



NDCC General Meeting Minutes

6 June 2019

I. Call to Order

A. Chair Shawn Fitzgibbons called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., at the Women's Workshop.
Attendance: **41**.

B. Executive Committee Attendance: **21**. Shawn Fitzgibbons, Sharon Stout, David Albright, Rep. Ruth Balser, Bryan Barash, Claudia Bowman, Dan Clifford, Allan Cole, Audrey Cooper, Ruth Dain, Robert Fitzpatrick, Sue Fliegel, Dmitriy Gridnev, Larissa Hordynsky, Bill Humphrey, Martina Jackson, Barbara John, Rebecca Kanter, Joan McGrath, Holly Ryan, Caroline Schwarzwaldner.

Member Attendance: **17**.

Guests: **3**. Nuck Cubides (Stand for Children), Keith Druker (International Fund for Animal Welfare), Lisa Kimball (NARAL Massachusetts).

II. Minutes of the March 7, 2019 General Meeting

Motion: Dmitriy Gridnev moved, Allan Cole seconded the motion, to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2019, 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. Wards 1 still have not paid annual dues to the NDCC.
2. \$180.00 in revenue during May and \$522.60 in expenditures. The balance is \$11,095.11 on May 31.

B. State Committee Update (Sharon Stout)

1. Caucuses are being held across the state; Newton's was successful on May 19.
2. Please contact Sharon if interested in being an add-on delegate to this year's convention.

C. State House Update (Rep. Ruth Balser and Bryan Barash)

1. The House passed legislation to protect public sector union in the wake of the Supreme Court's 2018 *Janus* decision.
2. Rep. Balser is working hard on the Roe Act (see below), the Safe Communities Act, and a climate action bill to get to Net Zero carbon emissions sooner.
3. The Senate passed its budget and is now in conference with the House.
4. The Senate passed Sen. Creem's distracted driving bill, which also is now in conference.

IV. Announcements

- Emerge MA is honoring its Women of the Year, Suffolk DA Rachael Rollins and Berkshire DA Andrea Harrington, on June 25.
- There is a reception for Sen. Creem at the home of Barry & Eleanor White on June 19.
- Rep. Joe Kennedy is seeking marchers for the Boston Pride Parade on Saturday, June 8. Contact Ruth Dain to join. Breakfast is at Lir, 903 Boylston Street, at 11 a.m. March begins at noon.

- Claudia Bowman is collecting literature from all Democrats running for office to display at the NDCC tent at Albemarle Field on the 4th of July.

V. New Business

A. Roe Act (Lisa Kimball, NARAL)

1. The legislature, in anticipation of a possible Supreme Court reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, is considering legislation to make sure that reproductive rights are protected in Massachusetts.
2. The Roe Act would eliminate parental consent requirements for people under 18, allow abortions after 24 weeks for fatal fetal anomalies, eliminate the statutory waiting period, and prohibit certain scare tactic language.
3. Jim Lyons and the Mass. Republicans are attacking our representatives for supporting the bill.

Motion: Dmitriy Gridnev moved, Nick Carter seconded the motion, that the NDCC endorse passage of the Roe Act and state that abortion is healthcare to which women must have access. Motion passed, no votes against, no abstentions.

B. Safe Communities Act (Rep. Ruth Balsler)

1. Rep. Balsler is a lead sponsor of this bill to protect immigrants from the Trump Administration.
2. Law enforcement would not be able to inquire about immigration status, notify ICE of potential immigrants in most cases, participate in “287(g)” deputy arrangements. Immigrants would be told of their rights and police would receive training on compliance with the law.

Motion: Bill Humphrey moved, Barbara John seconded the motion, that the NDCC endorse passage of the Safe Communities Act. Motion passed, no votes against, no abstentions.

C. Right Whales (Keith Drucker)

1. IFAW is working on federal legislation to protect right whales, which are critically endangered.
2. 85% of whales are killed in fishing nets, 15% by being struck by ships
3. The bill would provide funding to develop technology to provide ropeless gear with GPS retrieval to protect whales while not hurting the livelihood of the lobster fishing industry.

Motion: Ellie Goldberg moved, Councilor Alison Leary seconded the motion, that the NDCC endorse passage of the SAVE Act to protect right whales, Motion passed, no votes against, no abstentions.

VI. Adjournment

Motion: Dmitriy Gridnev moved to adjourn, Bill Humphrey seconded the motion. Adjourned: 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert K. Fitzpatrick
Secretary, NDCC