

Roane County Democratic Party Executive Committee's Meeting

Thursday, April 21, 2011

Call to Order: The executive committee's convention meeting was called to order by Bob Cowan.

Invocation: The invocation was given by Duie Swicegood

Pledge of Allegiance: immediately followed the invocation.

Roll Call: Bob Cowan, Steve Scarborough, Annie Scarborough, Carrie Barksdale, Duie Swicegood, Mary Ellen Blencoe, Joe Swicegood, Kat Moore, Tom Moore, Babs Kelley, and Rick Kelley were in attendance. Brad Parish, Steve Kelley, and Renee Kelley were excused due to other commitments.

Minutes: Kat Moore read the minutes from the March conference and post-conference executive committee meeting. Corrections were noted and there was a motion that was seconded and approved, that the minutes be revised and e-mailed to the executive committee before the next meeting. Mary Ellen read the minutes for the March 17 meeting. There was a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded and agreed to.

Old Business

Labor Day Picnic 2011: Babs Salley suggested that her son, Brian Bacon, could sing at the picnic; that he is well known in the community and has a range of genres. There was a discussion of featuring teachers at the picnic.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Ellen Blencoe read the treasurer's report. There was a motion to approve the report, which was seconded and passed.

New Business

Change Day of Monthly Meeting: Duie Swicegood proposed changing the meeting to the second Thursday of the month, since he has other meetings to attend on third Thursdays. Steve Scarborough suggested that the room availability be checked before we come to a decision. Bob Cowan stated that there would need to be a consensus among the executive committee to agree upon a change of day. He volunteered to check on the availability of the meeting room.

Pot Luck Dinner: Bob Cowan proposed that a pot luck dinner be hosted at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 19, before the next meeting, to get a consensus among the executive committee as to which day of the month would be best for the meetings to be held. Babs Salley volunteered to bring lasagna for the pot luck. Steve Kelley, although absent from the meeting, was drafted to bring his famous chocolate chip cookies.

Vacant Committee Seats: Annie Scarborough opened the discussion of the vacant committee seats. Joe Swicegood volunteered to recruit for the open seat in District 5. The open chair seat in Harriman will be filled by Andy Holmbeck, who is moving soon to Harriman. The vacant at large seat will be filled by Jack McNew.

Letter to the Editor: Duie Swicegood suggested that there should be a monthly letter to the editor, approved by the executive committee, published in the *Roane News*. He and Mary Ellen Blencoe volunteered to write a letter in support of teachers. There was a motion made, seconded and approved.

Nuclear Energy: Steve Scarborough brought up the proposed nuclear energy plant in Roane County to be managed by the TVA. The issue was debated between Steve, who feels that property values, which are already depressed from the ash spill, would be further decimated by the poor public image of both the TVA and nuclear energy; Babs Salley, who countered that in other communities, nuclear energy has brought jobs and prosperity; and Duie Swicegood, who explained how modern nuclear energy plants are safer than those of the past.

Building Party:

- Duie Swicegood proposed that the *Roane County News* editor be invited to sit in on our meetings as an objective observer to demonstrate the openness of our activities, as opposed to the hidden agenda of the Republicans.
- Carrie Barksdale talked about building up the party by working together in good faith.
- Bob Cowan introduced the idea that the Roane County Democratic Party should collaborate with other counties. The Blount County Democrats, for instance, have invited us to attend their Roosevelt Dinner on May 7, at \$40 per person. He would like to have Democrats from other counties in east Tennessee attend our Labor Day picnic and other events. Further, he offered that we could occasionally have meetings with other county chairs.
- Duie Swicegood mentioned that steelworker and machinist unions are strongly supportive of democrats and could be featured at the picnic.
- Annie Scarborough raised the subject of CASA's 5k run on May 21. The RCDP is invited to support the run. A donation of \$200 will earn a sponsorship spot for our logo on their t-shirt. Bob suggested that we could donate water to the runners. Steve Scarborough said that we could set up a water station. There was a motion to get a budget on the water, which was seconded and agreed upon. There was a motion to authorize up to \$250 for a CASA sponsorship. A total of \$25 was donated at the meeting for the run, which was collected by Mary Ellen Blencoe.
- Bob Cowan discussed the fundraising cards and levels of membership.
- Duie Swicegood raised the idea of a Democratic women's club. Mary Ellen Blencoe explained how women's clubs are no longer popular, since women gained inclusion in the organizations that were formerly closed to them. Kat Moore suggested that instead, we have an occasional Democratic Women's Night Out.

Adjournment: Bob Cowan motioned to adjourn the meeting. There was a second, an agreement, and the meeting was adjourned.