

Jefferson County Democrats
07-25-17 Final Membership Meeting Minutes
Submitted by: Julia Cochrane and Celeste Bennett on August 18, 2017

In the absence of a Recording Secretary, Marty Gilmore sought a volunteer to take minutes. Julia Cochrane volunteered.

The program portion of the meeting was called to order at 6:10 by Chair Marty Gilmore.

Marty announced that Dylan Cate, of WA State Dems, had to cancel presentation on Summer of Canvass, due to his being out in the field canvassing.

Phil Johnson congratulated scholarship winners AElfhild Wiklund and Rian Plastow, both of whom were present. Each scholarship recipient briefly addressed the body.

Hospital Commissioner candidates Bernard Donanberg and Cheri Van Hoover were each given 5 minutes to address the body. Candidate Bruce McComas was unable to attend due to an important family event.

A recess was taken.

Marty Gilmore called the business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda:

Diane Jones requests addition of item to agenda: Code of Ethics.

David Johnson moves to place Code of Ethics item at end of agenda.

M/S/C.

Motion to add new business item to the agenda at the end. Motion carries.

David Johnson moves to approve the agenda. **M/S/C.**

Adoption of Minutes from June 20, 2017.

Deborah Pedersen requests correction of her name's spelling.

Member moves to adopt minutes as corrected. **M/S/C.**

Election - Recording Secretary

Nominations for Recording Secretary: Julia Cochrane was nominated by Lauri Chambers. Melinda Bryden self-nominated. Speakers were heard for both candidates. **Julia Cochrane was elected, 54-42.**

Volunteer requests were made:

- County Fair booth – August 11, 12, 13
- Fish Feast – August 27th

Resolutions:

Amendments made prior to voting are in bold.

1. Linda Sutton read the Therefore clauses of the resolution “Restrict first use of nuclear weapons and require congressional approval.” David Tonkin made a friendly amendment to change the word “platform” to the word “plank” in line 5, and in line 47, to amend to read “Foreign Affairs plank of the Party platform.” Linda Sutton accepted the friendly amendment. It was moved and seconded to adopt this resolution. **M/S/C.**

1

2 Restrict First Use of Nuclear Weapons and Require Congressional Approval

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4

5 WHEREAS the foreign policy **plank** (approved *David Tonkin*) ~~platform~~ of the Washington State Democratic Party platform begins: “We

6 must not conduct preemptive war and make diplomacy and nonviolent conflict resolution the
7 primary organizing principle of foreign policy”;

8

9 WHEREAS the Constitution of the United States, Article 1, Section 8 states: “Congress shall
10 have the power... to declare War...”;

11

12 WHEREAS the President currently has sole authority to launch a first-use nuclear strike, a policy
13 that increases the risk of nuclear war and is vulnerable to accidents and miscommunication;

14

15 WHEREAS there are over 15,000 nuclear weapons globally, most possessed by the United
16 States and Russia, many significantly more destructive than those used by the U.S. in Hiroshima and 17
Nagasaki;

18

19 WHEREAS use and detonation of even a small number of nuclear weapons would have
20 catastrophic human, environmental, and economic consequences globally;

21

22 WHEREAS Jefferson County's proximity to Seattle as well as major military installations puts it
23 at great risk for any nuclear strike in the Northwest;

24

25 President Donald Trump has called for a major buildup of nuclear weapons, which
26 will incite other countries to do the same and dramatically increase the risks of nuclear war; and
27

28 WHEREAS the United States is on track to spend \$1 trillion over the next 30 years to upgrade its
29 nuclear arsenal.

30

31 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Democrats condemn President
32 Trump's reckless agenda that makes us targets of nuclear war

33

34 THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Jefferson County Democrats support the
35 Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons ACT of 2017 (H.R. 669 and S. 200) that would
36 prevent the President from unilaterally launching a nuclear first strike without a Congressional
37 Declaration of War Authorization;

38

39 THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Democrats call on our
40 legislators, Representative Kilmer and Senators Murray and Cantwell, to publicly reject
41 President Trump's nuclear agenda and to support H.R. 669 and S. 200 by co-sponsoring this
42 legislation; and

43

44 THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Democrats urge the
45 Washington State Democratic Party to call on the Washington State Congressional delegation to
46 co-sponsor H.R. 669/S. 200 and ask that this issue be considered as an addition to the ~~Foreign Affairs~~
47 Foreign Affairs **plank of the Party** platform.

48

49 Submitted to the Jefferson County Democrats on June 4, 2017 by

50

51 Linda Sutton, lindasutton.wa@gmail.com, 360-643-3363

52

53 Linda Brewster, lindajbrewster@msn.com, 360-774-6160

54

55 Leonard Mermud, lvrjm@olympus.net, 360-379-1881

56

57 Ryan McAllister, rtmcallister@yahoo.com, 360 301-1795

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Signed by Submitter _____ Date: _____

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63 Signed by Submitter _____ Date: _____

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66 Signed by Submitter _____ Date: _____

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69 Signed by Submitter _____ Date: _____

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2. Patricia Walat read the Therefore clause of the resolution “Eliminate superdelegates from any role at the Democratic National Convention.” Patricia Walat moved to adopt the resolution. **David Tonkin moved to amend Line 26 to correct the subsection 4(g) to subsection 4(h). Patricia Walat accepted David Tonkin’s motion as a friendly amendment. David Johnson moved to add “and not replace it with a similar article giving similar powers to another body” at the end of Line 33.** Patricia Walat accepted David Johnson’s motion as a friendly amendment. **M/S/C.**

- **Eliminating Superdelegates from any role at the Democratic National Convention**

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2 **Eliminate** Superdelegates From Any Role
3 at the Democratic National Convention

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6 WHEREAS the role of superdelegates (i.e. unpledged delegates who are considered party leaders
7 not chosen by the voters to be delegates to the Democratic National Convention) is undemocratic
8 because as of 2016 the roughly 720 superdelegates represent 15% of the overall delegate count
9 (about 4,770) and are 30% of the majority needed to win the nomination (2383 currently);

10

11 WHEREAS the superdelegates are not representative of the Democratic Party because 6 in 10
12 are men, close to 2/3 are white, and their average age is around 60;

13

14 WHEREAS these delegates can swing the selection of a presidential nominee to whomever they
15 want with no regard to the choice of the voters and their choice in the primary by publically
16 supporting a candidate during the campaign and by voting for the candidate of their choice on the
17 first ballot at the Democratic National Convention;

18

19 WHEREAS the Democratic Party created superdelegates in 1982 to insure that a popular
20 presidential candidate that the Party leaders consider unelectable does not become the nominee;

21

22 WHEREAS the results of elections during presidential election years over the last 50 years prove
23 that the outcomes are unrelated to whether the nominee was chosen primarily by party insiders or
24 voters; and

25

26 WHEREAS Article 2, sub-section 4(g) (h) of the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United
27 States establishes and defines the roles of superdelegates;

28

29 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Jefferson County Democrats, in order to make
30 presidential nominations more democratic, call on the Washington State Democratic Party to
31 instruct its representatives on the Democratic National Committee, the DNC, to take the
32 appropriate steps to eliminate the role of superdelegates by deleting Article 2, sub-section 4 (h)
33 of the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States **and not replace it with a similar article giving it
similar powers to another body.**

34

35 Submitted to the Jefferson County Democrats on 6-4-2017 by Patricia Walat,
36 trishwalat1@gmail.com, 206-850-5835.

37

38

39

40 Signed by Submitter _____ Date: _____

**3. Norm Norton read the Therefore clause of the resolution
“Democratic Presidential Race in 2020.” Norm Norton moved to
amend that the words “Hillary Clinton” be added after “past
candidates” in line 11. Seconded. Discussion. Connie Gallant moved
to amend Norm Norton’s amendment with the addition of the words
“and Bernie Sanders” after “Hillary Clinton.” The amendment to
amend Norm’s amendment M/S/C. Norm’s amendment M/S/F.
Resolution M/S/F. (Resolution is defeated.)**

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2

Democratic Presidential Race in 2020

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5 WHEREAS, there is a significant rift within the Democratic Party;

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7 WHEREAS, the rift is connected in part to perceived violations of fair treatment of candidates
8 for President during the Primary election by the Democratic National Committee; and

9

10 WHEREAS, the rift would be exacerbated by additional runs for President by *past candidates*
11 **Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders** during the race in 2020;

12

13 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Jefferson County Democrats call on Martin Gilmore,
14 Chair of the Jefferson County Democrats, to write a letter from the Jefferson County Democrats
15 thanking Hillary Clinton for her efforts to find new candidates to run for public office and to ask
16 her to continue this hunt by seeking a newer generation of presidential candidates that can
17 potentially re-empower the National Democratic Party as a Party of the People;

18

19 Submitted to the Jefferson County Democrats on 6-3-2017 by Norm Norton,
20 norm@eaglemount.com.

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23 Signed by Submitter _____ Date: _____

4. Mike Regan read the Therefore clauses of the resolution “Creating Unity within the Democratic Party.” **M/S/C. Resolution passed.**

1 Resolution on Creating Unity Within the Democratic Party

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3 WHEREAS there is a significant rift within the Democratic Party;

4

5 WHEREAS the rift is connected in part to perceived violations of fair treatment of candidates for
6 President during the Primary election by the Democratic National Committee;

7

8 WHEREAS a continuation of silence on the past perceived unfair treatment adds to this rift;

9

10 WHEREAS the effectiveness of the Democratic Party to get Democratic Candidates elected is
11 put at risk by this rift;

12

13 WHEREAS there will be significant consequences should the Republicans increase their hold on
14 elected offices; and

15

16 WHEREAS truth and reconciliation which can heal a nation is needed now to heal a party;

17

18 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Democrats call on Tina Podolowski,
19 the Chair of Washington State Democratic Party, to call a special meeting of the Washington
20 State Democratic Party in order to create and adopt a resolution thanking the national party for
21 recognizing that there were significant problems in the behavior of the Party in the past,
22 understanding the need for Party Unity, creating a Commission to start addressing the need for
23 reform, and asking the Commission—as its first step—to provide formal apologies to all
24 democratic party members throughout the country and to develop procedures to prevent such
25 behaviors in the future; and

26

27 THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Democrats send a copy
28 of this resolution to the Unity Reform Commission by August 1st, 2017.

29

30 Submitted to the Jefferson County Democrats on 6-03-2017 by Michael Regan,
31 staroid@wavecable.com.

32

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34 Signed by Submitter _____ Date: _____

5. David Johnson moved to amend a previously adopted resolution “Emergency Supply of Medication.” The amendment was to change

Line 26 and Line 33, changing the words from “Schedule IV” to “Opioids' unless certified by a doctor as necessary medication during an emergency.” **M/S/C.** Amendment to previously passed resolution passed.

For the good of the order.

M/S/C that we have a general meeting in August.

The Chair attempted to regain order, as a disturbance broke out in the back of the room and outside the room.

Move to adjourn. **M/S/C.** Adjourned at 8:40.