

## CoCo Notes 1/12/19

Present at the meeting: Acting Chair Anthony Polina, Asst. Chair Meg Polyte, Asst. Treasurer Morgan Daybell, Treasurer Martha Abbot, Sec. Chris Brimmer, at large Adam Norton, Barbra Pine, Executive Director Josh Wronski, regional reps Traven Leyshon, Ryan Gyuker, Spoon Agave', Jackie Stanton, Calvin Stanton, Justin Classen, Jesse Warren, Nick Clark, Tanya Vyhovski, Cindy W, Tim Guiles, Marielle Blais, Mike Kane and Jill Wilcox.

1) Meg called meeting to order at 12:05 PM, started with discussion of what we had accomplished and what we lacked the last election season.

- connections with other Progressive organizations,
- increased activity in Rutland County,
- party building in Lamoile County,
- need infrastructure for better candidate support,
- D/P elected in Brattleboro, future issues with fusion candidates on the table,
- Do we need to begin to focus on alternative models to capitalism?
- Reelected David Zuckerman by a wide margin,
- Use of new technology in the upcoming March elections in Burlington,
- Good coordination and funding through the Sanders Campaign,
- Still focused on winnable races Town and State level,
- Need to think of candidate recruitment as a 24 month evolution
- Youth organizing in Caledonia county and getting younger people elected to JP slots,
- When are we going to be an opposition party?
- Improve follow through,
- Good year recruiting and increasing youth involvement,
- Questions about the value of D/Ps,
- Senate pickups!
- The increasing size of the party is showing weaknesses in our organization capacity,
- Communication issues with our messaging
- Better outreach with the progressive left that doesn't identify with the party,
- We need to raise more money to hire more staff.

2) Martha gave a Treasurer's report. We haven't been in the hole in a while, payroll is going out and the bills are getting paid but more ambitious programs need to be funded by more fund raising. Sanders gave us \$14,000 and this is not likely to happen again so we need to fill that slot. \$1700 on hand at the end of the year. The Bernie money kept us in the black. We are on thin ice. We need money to do events and recruitment if we are going to grow. No just for fund raising but for general public information to begin cataloging our issues and be a little less humble. Martha would like us to get serious about raising money on line. We have 4100 active addresses and we need to grow those lists. Meg wants some tangible actions, we have to improve on this. Sheet circulated to get a feel for what people are willing to do.

3) Committee Update/Review. Elections committee to continue with an eye to improvement. Platform committee dormant for this year. Membership Outreach, Communications committee maybe should be

more driven by the Executive Director because it is newscycle driven, Chris volunteered for this committee. National Outreach. Fundraising. Should we restructure the committee organization? Party Organization, Fundraising, Technology, Membership/Outreach, Elections? Reorganization of the committee structure work for this quarter. Spoon made a proposal to bring the disparate progressive organizations together to focus them into a unified movement, there are some legal challenges to the idea but worth the pursuit.

4) Anthony reviewed legislative priorities for the coming session. Political reform in campaign finance, ethics enforcement, and getting corporate money out of the process. Anthony wants to see more forward thinking, school funding and getting college tuition to be free, the \$15 minimum wage and family leave should be accomplished this session, along with cannabis regulation. Would like membership and CoCo efforts to push efforts forward. The House Caucus is working on the priorities that candidates who want the P can be held to. Focus on inequality and take the lead on trying to draw attention to this issue. Economic inequality, campaign finance and elections reform, climate change, free college should be public issues

5) Meg moved to committee structure, for outreach/membership and re-org planning. Meg would like to table to the April meeting, we should have a lot of time to discuss the issue then. Want some concrete goals for events this Summer. Caution urged on the D/P, P/D and P issues. April will give us an idea how the D/Ps are voting.

6) F-35 issue, resolution for platform amendment. The first question is can we amend the platform off cycle? A decision on this will need to be discussed at the February meeting.

7) Planning for the Feb meeting. Date Feb 24<sup>th</sup> 1-4, CoCo will meet at 11:30. Try to get someone from Public Assets, VPIRG, Main Street Alliance, panel and a single speaker. Two resolutions to be presented against the F-35 and the 4 year term. We need to fill CoCo vacancies. Regional breakouts local fund raisers.

8) March elections up date by Barb, Jane Odell loss in the caucus 85 to 65, she will probably run as an independent. The slate is very diverse. We are running in every race. -1 worst outcome, reasonable best +2. We do have candidates running for Selectboards, nonpartisan but we can endorse.

9) Call lists will go out for invites to State Committee members and Martha will poll on CoCo meeting in advance.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05