

Madison County Democratic Party

Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2011

I. Call to order

Susan Walton-Banks called to order the first session of the 2011-12 regular meeting of the **Madison County Democratic Party Executive Committee (EC)** at **7:00 p.m.** on **June 11, 2011** in **Central Distributors, 361 Hwy 45 Bypass, Jackson, TN.**

- A. Pledge of allegiance was waived as no American flag was available at the facility.
- B. Invocation was given by the new party chaplain, Susan Bond.

II. Roll call

A. Yvonne Thompson, Secretary conducted a roll call by districts. The following number of persons were represented in each district:

District 1: 1	District 4: 0	District 7: 0
District 2: 4	District 5: 6	District 8: 3
District 3: 5	District 6: 0	District 9: 2

Visitors/former members:

- Ben Griffin – Nominated to become member of EC
- Elaine Mooney – Nominated to become member of EC
- Beth Bates – Nominated to become member of EC/But declined
- Drew Baker – Nominated to become member of EC
- Lee Ham – Nominated to become member of EC
- Jerry Williamson (former EC member) – Nominated to return as member of EC

All nominees' districts must be confirmed and nominations are contingent on there being open slots in their respective districts.

- B. Copies of last meeting held March 3, 2011 were distributed and read silently by all present. The minutes were approved as read.

III. Treasurer's Report

A. **Laura Johnson, Treasurer gave the report, stating a balance of \$6,006.17.** There was no additional information or report provided from the previous Treasurer, Chris Rose.

A new account was opened at First Tennessee Bank. However, \$400 was left in the old interim account to cover any outstanding checks.

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A full report will be available from the new account and bank at the next meeting.

B. Expenditure Reimbursement Approval

- a. Annual fee for Intuit website - \$239.99
- b. Fitts Lipe suggested website expense might be too much as many members do have internet access. Suggested we use a page of the existing TN Democratic site for internet presence.
- c. Chairperson Banks explained that the site had been beneficial and offered many key features and services for the annual price.
- d. Discussion continued with Elaine Mooney suggesting researching lower priced sites with comparable features.
- e. After further discussion the \$239.99 was moved and seconded for approval with agreement to research lower cost service for hosting web site.

IV. Changes to Bylaws – Mandated by State Party

- a. Dues are removed as required as mandated by State.
- b. Chair Susan Walton-Banks suggested we continue to make donations, at least, in the amount of the \$20 formerly required for dues.
- c. Harrell Carter and Fitts Lipe volunteered to chair and co-chair the Bylaws Committee.

V. Committee Assignments

A. Development Committee – Chair, Robert Hill

- a. Send ideas for fundraising to Robert Hill via email at deerrun@aeneas.net or contact him at 731-423-3300.
- b. The initial idea from Robert is a Blues Fest to be held at The Barn for late afternoon or early evening, with some name performers that will attract key leadership and draw a large turnout.
- c. Another even larger event was suggested by Harrell Carter to be staged at a larger public venue that would include party wide participation and maybe even national recognition. Robert agreed, but noted that there would need to be strong commitment for full party participation for it to be successful.
- d. All ideas and suggestions, large and small, are welcome, as well as anyone will be welcome to serve on the committee.

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B. Young Democrats – Chair , Cody Goodman

- a. Cody noted that Young Democrats fall in the 13-36 age range.
- b. As chair, he will need help build on the existing structure and to identify and recruit young area leaders for participation.

C. Parliamentarians – Morris Merriweather, Ernest Brooks, Sr.

- a. Ernest Brooks was not present at the meeting to confirm his appointment. His appointment will be confirmed when he returns and accepts.

D. Sergeant-at-Arms – Morris Merriweather

E. LGBT Caucus – Drew Baker, Chair

- a. Drew accepted his position as chair of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Caucus stating that he was thrilled to do it. He is a lifelong Jacksonian and has been involved in the TEP (Tennessee Equality Project).
- b. He announced the TEP is holding its first annual Family Fun Fest at Conger Park on July 23, 2011 from 1 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will be a family friendly event with food and fun events for the whole family.

F. Women’s Caucus

- a. Chairperson Banks stated there will be a Women’s Caucus this term. The chair has not been decided.
- b. Once the chair is confirmed she will announce the formation of the Women’s Caucus, the chair, its plans, and solicit participation.

G. Communications Committee

- a. The Communications Committee consists of Susan Banks, Susan Bond, Cody Goodman, and Yvonne Thompson.
- b. Newly nominated EC member-to-be, Elaine Mooney, volunteer to work on the Communications Committee.

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VI. New Business

A. Democratic National Convention

- a. A suggestion was made to start planning the DNC in North Carolina, getting delegates, work on calendar, etc.
- b. David Johnson explained that each County will be notified of how many delegates they will be allowed to send. He also provided other detailed information on DNC process.

B. Other Items

- a. David Johnson suggested we continue the tradition of providing membership cards, using party thank you notes, and administering oath of office for new officers.
- b. Chairperson Banks agreed to follow-up on the suggestion.

C. Meeting Schedule – MCDP will meet the 2nd Thursday of every month at the Central Distributors, 361 Hwy 45 Bypass, Jackson, TN.

D. Action Items

<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsible</u>
Provide names tags at meetings.	Yvonne Thompson
Makes calls to members notifying members of meeting.	Patsy Johnson/Teresia Reasons
Provide email copy of EC list to Patsy and Teresia.	Yvonne Thompson

VII. Announcements

- A. The West TN Women's Democratic Club will be having its annual fundraiser on October 25, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. at the Agricultural Center on North Parkway. Details will follow as the date nears.

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VIII. Adjournment

Susan Walton-Banks, Chair, adjourned the meeting at **8:21 p.m.**

Minutes submitted by: Yvonne Thompson, Secretary