

SD34 DFL Central Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 7, 2017
Maple Grove Government Center – Emergency Operations Room
Minutes of Central Committee meeting

Nancy Meherhoff called the meeting to order at 7:43.

Nancy Meyerhoff:

If anyone is interested in following what is going on at the legislature, as we need to hold Joyce Pepin and Dennis Smith accountable, please let me know.

If anyone wants to work on what is going on certain aspects and let the district know.

Question: do we have a formal method for initiating a call to reps about current issues?

Amy the state list serve sends out action items each week and we can send those out to people in the district. It states what to call and talk about to representatives.

Dennis Smith does give out his cell phone number if you do not want to talk to his staff.

Mike said he would compile scripts, etc. for people to use.

Rosemary: If you have an issue – then post it on Facebook. Warren Limmer is President Pro-tem of the Senate. He has not offered a piece of legislation that has been for the benefit of Maple Grove. All three are used to not hearing from anyone, and expecting people to turn out to vote.

John Moriarty: An article in the Star Tribune – the single most effective way to communicate is email. Better than calling or a personal letter.

Amy: I worked in Washington and email gets read and responded to.

Calls may go to an Intern; it may then get reduced to one sentence.

Nancy Meyerhoff: at our planning meeting in January we talked about getting out to our precincts and have some listening sessions. If anyone is interested in hosting a listening session, let Nancy know. We should get this done quickly to hear what people are saying.

We are planning a fundraiser for this spring. That is still in the works.

The last thing: We need to go to out to other organizations, find out where we have common ground, and how we can help each other. If you belong to an organization and are willing to be a bridge between them and us, or know of organizations we should be contacting please let me know.

Amy: Maple Grove Expo and Parade. They did raise the rates from \$100 to \$175; we can still do half the parade. We are looking into what is charged for groups that do the entire parade.

We had great success at Maple Grove Days last year. We are looking for volunteers for both. If there are candidates for Governor we will ask them or one of their staff members to attend.

I will look into if we have enough to try for the stage.

Mike Vogel: We can do a series of post on our Facebook page, blogs that answer the question of this is who I am and this is why I am organizing – to encourage others to get involved with us. Having more personal stories will help them to identify with us.

If people want to give me names to send out templates to, so we can start identifying ourselves to get more people active.

Elsa: This room should be standing room only. I have a challenge for you; when you attend the next meeting bring another person with you. This is because in 2018 is when the MN House and Governor needs to be Democratic.

Bonnie: Remember the campaign add – I am a Mormon; we could adopt something like that. The way we reach and connect with people is with letting them know who we are and what we value. But to do in a way that targets people that we lose to Republicans. We need to learn how to message to people whom value authority. It is not about losing who we are, but communicating better.

Rosemary: There is no substitute for block by bloc, precinct-by-precinct, community-by-community. A large part of our district does not identify as either Republican or Democrat. We need to show that we are really united on the issue. We need to be engaged on those issues every single month all year.

Democrats are out there. We need to ask them questions and invite them to events.

Kyle explained that there would no longer be a Presidential Preference ballot at caucuses. Instead there will be a Presidential Primary (at your normal polling location); there will still be caucuses.

In 2018 caucuses will still be used to select delegates to the state convention for selecting a candidate for Governor.

Bonnie there is a community forum on race at the BP community center on March 11 from 11 – 3 p.m.

Georgiana Ruzich – the DFL senior caucus is having a Day at the Legislature at the AFL-CIO building. Registration starts at 8:30 tomorrow, there will be a light lunch.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.