



Latah County Central Committee
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Minutes

Latah County Republican Christmas Party / Central Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 21, 2013

Schierman's Event Center, 3225 Robinson Park Road, Moscow, ID

The Latah County Republican Central Committee meeting was called to order at 7:04pm by Chairman Thomas Lawford.

Richard Walser led the prayer and Don Meyer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A quorum of precinct chairs was present.

There were several corrections to the previous meeting minutes. On the first page, "Sally Brown" was corrected to "Sally Browning." On the second page "Ben Stine" was corrected to "Ben Stein", "William Green" was corrected to "William Greene", the word "reaming" was corrected to "remaining" and "Rodger Falen" was corrected to "Roger Falen." The minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurers Report:

A Financial update presented by Mr. Lawford on behalf of Treasurer Peggy Gottschalk. The only transaction for December was the \$80.00 Rent for our Christmas party at Schierman's Event Center.

January State Central Committee Report:

Jared Larsen provided an update from the 2014 Winter Idaho GOP Central Committee Meeting. In attendance at the meeting were: Chairman, Thomas Lawford; Committeeman, Paul Agidius; Committeewoman Madeline McComas; and Youth Committeeperson Jared Larsen.

On Friday, January 3, 2014 Mr. Lawford and Mr. Larsen attended the State Executive Committee Meeting. Mr. Lawford made a presentation to the committee about the 2014 GOP Convention to be held in Moscow. He informed the committee about who sits on the convention committee, the venue, accommodations, activities, possible speakers, and finances. The Executive Committee seemed pleased about the direction the convention was heading.

On Saturday, January 4, 2014 At the State Central Committee meeting Senator Jim Risch, Gov. Butch Otter, Lt. Gov. Brad Little and State Controller Brandon Woolf presented short speeches.

Several Hall of Fame awards were distributed. A new Hall of Fame Award was created for lifetime service to the party, available for those who have worked in the party for more than 25 years. The inaugural honorees were Ruthie Johnson and Donna Jones.

Mr. Larsen attended the Standing Rules Committee and presented a proposed rule expanding the Standing Rules and Resolutions Committee and having each region vote who represents them on the committee. It did not pass. The proposed rule that generated the most discussion in the committee was a rule sponsored by a number of northern counties to abolish the presidential caucus and rule to implement an absentee ballot system for the caucus. Both failed to pass in the committee.

Mrs. McComas served on the Standing Resolutions Committee.

State Party Rules Recap:

- * A rule designating the lifespan of resolutions to two years and requiring their publication on the GOP website;
- * A rule requiring a typed and electronic copy for the standing rules and resolutions committees to consider rules or resolutions submitted late;
- * A rule requiring the state party chairman to designate a committee a year before the presidential caucus to help counties prepare and disseminate information to the media and voters about the caucus;
- * A rule making the fee non-refundable that a candidate pays to participate in the caucus and to allow candidates to be removed from the ballot if they drop out before the caucus;
- * A rule allowing counties to have an instant run-off ballot, where caucus attendees rank their candidates and eliminate the need for successive rounds of voting;
- * A rule increasing the filing fee for candidates to participate in the presidential caucus from \$2,000 per candidate to \$10,000 per candidate;
- * A rule which was debated heavily on the floor was a rule requiring resolutions to be passed first by a county, legislative district, or region in order to be considered by the standing resolutions committee. The effect of the rule is to take away from an individual SCC member the ability to propose a resolution without a county, legislative district, or region having first approved it. The rule passed on a vote of 84-67.
- * A resolution against the presidential caucus failed to pass on a vote of 64-99.
- * A resolution against Senator Patti Anne Lodge for allegedly residing outside of her district was postponed indefinitely.

State Party Resolution Recap:

- * Immigration reform
- * Transparency in higher education
- * In favor of the second amendment
- * In favor of free speech and due process on college campus
- * In favor of a tuition tax credit scholarship
- * In favor of a right to film police encounters
- * Against donating tax dollars to non-profit entities
- * In favor of a repeal of the healthcare exchange
- * In favor of the legislature considering land exchanges

2014 Convention Committee Report:

Mr. Lawford presented an update about the upcoming State Convention. At one time the State Executive Committee was concerned that convention would result in a financial loss due to the cost of using the University of Idaho facility. Donors have come forward and those concerns have now passed. Mr. Lawford also discussed the layout and setup of the Kibbie Dome for delegates, alternates, vendors, etc. There was further discussion about the general schedule for the State Convention:

* Currently Thursday's June 12, 2014 only scheduled business is the State Executive Committee meeting. But a possible campaign school is being considered. Thursday night will kick off with a volunteer appreciation party at the Best Western plus University Inn.

*Friday has general sessions and focus on the Platform and Resolution Sub Committees. Moscow is having the annual downtown Art Walk Friday afternoon and evening to coincide with our convention. All Convention attendees will not in committee meetings will be encouraged to attend Art Walk from 3:00pm -6:45pm. A dinner and program with key note speaker Kentucky Senator Rand Paul will start in the Kibbie Dome at 7pm. There may be a few seats available for non-delegates to purchase at \$50 per person.

* There is also the possibility of a live band performing a dance/concert after evening events have finished.

* Saturday morning will be the Idaho Federation of Republican Women's breakfast. Potential speakers are Sarah Palin or Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers.

* On Saturday, Mike Huckabee is being pursued as an event closing speaker and might possibly end the event in a "jam session" with Gov. Butch Otter.

The Comstocks are planning various children's activities for children throughout the convention (e.g., The Palouse Science Center, Uof I climbing wall, Hamilton Lowe Aquatic Center, etc.). There's also a movement to plan activities for adults, such as a trip to a day spa, etc.

Mr. Lawford suggested taking some of the proceeds from Lincoln day to put towards a long term rental of a storage unit but the party deeply appreciates Dave McGraw's generous use of his shop. The party could store decorations and equipment, long term records and even parade float parts. For example, in an effort to set the party up for long term success, it might be worthwhile to purchase some sound equipment for the State Convention with funds raised from Lincoln day, and consider a couple of "easy up 10' x 10' shade tents. The idea of avoiding equipment rental is nice, but the more items like this we purchase, the more the party will need permanent, local storage.

Several area businesses have agreed to substantial local support of the convention but perhaps our greatest need will be volunteers to ensure this convention is a success (e.g. business center, signage, drivers, etc.)

Lincoln Day Update:

Nez Perce County has scheduled their Lincoln day event for February 7 at 6pm at the Lewiston Red Lion Inn and all Latah members are encouraged to attend.

This year, the Latah County Lincoln Day will not have a keynote speaker as there are nearly two dozen candidates scheduled to speak. They will be limited to two minutes with an Executive Committee suggestion that there be a charge for time over the 2 minutes limit. The Central committee suggested \$1 each second or \$60/ min., with the final decision to be left to the Lincoln Day Committee.

Instead of individual plates, this year there will be an Italian buffet. Don Meyer suggested tables bid for the first opportunity to eat. The hope is that funds raised from this event will become seed money for the State Convention.

We will hold another dessert auction this year and Mr. McGraw has agreed to spearhead the

organization again. We need volunteers to donate desserts. We will also hold another silent auction and need donations for that segment as well. This year, the Executive Committee is asking precinct committee members volunteer and donate a themed basket for the silent auction and to provide incentive, the member that donates a basket that brings the most money will receive a gift card to Wal-Mart. There may also be a prize for best presentation.

New Business:

Don Ball announced Caroline Nilsson's candidacy for District 5 Representative Seat B on her behalf. A handout with her biography and position statements was passed out to attendees. On February 6, 2014, Ms. Nilsson-Troy will formally announce her candidacy at 4:30pm at a gathering in the Best Western, University Inn. She is seeking to replace the seat vacated by Shirley Ringo.

Current County Clerk, Susan Petersen announced she is not running for reelection.

Richard Walser declared his incumbent candidacy for County Commissioner, District 1.

Tom Stroschein's seat for County Commissioner, District 2 will also be vacant.

We still need a candidate to run for the Legislative District 5 Senate seat.

On Saturday, January 25, 2014 at 10am there will be a District 5 meeting at the Princeton Community Center.

The next Central Committee Meeting will be at 7pm on Tuesday February 25th at the Schierman's Event Center.

Jared Larsen motioned for adjournment. Richard Walser seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm.

Minutes submitted by
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