courage announced that the primary staff visited with Jackie Callanen, who went through the testing process with them and made sure the machines were functioning properly at that time. We reviewed the budget and expenditures. There is a balance of \$210,825.63 in the Primary Account. For explanation of what all the checks are for, see the attached Primary Account.

We need to complete the packets for Election Day. We had hoped to have it done at an earlier date, but we are waiting for information from the Texas Democratic Party. A list of judges has been approved. We hope there will be Democratic judges at all polling sites. We know that in the past there have been problems. If anyone knows where a polling site has had a problem, we ask that you let us know by February 15th, and we will have poll watchers there. We have also ordered "Democrats Vote Here" signs from a union printer.

6. Partner Program. The initiator of the program, John Courage informed the group that we need a goal of 1,000 people to each donate \$10.00 per month in order for the Party to be self-sustaining.
7. Budget & Finance. Zada True-Courage named the members of the committee, which included the Treasurer, Fernando Contreras. She stated that we have over \$20,000 and we would like to put \$10,000 of that aside for the Campaign Committee. Mr. Contreras stated that the most important thing we do over the two-year term is this Primary. We have done very well with the budget, and we have people who are very comfortable that the money is being spent for the Party. The best way we can get ourselves some publicity is to spend that money. After looking at the budget items and expenditures, the Treasurer stated his belief that if we have a four-month \$2,500-per-month set-aside, we can use the excess for the vote. We will get back \$20,000 in the next six months, and the Party will get the publicity it hasn't had for the past few years. He added that he hopes the group supports this proposal.
8. Rules Committee. Zada True-Courage reported the most important thing this month was planning for the training on February 23rd, at which time we are actually going to do a mock precinct convention. This will be in the afternoon after the Bragging Breakfast.
9. Community Outreach. Ruth Stewart thanked everyone for their donations to the Soldiers & Families Assistance Center at Brooke Army Medical Center by various clubs and the local CEC on behalf of the Bexar County Democratic Party. A particularly successful donation was the basket of hotel-sized toiletries. In reporting on the Naturalization Process, Ms. Stewart stated her understanding that we have the best District Director for Immigration in the country.

SDEC Reports. There were no reports from the Senatorial Districts.

Unfinished Business. Ian Straus reported that when Zada True-Courage called the Northeast Service Center last fall to schedule the meeting of Senatorial District 25 on March 29, she was told, "We no longer allow political parties to meet at the Northeast Service Center." She was referred to the City Attorney, who essentially stated that state law says if they give us the facility, they give it free, but he couldn't say whether or not they are required to give us the facility.

New Business.

1. A Resolution to make public facilities available for Senatorial District Conventions was approved for inclusion in the packets for the Precinct Conventions.
2. A reminder was given to elect people to the Nominations and Resolutions Committees who will pledge to carry through on their Committee commitment and will work with other Bexar County people to improve joint influence.

Announcements.

1. High Schol Project—Madeleine Dewar.
2. Office Communications Committee Volunteers—Madeleine Dewar.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. Humble, Secretary