

Women’s Workshop

Newton Highlands, MA 02461

**NDCC General Meeting Minutes**

10 September 2015

1. **Call to Order**

**A.** Chair Shawn Fitzgibbons called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., at the Women’s Workshop, 72 Columbus Street, Newton Highlands. Attendance: 35

**B.** Attendance and Introductions

***Executive Committee Members in Attendance: 19*** (Shawn Fitzgibbons, Sharon Stout, Holly Ryan, Hannah Banks, Bryan Barash, Dan Clifford, Ruth Dain, Susan Davidoff, Robert Fitzpatrick, Carol Fulton, Ted Gross, Daniel Habtemariam, Larissa Hordynsky, Martina Jackson, Barbara John, Joan McGrath, Don Ross, Chris Steele, Frank Wolpe)

***Additional NDCC Members in Attendance: 13*** (David Backer (Ward 2), Larry Bressler (Ward 3), Fred Brustman (Ward 6), Bob Burke (Ward 5), Bill Humphrey (Ward 5), Alan Kovacs (Ward 8), Anne Larner (Ward 3), Mark Leicester (Ward 3), George Mansfield (Ward 6), Herb Robinson (Ward 5), Rachel Ethier Rosenbaum (Ward 4), Lena Saradnik (Ward 7), Catherine Willinger (Ward 2)

***Guests:*** ***3*** (Guntram Mueller (Boston Downwinders); Sam Ravina (NDCC intern); Andrew Willinger (Ward 2 resident))

**II. Minutes of the June 4, 2015 NDCC General Meeting**

**Motion:** Chris Steele moved, Barbara John seconded the motion, to approve the Minutes as distributed. Motion passed with no votes against and no abstentions.

**III. Reports of Officers and Ward and Standing Committees**

1. **Treasurer’s Report (Bill Sage)** 
   1. Expenditures totaled $923.00 in August, primarily brunch-related.
   2. Revenues totaled $675.00 in August, $625.00 of which was early brunch contributions.
   3. The remaining balance was $5,964.29 on August 31, 2015. This figure is expected to rise significantly in September due to the brunch.
2. **Ward Committee Reports**
   1. Ward 6: Barbara John reported that Ward 6’s Labor Day BBQ was a huge success, with many local candidates speaking. Thanks to all who attended.
   2. Shawn Fitzgibbons noted that the Ward 3 and Ward 8 committees each met on Sept. 9.
3. **State Committee Report (Sharon Stout)**
   1. The Call to Convention had been mailed to delegates and credentials are being prepped. Delegates should call only if they still haven’t received credentials by Sept. 15.
   2. The next state committee meeting will be in Lee, Mass., in November.
4. **NDCC Website Update (Sam Ravina)**
   1. Intern Sam Ravina, who attends Brimmer & May, did a lot of work to redo the NDCC website. Sam demonstrated the new site on the projector to positive reviews.
   2. Larissa Hordynsky noted that it’s difficult to see more than a couple of upcoming events in the new format. Sam said the events are visible if you continue to scroll.
   3. Ted Gross suggested adding links to the state and national Democratic Party webpages.
5. **NDCC Brunch Update (Sharon Stout)**
   1. Invitations for the Sept. 27 brunch have been sent and should be received soon.
   2. Rep. Joe Kennedy is the keynote speaker; Treasurer Goldberg, Mayor Warren, and our legislative delegation will speak as well.
   3. Shawn Fitzgibbons added that we had received about $5,000 in pledges so for but hoped the final revenue number would be far higher, and encouraged all to attend.
6. **Presidential Campaign Updates**
   1. Martina Jackson will be leading a canvass for Hillary Clinton in Nashua on Saturday, Sept. 12, leaving from the Austin St. lot at 9 a.m. They go to Nashua virtually every Saturday.
   2. Bob Burke said the Bernie Sanders campaign also will be canvassing and has rented space at the West Newton Cinema for the Sept. 13 Democratic debate. Carol Fulton added that there is a “NewtonMA4Bernie” Facebook page.
   3. Those interested in the Martin O’Malley campaign should contact Ald. Jay Harney.
7. **Ward Committee Slates – 2016 Presidential Primary**
   1. Slates for 2016 ward committee elections are due at City Hall by Nov. 5. Those not on the slate can be elected as write-ins but must receive at least 5 votes.
   2. 20-year members may be on the slate, but do not have to be to remain members.

**IV. Announcements**

1. Newton is holding a preliminary municipal election on Thursday, Sept. 17, in the Ward 2 Alderman-at-Large race. Voters in all of Newton may vote and members are asked to remind their friends and neighbors about this unusual Thursday election.

**V. New Business**

1. **Martina Jackson Delegate Award**
   * + 1. We are proud to nominate Ward 8’s Helene Stein as the second annual Martina Jackson delegate award winner. The NDCC pays the honoree’s delegate fees.
       2. Martina noted that Helene knocked every door in Ward 8 for Senator Warren and also donates, makes calls, goes to New Hampshire. Helene and intern Sam Ravina have been canvassing Ward 8 to recruit new committee members. Helene does it all.

**Motion:** Martina Jackson moved, Carol Fulton seconded the motion, that Helene Stein be named the 2015 Martina Jackson Delegate and that the NDCC pay her delegate fees to the 2015 state Democratic Convention. Motion passed with no votes against and no abstentions.

1. **Fair Share Amendment (Catherine Willinger and Daniel Habtemariam)**
   * + 1. The Raise Up Massachusetts coalition that won an increased minimum wage and earned sick time for workers now is organizing for the Fair Share Amendment.
       2. This amendment would raise over $1 billion annually for education and our neglected transportation system, via a 4% additional income tax on income over $1 million.
       3. Between Sept. and Nov. about 65,000 signatures must be collected, with a target of 6,000 by Newton volunteers. Catherine is coordinating in Newton and asks for your help.
2. **We the People Act (Shawn Fitzgibbons)**
   * + 1. Many Democratic town committees have endorsed the We the People Act, which calls for a constitutional convention to overturn *Citizens United* and reduce money in politics.
       2. Sen. Creem and Reps. Khan and Balser all support the bill.
       3. Alan Kovacs said that getting money out of politics is important, but that conservative states wouldn’t ratify it without getting something in return. He suggested offering national voter ID laws. Martina Jackson disagreed, saying that Southern states in the 1960s deliberately placed obstacles in the way of voters and are doing so today.
       4. Frank Wolpe said the best way to get rid of Citizens United is to elect a Democratic President in 2016 and remake the Supreme Court’s composition.

**Motion:** Barbara John moved, Herb Robinson seconded the motion, that the NDCC endorse the We the People Act. Motion passed with no votes against and no abstentions.

1. **Pilgrim Nuclear Plant Local Ballot Question (Guntram Mueller)**
   * + 1. Guntram Mueller of Boston Downwinders presented on a non-binding question on the Nov. 3 ballot asking Gov. Baker to request closure of Pilgrim Nuclear Station in Plymouth.
       2. Pilgrim recently was downgraded to one of the 3 least-safe nuclear plants in the U.S. If ocean water intake for cooling is interrupted there will be a meltdown, which could cause 25,000 cancer cases and over $500 billion in damages.
       3. Newton is 38 miles from Pilgrim, well within the 50-mile evacuation zone. The current plan also calls for closing the Cape Cod bridges and not evacuating the Cape.
       4. We don’t need Pilgrim or its risks. The plant only produces 2% of regional power capacity, and a reserve of 12 to 20% is projected for the next ten years.

**Motion:** Bryan Barash moved, Barbara John seconded the motion, that the NDCC endorse the Nov. 3, 2015 ballot question asking Gov. Baker to instruct the NEC to close Pilgrim Nuclear Station. Motion passed with three votes against. Larry Bressler, Daniel Habtemariam, Larissa Hordynsky, Don Ross, Catherine Willinger abstained.

**VI. Adjournment**

**Motion:** Barbara John moved to adjourn, Frank Wolpe seconded the motion. Adjourned: 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert K. Fitzpatrick

Secretary, NDCC