

District 16-2 Democratic Party Meeting and Presidential Preference Poll

Kalaheo Neighborhood Center March 7, 2012

Attendees: - John Zwiebel, Alison Dunn, Michael Ceurvorst, Bill Hackett, Cira de Castillo, Aria Castillo, Jose Castillo, David Chapman, Mary Gross, Pat Gegen, Kathi Lee, Yvette Bambas Hackett, Christy Taylor-Parsil, Bruce Parsil, Steven Nishimura

Call to order - 5:55pm

- Brief Introductions and talk story by all attendees – Concerns also expressed and have been reflected below on Platform Issues Discussion.
- NOTE: 16-2 is honored to have newly naturalized citizen partaking in the democratic process – Jose' Castillo . Discussion of playing politics with immigration was pointed. THANKS JOSE and Welcome!

Minutes of 8-2-2011 for approval – Motion by JZ, Seconded by MG , Approved unanimously. Minutes posted on www.kauaidemocrats.org for easy access/sharing.

Officer Reports – President obtained unanimous consent to dispense with usual officer reports because of the busy agenda. MC undertook to follow up with board officers on previous action items.

Old Business – Move to dispense – JZ moved, DC seconded, Passed unanimously.

New Business:

Explanation of Party Structure –

MC explained basic Democratic organizational structure and why they all ask for money:

- OFA or Organizing for America, developed from Obama for America campaign.
- DNC or Democratic National Committee, the umbrella, biggest and oldest.
- DCCC or Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee,
- DSCC or Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee
- DGA or Democratic Governors Association
- HDP or Hawaii Democratic Party, State
- KDP or Kauai Democratic Party

Multiple levels all looking for support from us. Unlikely they will consolidate fund raising although there is a Democratic Coordinated Campaign effort. As a result party members are very frequently asked to contribute multiple times.

What is really happening organizationally: White House has moved folks(Obama for America) into the DNC, Past development from Moved an 18 to a 50 state strategy has been theoretically continued but in many states arrested, so now we are somewhere between in resource focus. Still failing with a complete integration of OFA and the DNC, in MC's experiences at the DNC and Association of State Democratic Chairs meetings in 2011.

Important Party dates going forward - April 7 is county convention, State Convention May 25 – 31, Primary is August 11 , DNC Nominating Convention Sept 6 meeting in Charlotte NC, November 6 is Election Day

District Line Maps – Maps were passed around – The new 16-2 is the old 16-2 & 16-3/ however, as Cira and Michael explained, new district lines may be approved as early as March 8. Cira had attended some meetings had called for incorporating as a key value in determining new lines existing communities rather than just trying to achieve numerical equality. Cira will share insights and news as that develops. It is possible that the new lines will gerrymander 16-2 elections.

Duties of Officers – Self-explanatory per Michael except for district council representative, currently encumbered by Mary Gross who said that no meetings were held.

Precinct Elections – The following members were nominated or volunteered:

President – Michael Ceurvorst: Vice President – Alison Dunn
Secretary – Patrick Gegen; Treasurer – David Chapman
District Council Person – Mary Gross

President called for other nominations from the floor, of members present or absent, None were forthcoming so candidates equaled positions available
Vote by Acclamation – All current officers shall remain in position for another term. Unanimously approved

Delegate Elections to State Convention – Michael discussed the process and procedures – Transport and hotel costs, registration fees, fun, caucus and platform/resolutions work. Mary Gross described her experiences and Cira commented on the resolutions/platform work. as did Michael.

Delegate Nominations:

The following volunteered to serve as delegates or alternates to county and state conventions:

Pat Gegen, David, Chapman, Aria Castillo, John Zwiebel, Michael, Ceurvorst,
Alison Dunn - Alternate, Lucille Barale Ceurvorst - alternate, Kathi Lee- Alternate,

1 Delegate and 3 more alternate positions available, Chair will seek and assign with recommendations from 16-2 democratic members.

Motion to approve the current given slate moved by JZ, seconded by BH. Approved Unanimously

Hawaii sends 37 delegates to the national convention – Outer islands are guaranteed no positions. Delegates are voted upon at the State convention and each candidate must seek and obtain pledges of support from at least ten registered Democrats, and the forms must be submitted by deadlines on the forms (March 16 for County, May 1 for State). See Secretary Gegen or Vice-President Dunn for forms, questions, and guidance.

President Ceurvorst is running for National Committeeman and Aria is running for Youth Representative.

State Central Committee Member – Opportunity to run being discussed and available to all registered members. These too must be submitted with pledges of support from registered Democrats in a timely manner.

Caucus position Nominations – Opportunity to run discussed and available to all registered members. Current caucuses include: Environmental Caucus, GLBT Caucus, Hawaiian Affairs Caucus, Kapuna Caucus, Labor Caucus, Women’s Caucus, Young Democrats Caucus

Presidential Electors and Alternates (May 25-27, 2012, Sheraton Waikiki) – Opportunity to run discussed and available to all registered members.

President Recessed meeting at 7 p.m. to conduct the Presidential Preference Poll –

Aria and Yvette confirmed to Secretary Gegen, Vice President Dunn explained the polling process and importance. President opened the poll, which was kept open from 7 to 7:30 p.m. Treasurer Chapman distributed the ballots; collected them, and Aria and Sec Gegen tallied them. 15(fifteen) 16-2 Democrats were present and cast votes. President announced the Results – 2 uncommitted, 13 for Obama and returned the ballots and uncast ballots to Sec Gegen.

Completion and witnessing of forms – results were compiled by 16-2 treasurer and confirmed by VP and Secretary, and also signed by President.

Forms returned to County Chair – Results to be called in to Chuck Freedman @ 808-388-1927,. VP Dunn called in the results for district 16-2 @ 7:40,. Secretary undertook to get appropriate documentation to County Chair or other officials indicated on the completed forms.

Open mike – Talk Story – Concerns (initially started during introductions – continued after New Business issues):

Issues – Planned Parenthood – Women issues, No due process without evidence (Civil Rights), Monsanto on Kauai, Wars (continuation with Obama – Why?), Corporate “Mafia” or waxing corporatism – influencing not only GOP but also Dems (reps responsive to corporations not the people – from an historical perspective, is this nascent fascism? Several thought so.)

Potential Platform Issues discussion [much stimulated by Bill Hackett's four draft resolutions:](#)

Influence of money without transparency in politics is a major concern – should this be a key issue to push?

How do we overturn the Supreme Court's 5/4 Citizen's United decision, which said corporations enjoy rights of uninhibited political speech as legal persons, as do unions. Corporations are not people?
Public financing of Public elections is sorely needed to combat the tyranny of money in politics...

Expression of religion in public schools and in public meetings (council meetings, etc.) – need to keep separation of church and state. People of any faith can and should be involved in politics – how can we get a resolution that assures religion stays out of our politics? Needs to be an affirmation... Keep Religion in the Bedroom! - Affirm that the 1st amendment directs the separation of church and no support by the government of any religion or religious practices.

16-2 Platform Statements:

Democratic party of Hawaii calls for the full public financing of elections to be instituted by the next Congress.. Unanimously approved.

Establish limited terms for Congress – both Senate and House.
Vote results: 8 for, 6 against.

Put congress on social security, Medicare instead of a separate retirement program.
9 yes – 3 no

Reinstate Glass Steagall Act –historically kept Commercial banks and investment banks separated, and instituted after the great depression. The G-S Act was repealed in the late 90s, which opened the floodgates of hedge funds and new investment vehicles culminating in several frauds, and eventually the Great Recession of 2008
Unanimous

Establish Universal eligibility for medicare. (Establish single payer health care – Extend medicare from birth to death but make it a voluntary opt-nm program.)
Unanimous

Supreme Court justices need to be held to the same level of accountability as the American Bar Association and other judges.
Unanimous

Reinstate partisan elections at the county level (mayor and County Council)
13yes – 1 abstention. The issue of closet Republicans undermining the democratic/Democratic process was discussed.

No lifetime appointment for the Supreme Court Justices or Clarence Thomas should be impeached for failing to disclose his wife's partisan activities while failing to recuse himself; CJRoberts and Judge Thomas participate in right wing meetings sponsored by the Koch brothers at all expense paid terms.

Discussed but no official vote taken

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned @ 8:27 pm. No date was set for the next meeting.