



Women's Workshop
Newton Highlands, MA 02461

NDCC General Meeting Minutes 7 December 2017

I. Call to Order

- A. Chair Shawn Fitzgibbons called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m., at the Women's Workshop. Attendance: **47**.
- B. Executive Committee Attendance: **22**. Shawn Fitzgibbons, Sharon Stout, Holly Ryan, David Albright, Hannah Banks, Bryan Barash, Dan Clifford, Robert Fitzpatrick, Sue Fliegel, Carol Fulton, Paul Glickman, Dmitriy Gridnev, Ted Gross, Jay Harney, Larissa Hordynsky, Bill Humphrey, Martina Jackson, Barbara John, Joan McGrath, Jason Paul, Caroline Schwarzwaldner, Frank Wolpe.
- C. Member Attendance: **21**. City Councilor Susan Albright, Bob Bower, Eileen Chodos, City Councilor Andreae Downs, Ellie Goldberg, City Councilor Rebecca Walker Grossman, Barbara Gutman, Jacqueline Hallo, Christine Kane, City Councilor Josh Krintzman, City Councilor Cheryl Lappin, Harold Licon, Emily McMains, Josephine McNeil, Don Ross, Amy Sangiolo, Sharon Sasanow, Amy Silberstein, Carole Simon, Donna Sirutus, Abby Wolpe
- D. Guests: **4**. Sam Donovan, Stephanie Foner (Setti Warren campaign), Michael Goldman, Donna Patalano (candidate for Middlesex D.A. from Winchester)

II. Minutes of the September 7, 2017 NDCC General Meeting

Motion: Frank Wolpe moved, Sue Fliegel seconded the motion, to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2017 general meeting as distributed. Motion passed, no votes against, no abstentions.

III. Reports of Officers and Ward and Standing Committees

A. Finance Committee

1. There was only one deposit during November, leaving us with a balance of \$16,507 as of November 30. That will go down slightly in December due to expenses for the caucus and year-end party.

B. State Committee Update (Sharon Stout)

1. Newton's caucus will be on Sunday, February 11, 2018. We expect competition for seats in this big nominating year.
2. Sharon, Holly Ryan, and David Albright will lead a caucus training for the 4th Congressional District.
3. Holly Ryan: LGBTQ+ has joined Affirmative Action, Youth, and Disability as an add-on category for 2018.
4. Ted Gross: Those under 18 may run for delegate/vote if they are pre-registered as Democrats and will be 18 by September 18, 2018. They may preregister on the day of the caucus.

C. Ward Committee Updates

- Ward 5: Meeting at Emily Prenner's house, 702 Chestnut on Sat. 12/9 at 1 p.m.
- Ward 6: Annual holiday party will be on January 7 at Shawn Fitzgibbons's house.
- Ward 8: Meeting on Sun. 12/17.

IV. Announcements

1. NDCC Holiday Party: Sun. 12/10 at 5 p.m., at Social (Crowne Plaza Hotel, Newton Corner)
2. Post 440 is holding a Police Appreciation event on Tuesday, 1/9/2018 at 5:30 p.m.

V. New Business

A. Legislative Update from Senator Cindy Creem

1. The Senate has done many good things this session, which can be found in the "Senate Interim Report" listing all legislation with lead sponsors. Sen. Creem hopes the House will pass the bills.
2. Sen. Creem has been heavily involved in:
 - a. Criminal Justice Reform: a major bill to overhaul the system. Mass. had fallen behind new best practices. The bill contains funding for rehabilitation, changes to solitary confinement rules, juvenile justice reform (the Senate bill limited adult prosecution to those over 18, the House did not follow suit).
 - b. Healthcare Reforms: Senators visited different states to learn what's working.
 - c. A bill to combat sexual assault on campus and to ensure due process.
 - d. Marijuana Regulation: Senators have studied Colorado's experience.
 - e. Gun Control: Sen. Creem filed a mild bill but has met with great resistance. The NRA is very strong and legislators from all over the state except the most liberal communities are hearing negative feedback from constituents.
 - f. Election Reform: Sen. Creem is lead sponsor on a bill, still in committee, for automatic voter registration. 680,000 Mass. residents are eligible but not registered to vote.
 - g. Fire Protection: A bill to ban 10 harmful flame retardants that cause worse fires.
 - h. Internet Protection: Legislation to prohibit consumer information from being sold by internet service providers, recently eliminated by Congress and the FCC. Verizon opposed.

B. Grassroots Fundraising (Hannah Banks)

1. Since the first Obama campaign Hannah has been involved in political fundraising.
2. She advised not being shy, being persistent, and reaching out to all potential contacts, even those you believe to be Republicans.
3. There is a slow build as you establish rapport with a potential donor. Be friendly.
4. Events are helpful because they are fun and offer clear-cut levels of contribution. Blast emails work less well unless the subject line grabs attention.

C. 2018 NDCC Budget (Sue Fliegel)

1. The budget is similar to 2017, but projected Brunch revenue has been lowered from \$8,000 to \$7,000. Projected Brunch expenses have been raised from \$2,500 to \$3,000.
2. The Programs and Action Fund was raised from \$10,000 to \$11,300 for the election year.
3. Our three subcommittees have been raised from \$500 to \$700 each.
4. Josephine McNeil asked about funds for voter registration. Sharon Stout said it is not in the budget directly but we engage in voter registration without it costing money.
5. Shawn Fitzgibbons suggested voting on the 2018 budget at the March general meeting.

D. Off Fossil Fuels Act (Bill Humphrey)

1. Bill has been the Political Chair of the Mass. Sierra Club. He wants the NDCC to endorse H.R. 3671, the Off Fossil Fuels Act, introduced in Congress by the Hawaii delegation. The bill would reduce fossil fuel consumption in the U.S. by 80% by 2027, and by 100% by 2035.
2. This is the type of action needed, according to scientific experts, to meet the pace and scale of the climate change threat.
3. New England is the fastest-warming region in the U.S. We need the Mass. delegation to support real change.
4. In November the Executive Committee voted to bring the issue before the full membership.

Motion: Dmitriy Gridnev moved, Jason Paul seconded the motion, that the NDCC endorse H.R. 3671, the Off Fossil Fuels Act, in the United States Congress, and encourage our Congressional delegation to support the bill. Motion passed, no votes against, no abstentions.

VII. Adjournment

Motion: Sue Fliegel moved to adjourn, Frank Wolpe seconded the motion. Adjourned: 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert K. Fitzpatrick

Secretary, NDCC