



**NDCC General Meeting Minutes**  
6 September 2018

**I. Call to Order**

*Nick Carter, recent candidate for Governor's Council, addressed the attendees briefly before the meeting.*

- A.** Chair Shawn Fitzgibbons called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m., at the Women's Workshop. Attendance: **40**.
- B.** Executive Committee Attendance: **20**. Shawn Fitzgibbons, Sharon Stout, David Albright, Bryan Barash, Allan Cole, Ruth Dain, Robert Fitzpatrick, Sue Fliegel, Carol Fulton, Dmitriy Gridnev, Ted Gross, Jay Harney, Bill Humphrey, Martina Jackson, Barbara John, Ken Krems, Joan McGrath, Emily Prenner, Holly Ryan, Caroline Schwarzwaldner;
- C.** Member Attendance: **15**. Cory Alperstein (W1), Mark Alpert (W2), Terry Altherr (W4), David Backer (W2), Nick Carter (W6), Ellie Goldberg (W2), Susan Heyman (W5), Joanne Hooker (W6), Mark Hooker (W6), Judith Meyerson (W8), Peter Meyerson (W8), Don Ross (W5), Donna Sirutis (W3), Ruhina Tahir (W2), Beth Waldorf (W7);
- D.** Guests: **4**. Leo Immonen (Yes on 2); Katherine McCormick, RN (MNA); Betty Sparks, RN (MNA); Kim Spencer (W2 resident), Ellen Yang (W5 resident, Newton High School Dems).

**II. Minutes of the June 7, 2018 NDCC General Meeting**

Motion: Dmitriy Gridnev moved, Barbara John seconded the motion, to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2018 general meeting as distributed. Motion passed, no votes against, no abstentions.

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

**A. Finance Committee (Sue Fliegel)**

1. Revenues in August totaled \$735.00; expenses \$368.39, for a net of +366.61.
2. The balance is \$16,795.72 as of August 31.

**B. State Committee Update (Sharon Stout)**

1. The State Committee will meet on Saturday, September 8.
2. Coordinated campaign canvasses will begin this weekend.

**C. Ward Committee Updates**

- Ward 2: Will meet Sunday, Sept. 16, at 11:30 a.m., at Ruth Dain's house followed by a canvass.
- Ward 4: Will meet Tuesday, Oct. 2, at Ken Krems's house.
- Ward 5: Will meet Sunday, Sept. 16, at 2 p.m. Emily Prenner will train on the Yes on 3 campaign.
- Ward 6: Will host an event on Wednesday, Oct. 3, at the Women's Workshop, on "Why Charlie Baker Isn't Good Enough." Martina Jackson, Rep. Ruth Balser, and Bob Massie will speak.

**IV. Announcements**

1. The School Committee has agreed to a new contract with the custodians' union, for one year. The contract comes up again at the same time as the teachers' contract.

**V. New Business**

**A. Brunch (Sharon Stout)**

1. The Brunch is Sunday, September 30, 11 a.m., at Post 440.
2. Instead of honoring one person, this year Jay Gonzalez, Quentin Palfrey, Maura Healey, Bill Galvin, and Marian Ryan have been invited to speak.

#### **B. Coordinated Campaign**

1. The State Committee will figure out soon which towns will have campaign offices.
2. Ruth Dain will host canvasses in Newton, with the first one on Saturday, Sept. 8, at 12 p.m. School Committee member Diana Fisher Gomberg will conduct a training beforehand.

#### **C. Ballot Question 1: Nurse Staffing Levels**

1. Question 1 is sponsored by the Mass. Nurses Association, and opposed by hospital operators. It would create minimum legal staffing levels for nurses in Massachusetts hospitals.
2. Betty Sparks, Newton-Wellesley Hospital nurse, spoke in favor of it. The union has been trying to pass legislation of this kind for 20 years. There limits on how many children a childcare provider may oversee, and for veterinary staffing, but none for hospital nurses. Time to change.
3. The Executive Committee had voted overwhelmingly in August to recommend an endorsement of "Yes" on Question 1, but several members voiced objections or concerns.

Motion: David Albright moved, Donna Sirutis seconded the motion, that the NDCC endorse a "Yes" vote on Question 1. Motion failed, 11 in favor, 13 opposed. Bryan Barash, Dmitriy Gridnev, Martina Jackson, Emily Prenner, Don Ross abstained.

#### **D. Ballot Question 2: Commission to Study Constitutional Convention to Overturn *Citizens United***

1. Propopent Leo Immonen spoke in favor of "Yes" on 2, which the NDCC already has endorsed.
2. The question would create a commission to study the possibility of a constitutional convention under Article V to amend the Constitution to overturn the *Citizens United* decision.

#### **E. Ballot Question 3: To Preserve the Civil Rights of Transgender People in Massachusetts**

1. Holly Ryan spent years leading the fight to win equal rights in public accommodations for transgender people in Massachusetts.
2. Although opponents put the question on the ballot, a "Yes" vote keeps the current protections in place. The NDCC has endorsed "Yes" on 3.
3. Emily Prenner is heading the Yes on 3 field operation in Newton. Canvasses will take place each Saturday and Sunday, leaving from a different home each weekend.
4. Robert Fitzpatrick, 167 Lowell Av., is hosting the first two canvasses on Sept. 8 and 9, 10:30 a.m.

#### **F. NDCC Campaign Donations (*Bryan Barash, Dmitriy Gridnev, Jay Harney, Martina Jackson, and Holly Ryan did not participate in this discussion*).**

1. After a lengthy discussion, the NDCC membership approved the following donations:

Motion: Don Ross moved, Adam Chaikof seconded the motion, that the NDCC donate \$500 to Senator Elizabeth Warren, \$5,000 to the Massachusetts Democratic Party, and up to \$4,000 for state candidates to be determined by the Executive Committee at its October meeting. Motion passed, no votes against. Bryan Barash, Dmitriy Gridnev, Jay Harney, Martina Jackson, and Holly Ryan abstained.

## **VII. Adjournment**

**Motion:** Dmitriy Gridnev moved to adjourn, Sue Fliegel seconded the motion. Adjourned: 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert K. Fitzpatrick  
Secretary, NDCC