

BEXAR COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2010

The monthly meeting of the Bexar County Democratic Party Executive Committee was scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 7, 2010 at Firefighters' Hall, 8925 West IH-10. When the undersigned acting secretary arrived at the meeting location at approximately 5:35 p.m. the hall was crowded, the candidates were lining up for the purpose of drawing for a place on the ballot and the call to order by the interim county chairman, Roberto Flores, and the opening ceremonies were being conducted.

After completion of the scheduled drawing at approximately 6:00 p.m., there was a period of fellowship and "mixing" of the individuals present, with candidates being congratulated (some when they were fortunate enough to be placed first on the ballot). The candidates and others were enjoying the food and drinks which had been provided while waiting for the arrival of more precinct chairs until the announced time of 7:00 p.m. which was the time given in the announcement which had been mailed to the precinct chairs last week.

At 7:00 p.m. Roberto Flores, again called the meeting to order and announced that we are now at Section III, subparagraph B Confirming pairing of precincts for 2010 Primary based on the 2008 Primary. Unfortunately the sound equipment in the Hall was inadequate and the secretary was seated behind the speaker whose microphone was directed at the audience, making it difficult to hear what was being said or questions that were asked. Apologies are offered for any errors or inaccuracies in the record.

Ian Straus moved that the pairing of precincts in the senatorial district conventions be the same as they were in 2008. He stated the reason is there has not been any redistricting and therefore the numbers are the same. The motion was seconded by Bob Miller. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

As a point of information John Courage stated that subparagraph C on the agenda refers to Senatorial District Conventions and the election of temporary chairs of those conventions. He moved that this item be placed at the end of the meeting under New Business in paragraph VIII. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

VI. Reports

A. County Chair's Report. Roberto Flores made a lengthy report, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit A. He first described problems confronting the BCDP at the time of his election as Interim Chair. He acknowledged that he has erred in some of his decisions and he agrees that he has taken actions and made decisions in possible violation of State law, and which should have been cleared by the CEC prior to his taking such actions. He agreed that he was in error when he scheduled tonight's drawing, not realizing that the drawing is a statutory function of the CEC and the notice sent to the precinct chairs should have clearly stated the time and purpose of the meeting. Referring to a letter he received from an attorney representing several local Democrats, he stated that he has agreed to meet with these individuals to discuss the actions he has taken and the reasons for his actions and decisions. Regarding the withdrawal by the erstwhile treasurer of \$202,000 from one bank account as well as causing another account to be overdrawn by \$675, Mr. Flores described steps which he and former Chair Carla Vela took on December 16 in freezing these accounts. He has recently learned that the San Antonio Police Department has subpoenaed all bank records. A formal complaint has been filed with the SA Police Department's White Collar Crimes Division.

Charlie Urbina Jones, attorney for the suspect, has returned a box of records and documents formerly in possession of his client, as well as keys to the post office box of the BCDP. Mr. Flores has sought help from Tom Jepson, Mimi Moffatt and Jamie Lewis in organizing these documents and entering them into the computer. An independent audit of the finances of the BCDP is being conducted and both the Executive Council and the Budget & Finance Committee have recommended the removal of Dwayne Adams as treasurer and the election of a new treasurer. Mr. Flores sought counsel from the State Democratic Party regarding requirements of the Texas Ethics Commission and the need to appoint a new Campaign Treasurer. Finally, Mr. Flores reported that he has asked John Courage to recruit members for the 2010 Primary Committee. A vote of approval of this Committee will conducted at the end of this report. A new location is being sought for BCDP headquarters. Mr. Flores ended by enumerating his goals to complete an audit, establish fiscal policies and controls, to elect a new treasurer and to help the party get out of debt. In conclusion Mr. Flores quoted Helen Keller, "Together, we can make a difference."

John Courage moved for approval of the Chair's Report. The motion was seconded and passed with one abstention. (Nancy Garcia Pct 2059).

VI. Reports

A1. Approval of 2010 Primary Committee. John Courage reported that the Primary Committee which had been in place in past primaries has now been reinstated in accordance with our Rules. Roberto Flores is the Primary Committee Chair and John Courage was asked by Roberto Flores to serve as Co-Chair. The following committee members represent two individuals from each commissioner's precinct, with Primary Manager Cheryl Novak as a non-voting member.

Mary Ann Ramos – Precinct 1 Chris Ramirez – Precinct 2 Connie DeLuna - Precinct 3 Elizabeth Keith – Precinct 4
Melanie Aranda – Precinct 1 Darby Riley – Precinct 2 John Courage – Precinct 3 Richard Barber – Precinct 4

John Courage then made a motion to accept the composition of the 2010 Primary Committee as presented. The motion was seconded by Jamie Lewis. During discussion, several people questioned the make-up of the Primary Committee. In answer to this question, John stated that three members are from 2008 and five are not. Motion carried.

Co-Chair John Courage continued with 2010 Primary Committee report. The first meeting on December 29 was an introductory meeting. The members were Roberto Flores, Mary Ann Ramos, Cheryl Novak, John Courage, Chris Ramirez, Elizabeth Keith and Connie DeLuna. Cheryl Novak presented a 2010 Primary report which was a quick overview of what had been going on. The Staff authorized by the previous Chair are Primary Manager Cheryl Novak, Rosemary De Hoyos, Albert Eng and George Ramos who have been working since the beginning of December. Primary Manager Cheryl Novak presented the Committee with a "Calendar of Tasks" created by the Secretary of State. One was to be sure that we have the drawing that had to be done by tomorrow so it was scheduled for tonight. The Primary Manager met with the Bexar County Board of Elections and agreed to allow the Board of Elections to receive and be accountable for all Primary funds received from the State, with the exception of \$50,000. It is believed that the \$50,000 and the Democratic candidates' filing fees should be adequate to operate the Primary. This agreement must be approved by the CEC.

Following a lengthy discussion with many questions and explanations of actions taken by the Primary Committee, John Courage announced that the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for January 14th at the SAAPAC office on San Pedro. He then moved for approval of both the report and the members of the 2010 Primary Committee.

Questions were asked by Placido Salazar as well as Bob Miller regarding the matter of bonding or protection for anyone handling money – whether as part of the motion John Courage is asking that bonding be required of the treasurer and other people. John stated that this was the recommendation of the County Chair who made it part of the agenda. Anyone handling funds must have a background check and anyone who cannot be bonded cannot be a signatory on the account.

Bob Miller moved to amend the motion to require that signatories on the bank accounts for the Primary be bonded. The motion was seconded. Voting on the amendment first, the amendment passed with one person (Sterling Camp) opposing the amendment.

The group then voted on John Courage's motion to accept the report, to accept the Committee and to recommend bonding. The motion was seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed. Sterling Camp opposed the motion.

B. Treasurer's Report. A report of Combined Budget & Finance Committee and Treasurer's Report by Frank McDonald, Chair of the Budget & Finance Committee is identified as Exhibit B and attached to the record. The Committee recommends recall of Dwayne Adams as treasurer. After reviewing resume of Tom Jepson, the Committee recommends his election to serve out the remainder of Dwayne Adams' term. Mr. Jepson stated that recently he was asked by Roberto Flores if he knew anyone who might want to run for Treasurer, and Mr. Jepson answered that he would do it.

There was discussion of a report which must be made to the Ethics Commission for the last half of the year. Mr. Jepson stated that if elected he will attempt to make the report by the scheduled time although he may have to amend it.

Placido Salazar made a motion that Tom Jepson be elected as interim Treasurer. There was discussion that the former treasurer must first be recalled. Ian Straus called attention to the report of the Executive Council on December 17, 2009 wherein it was pointed out that removal of Dwayne Adams must be taken up by the CEC.

C. Executive Council Report.

1. Recommendation to recall Dwayne Adams as Treasurer.

Ian Straus called attention to the report of the Executive Council on December 17, 2009 wherein it was pointed out that removal of Dwayne Adams must be taken up by the CEC. Ian Straus then made a motion that we suspend the Rules and move immediately to remove Dwayne Adams as Treasurer. There was no discussion on suspending the Rules and the motion passed. A motion then made to remove Dwayne Adams as Treasurer was seconded and passed unanimously.

Placido Salazar made a motion that Tom Jepson be appointed as interim Treasurer. There was no discussion. The motion was seconded and passed.

D. Committee Reports

1. Budget & Finance Committee – Frank McDonald made a combined report attached as Exhibit B. After a brief discussion, motion was made by John Courage to accept the report of the Budget & Finance Committee. Motion passed.

2. Precinct Recruitment Committee – Mark Camaan's report attached as Exhibit D outlines the rules governing the procedure for filing for precinct chair. Applications are now being taken for precincts that will be vacant at the beginning of the 2010-2012 term, which begins on May 3. It has not been possible to locate two precinct chairs who have moved and for whom we have no valid phone numbers. The Committee recommends they be deemed ineligible to serve and that they be removed from the precinct chair list. These individuals are Leslie Reyes (Pct 1036) and Susan Stroman (Pct 3076). John Courage recommended that this matter be referred back to the Committee to try and find information that they no longer live in the precinct before voting to remove them.

VII. Unfinished Business. Any unfinished business has been discussed in the above reports.

VIII. New Business

A. Nominations and Election of New Treasurer. Tom Jepson was elected interim Treasurer.

B. Approval of Chair's Opening of New Operations Account at Frost Bank. Motion was made to approve action by Roberto Flores in opening an account at Frost National Bank. There was no discussion and motion passed.

C. Resolution approving number and names of signatories on new Operations Account. Two names were suggested Nancy Froment and Roberto Flores. According to the Bylaws there can be three people – the Chair, the Treasurer, and the Secretary. Since the Primary Manager is a signatory on the Primary Account, John Courage moved that we insure that any signatory on any account be bonded. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

D. Approval of Agreement with Bexar County Elections Department regarding state monies received for 2010 Primary. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Chair's agreement with the County Elections Department to turn over to the County all funds received from the Secretary of State to fund the 2010 Primary Election with the exception of \$50,000 to be used for our expenses. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

E. Approval to lease or rent space for BCDP Primary Headquarters. Passed.

F. Discussion and appropriate action on retaining attorney to pursue civil action regarding missing funds. It was suggested that any kind of agreement reached should be on a contingency basis, and this is usually 30-33%. Bob Miller pointed out this is a civil issue. The criminal issue is a separate matter that is out of our hands. Ian Straus made a motion to end debate due to the fact that the meeting must end in twenty-two more minutes. The motion passed. Motion was made to retain an attorney. With no further discussion, the motion passed. Four individuals opposed the motion.

G. Discussion & appropriate action on retaining legal counsel to advise BCDF/County Chair during interim period. John Courage moved that any attorney we hire shall be hired on a contingency basis. The motion was seconded. During discussion inquiry was made as to whether the State could provide an attorney. The Chair stated he made a call to the State and asked for an attorney and his call was not returned. Bob Miller commented that since attorney's fees can be monstrous, he would like to amend the motion to set a limit of \$1,000 in authorizing an attorney for the interim Chair. With no further discussion, the motion passed.

H. Election of District Committee members (temporary chairs of senatorial district conventions). The group broke into senatorial districts and elected the following temporary chairs.

1. Senatorial District 21 – Rosemary Leonard.
2. Senatorial District 25 – Ian Straus.
3. Senatorial District 26 – Joshua Bailey.

IX. Announcements. Mark Camaan announced that the following people whose names should be added to the minutes of December 15 were unanimously elected to fill vacancies. There were no abstentions.

Mildred Hilbrich (1037), Michael Sanchez (1060), Aurora Garcia (1086), Norma Atkinson (2072), Beverly Wong (3012), Celeste Tidwell (3085), George Ramos (3109), Dante Small (3112), David Coffman (3120), Michael Nash (3131), Mary Sandoval-Ayala (4027), Pauline Rubio (4046), Devana Bonner (4132), David Whipple (4147), Ruby May Krebs (4148), Jose Macias (4168).

X. Adjournment There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jane M. Humble,
Acting Secretary