

Democratic Party of Jefferson County Meeting

February 4, 2010

Call to Order at 7:03 p.m.

Officer's Reports

- Election of Party Secretary
 - ✓ Jim Schroeder explained that Fran Vandre stepped down from her position as secretary after the November 2010 meeting due to family issues. The executive board then nominated Laura Payne as interim Secretary. Frank Urban made a motioned to elect Laura as the new secretary. Joan Rheineck second the motion. Motion passed.

- Treasurer
 - ✓ Balance as of 2/3/10 is \$2,861.12
 - ✓ The headquarters rent through 2010 was paid (\$1968.00).

Committee Reports

- Candidate Recruitment Status
- Jim Schroeder reported on candidate recruitment status.
- Presidents Day Dinner Status
 - ✓ Gayle Krek stated that they did not have many items for the silent auction yet. She asked everyone to donate an item or suggest a business that may be willing to donate and item. She passed around a sheet for everyone to write down how they could contribute to the silent auction.
 - ✓ Anne Johnson stated that she tried very hard to recruit Tom Barrett to speak at the dinner. Anne wrote a letter to Tom petitioning him to come. Everyone signed the letter.

- Letters to the Editor (LTE) Campaign
 - ✓ Anne Johnson would like to organize the party to write weekly letters about all the good things the democrats are currently doing in office.
 - ✓ Lee Dodge is organizing this effort.
 - ✓ Anne Johnson would like to see at least one letter written each week. At every monthly meeting, Lee will have a sign up sheet and ask people to commit to writing a letter one week that month.
 - ✓ If you sign up to write a LTE, the party will give you the email addresses to all the Jefferson County newspapers including Waterloo, Cambridge/Deerfield, Watertown, Lake Mills, and the Daily Union. Lee Dodge should be cc'd when emailing a LTE for archiving.

- ✓ Jake Hajdu, Organizing Director for the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, will give you talking points on any of our democratic leaders including: Andy, Senator Russ Feingold, President Obama, etc.
- ✓ You can also choose to write on a subject of your own choosing.

New Business

- Next month's speaker will be Peter Rickman, chair of the Democratic Party of the 2nd Congressional District.
- Members discussed their recent experience at a Tea Party Rally in Jefferson County. Approximately 35 people attended. The tea baggers didn't want the U.S. military in Haiti and made derogatory remarks about gays/lesbians, among other things.

Guest Speaker

- **Steve Montoya, Feingold Campaign Organizer**
 - ✓ Steve discussed the recent Supreme Court decision regarding campaign finance.
 - ✓ McCain/Feingold Campaign Finance Reform Law combats soft money and is therefore not affected by the Supreme Court decision.
 - ✓ Senator Feingold has written 4 or 5 op-eds regarding this decision.
 - ✓ Steve Montoya is organizing offices in Madison and Hudson. As it is very close to St. Paul, Minnesota, Hudson receives more Minnesota news than Wisconsin news.
 - ✓ The campaign has been getting involved relatively early in this election. Steve has been going around the state and talking to people.
 - ✓ There is a state-wide canvas scheduled for March 20.

- **Representative Andy Jorgensen**
 - ✓ Andy discussed his recent visit to Aztalan Engineering, which makes parts for medical equipment. Andy asked them what the legislature could do for their business. Taxes were not brought up. They wanted the legislature to help them bring in MATC students to learn the work.
 - ✓ Wisconsin is 14th highest in taxes in the nation for businesses. However, when fees are added in (which is nothing more than a tax), Wisconsin is 24th highest.
 - ✓ Andy briefly discussed the Uniformity Clause. Current laws can give businesses a property tax break but not individuals. WMC does not want laws changed.
 - ✓ Regarding the independent DNR secretary bill, Andy believes an overriding veto is a possibility in the assembly.

Adjournment

- 8:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
 Laura Payne