

Women’s Workshop

Newton Highlands, MA 02461

**NDCC General Meeting Minutes**

7 September 2017

1. **Call to Order**
2. Chair Shawn Fitzgibbons called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m., at the Women’s Workshop. Attendance: 35.
3. Executive Committee Attendance: 21. Shawn Fitzgibbons, Sharon Stout, Holly Ryan, Hannah Banks, Bryan Barash, Claudia Barash, Dan Clifford, Ruth Dain, Susan Davidoff, Robert Fitzpatrick, Sue Fliegel, Carol Fulton, Paul Glickman, Dmitriy Gridnev, Ted Gross, Larissa Hordynsky, Bill Humphrey, Martina Jackson, Joan McGrath, Caroline Schwarzwalder, Frank Wolpe.
4. Additional Attendance: 14. Jessica Aker, Cory Alperstein, Nick Carter, Myrna Cohen, Robert Cohen, Vicki Danberg, Sandra Davidow, Ena Lorant, Stephanie Noguera (Rep. Joe Kennedy’s office), Sharon Sasanow, Dale Smith, Kim Spencer, Helene Stein, Elizabeth Stolar, Abby Wolpe

**II. Minutes of the June 1, 2017 NDCC General Meeting**

Motion: Carol Fulton moved, Frank Wolpe seconded the motion, to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2017 general meeting as distributed. Motion passed, no votes against, no abstentions.

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

1. **Finance Committee**
   1. There were revenues totaling $653.22 and expenditures of $582.38 during August, for a net increase of $70.84. The balance as of August 31 was $11,905.89.
2. **State Committee Update (Ted Gross)**
   1. On Sept. 9 the State Committee will meet and vote on recently proposed rules changes. The proposed 2018 caucus window will be shorter (Feb. 3 to March 4). Chairs must submit caucus paperwork by the deadline or lose their ex officio delegate spot.
   2. Sharon Stout said the MassDems’ Finance Committee met and is planning a major fundraiser in December.
   3. Shawn Fitzgibbons said the state party is holding its first meeting of town and ward chairs on Sept. 9 in West Springfield. Two such meetings per year are projected.

**IV. Announcements**

1. The NDCC’s annual fundraising brunch, honoring outgoing Mayor Setti Warren, will be on Sunday, October 8, at American Legion Post 440 in Nonantum. Volunteers still needed. Please donate at the highest level you can; 2018 brings Sen. Warren’s reelection bid and a challenging race for governor.
2. The mayoral preliminary election is next Tuesday, Sept. 12. The top two finishers advance to the November 7 ballot.
3. Sen. Ed Markey is holding a town hall meeting at Newton North H.S., Sunday, Sept. 17 at 5 p.m.
4. Martina Jackson shared that Massachusetts Together We Can will be registering voters at Mass. Bay Community College in Wellesley. David Albright will run a volunteer training session in the City Hall Cafeteria on Monday, Sept. 11.
5. Bryan Barash shared that Progressive Newton had endorsed several local candidates and has posted their survey responses online at progressivenewton.com.

**V. New Business**

1. **Rep. Kennedy’s Travel Team (Stephanie Noguera)**
   * + 1. Rep. Joe Kennedy is eager to elect a Democratic successor to State Sen. Jim Timilty, who resigned recently. The district includes Foxboro, Mansfield, Attleboro, Norton, Sharon, Walpole, etc. and contains many Republican-leaning voters.
       2. The Democratic nominee will be chosen in the primary on Tuesday, Sept. 19. On Saturday, Sept. 23, Joe will be in the district to lead a canvass with that nominee. There will be additional canvasses each weekend until the election, which is on Tuesday, October 17.
       3. The Republicans would love to win a Democratic-held seat in Massachusetts; it’s up to us to stop them.
       4. Canvassers are needed for Sept. 23. Cars will leave from the Austin Street lot at 8:30 a.m. Contact Martina Jackson or Ruth Dain to sign up.
2. **Welcoming City Ordinance (Councilor Vicki Danberg)**
   * + 1. In February the City Council passed the Welcoming City Ordinance, endorsed by the NDCC at the Dec. 1, 2016 meeting. A citizen petition calling for its repeal, or a referendum on its repeal, has been filed at the City Council.
       2. The Programs and Services Committee recently voted 7-0 that no action is necessary, but the full council will vote on Monday, Sept. 18. Please contact your councilors to defend the law.
3. **Raise Up Massachusetts (Robert Fitzpatrick)**
   * + 1. The Raise Up Massachusetts coalition has three initiatives right now.
       2. An increased tax on income over $1 million requires a state constitutional amendment and will go to the voters in November 2018.
       3. We are collecting signatures to put an increase in the minimum wage, to $15 per hour by 2022, and Paid Family and Medical Leave for Mass. workers on the November 2018 ballot as well.
       4. Signature collection is from mid-September to about November 20, then again next June. Volunteers needed; contact Robert or Susan Davidoff.

Motion: Carol Fulton moved, Bryan Barash seconded the motion, that the NDCC endorse the three Raise Up Massachusetts campaigns – The Fair Share Amendment (4% additional tax on income over $1 million), a $15 minimum wage by 2022, and Paid Family and Medical Leave for Massachusetts workers. Motion passed, no votes against, no abstentions.

1. **NDCC Bylaws Amendment**
   * + 1. At the June 1 meeting the NDCC members voted to amend our bylaws, allowing for endorsement in Democratic primaries and local nonpartisan elections in limited circumstances.
       2. As drafted, the newly-amended bylaws could be read to require three separate 90% votes to endorse a Democratic nominee in a partisan election. The NDCC, however, presumptively supports all Democratic nominees and does not vote on endorsements of them.
       3. In August the Executive Committee therefore approved a slight additional revision to the bylaws to clarify.
       4. Martina Jackson noted that the state party chair opposes endorsements by local committees in nonpartisan elections between two or more registered Democrats.

Motion: Bill Humphrey moved, Bryan Barash seconded the motion, that Article X, Section 1 of the NDCC’s bylaws be amended as proposed by the Executive Committee: Strike the current introductory language and insert in its place “Section 1. In partisan elections, the City Committee shall support the duly-selected nominee of the Democratic Party. In Democratic primaries and nonpartisan elections, the City Committee may endorse and support only candidates who are registered Democrats in accordance with the following procedures:” Subsections A through D, adopted June 1, 2017, will remain unchanged.

A bylaws change requires a 2/3 vote of those present and voting (quorum of 31) to pass. There were 31 votes in favor, 3 votes against, and Holly Ryan abstained. Amendment adopted.

**VII. Adjournment**

**Motion:** Martina Jackson moved to adjourn, Frank Wolpe seconded the motion. Adjourned: 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert K. Fitzpatrick

Secretary, NDCC