



Women's Workshop
Newton Highlands, MA 02461
NDCC General Meeting Minutes
3 March 2016

I. Call to Order

- A.** Chair Shawn Fitzgibbons called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., at the Women's Workshop, 72 Columbus Street, Newton Highlands. Attendance: 44.

Chair Shawn Fitzgibbons began the meeting with a moment of silence in honor of those who lost their lives in the tragic accident at Sweet Tomatoes Pizzeria in West Newton on March 1.

B. Attendance and Introductions

Executive Committee Members in Attendance: 24 (Shawn Fitzgibbons, Sharon Stout, Holly Ryan, Bryan Barash, Allan Cole, Dan Clifford, Ruth Dain, Susan Davidoff, Robert Fitzpatrick, Sue Fliegel, Carol Fulton, Bernie Goulding, Ted Gross, Larissa Hordynsky, Bill Humphrey, Martina Jackson, Barbara John, Joan McGrath, Don Ross, Gary Rucinski, Bill Sage, Caroline Schwarzwald, Chris Steele, Frank Wolpe)

Additional NDCC Members in Attendance: 17 (David Albright (Ward 2), David Backer (Ward 2), Renee Blumsack (Ward 3), Fred Brustman (Ward 6), Adam Chaikof (Ward 2), Sandra Davidow (Ward 6), Davina Fankhauser (Ward 5), Linda Green (Ward 8), Councilor Jay Harney (Ward 4), Marty Heyman (Ward 6), Susan Heyman (Ward 6), Harold Licon (Ward 8), Ena Lorant (Ward 2), George Mansfield (Ward 6), Jeannie Marcus (Ward 3), Catherine Willinger (Ward 2), Wenhua Zhang (Ward 5))

Guests: 3 (Marilyn Petitto Devaney (Governor's Council), Eric Joseph (NDCC intern), Stephanie Noguera (Office of Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy III))

II. Minutes of the September 10 and December 3, 2015 NDCC General Meetings

Motion: Frank Wolpe moved, Chris Steele seconded the motion, to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2015 (not accepted in December for lack of quorum) and December 3, 2015 general meetings as distributed. Motion passed, no votes against, no abstentions.

III. Reports of Officers and Ward and Standing Committees

A. Treasurer's Report (Bill Sage)

1. Ward committees are asked to submit their annual dues of \$350 (which have not been increased in four years) at their earliest convenience. Ward dues and the brunch are the main revenue sources for the NDCC.

2. Daniel Habtemariam was too busy to continue as chair of the Finance Committee. Sue Fliegel graciously agreed to replace Daniel and we welcome her with thanks.

B. March 1 Presidential Primary Results

1. The Massachusetts primary was extremely close and we thank all those who worked hard for their candidates, particularly Martina Jackson and David Albright for Sec. Clinton and Tim Snyder, Bob Burke, and Carol Fulton for Sen. Sanders.
2. Many new members also were elected to the ward committees on March 1.

C. Congressman Kennedy Update (Stephanie Noguera)

1. Rep. Kennedy is hosting a thank you party for presidential primary volunteers on Tuesday, March 8, at Mick Morgan's on Needham Street (6 p.m.)
2. Rep. Kennedy's nomination papers are due in late April (the campaign's internal goal is April 20). Stephanie has the papers here tonight and is asking members to sign pledges to help Joe collect signatures. 2,000 certified signatures are needed, so the goal is about 5,000 raw.
3. Wenhua Zhang said there would be a Chinese Cultural Day on March 12 at City Hall and signatures could be collected there. Adam Chaikof added that the Young Dems and College Dems would be collecting on March 19.

D. Environmental Committee Update (Gary Rucinski)

1. 195 countries embarked upon a plan to combat climate change at the Paris conference in December and the Carbon Pricing Leadership Council, representing 74 countries, was launched with a goal of implementing carbon pricing by 2020.
2. The GOP has been isolated at the only climate denier major party in the world, but Rep. Chris Gibson (R-N.Y.) and 12 GOP colleagues introduced a House resolution stating that climate change is real and action must be taken.
3. An omnibus energy bill in Congress will contain some good things (support for hydro, wind, solar, and increased net metering) but also concessions to fossil fuel companies.
4. Unfortunately, Sen. Barrett's carbon pricing bill appears to be going nowhere on Beacon Hill. (The NDCC endorsed the concept at its June 2015 general meeting.)

E. March 6 Caucuses

1. Annual caucuses in each Newton ward to elect delegates to the state Democratic convention will be held at Newton South High School on Sunday, March 6. Doors open at 2:30, with Treasurer Goldberg and Sheriff Koutoujian speaking in the lobby. Caucuses begin at 3 p.m. with registration ending at 3:15.
2. The convention is on Sat., June 4 in Lowell. The delegate fee is \$75, \$50 for seniors and students, but the state party or NDCC can help defray the cost if the fee is a hardship.
3. Any Democrat registered by January 31 may run for delegate or vote for delegate.
4. A second caucus is scheduled to follow, to fill a vacant (male) Democratic State Committee seat in our senate district. David Albright of Ward 2 and Councilor Jay Harney of Ward 4 have declared their candidacy. They were invited to speak:
 - a. David Albright: David said he is running because he cares about progressive issues and to recruit younger people into the party. Since January, he has dedicated himself to Hillary Clinton's campaign rather than his own, and as a result he is withdrawing.
 - b. Jay Harney: Jay thanked David and expressed confidence that Democrats will come together in an important election year.

V. Unfinished Business

A. 2016 NDCC Budget (Bill Sage)

1. The Finance Committee's proposed 2016 budget was approved in November by the Executive Committee. Due to lack of quorum the proposal was not voted on in December.
2. The 2016 budget proposal is similar to the 2015 budget, with an additional \$5,000 budgeted in the Democratic Program & Action fund for a campaign headquarters. The budget also projects an additional \$5,000 in fundraising revenue, which could be given to the state party or spent directly by the NDCC.

Motion: Fred Brustman moved, Frank Wolpe seconded the motion, to adopt the 2016 NDCC budget as proposed. Motion passed, no votes against, no abstentions.

VI. Adjournment

Motion: Chris Steele moved to adjourn, Frank Wolpe seconded the motion. Adjourned: 8:41 p.m.

The business meeting was followed by a training and information session for the March 6 caucuses.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert K. Fitzpatrick
Secretary, NDCC