

# Madison County Democratic Party

## Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2011

The meeting call to order was preceded by 2 guest speakers:

1. **Elizabeth Crews, TNDP** reviewed the changes and answered questions about the change in TN voting laws effective January 1, 2012. All voters will be required to present a photo ID with the voter's name and signature in order to vote, whether early voting or voting on Election Day.
2. **Tony Blankenship, JMCEA** President discussed and took questions about teacher negotiations and the new evaluation system for teachers. The new evaluation system will require teachers to serve 5 years before being considered for tenure. They would be required to receive a 4 or 5 on their evaluations the last 2 years leading up to tenure consideration.

After discussion and questions, Mr. Blankenship referred the EC and visitors to Laura Beaver, PAC liaison, for further information or questions. Ms. Beaver is presently at Rose Hill.

### I. Call to order

**Susan Walton-Banks, Chair** called the meeting of the **Madison County Democratic Party Executive Committee (EC)** at **7:15 p.m.** on **August 11, 2011** in **Central Distributors, 361 Hwy 45 Bypass, Jackson, TN.**

- A. Pledge of allegiance was recited by all attendees.
- B. Invocation was given by the party chaplain, Susan Bond.
- C. Chair Banks read a statement urging all EC members to attempt to build an atmosphere of cooperation and unity during the regular meetings of the EC. The prior meeting seemed to have too much discord. (*See attached statement for full text. Appendix 1*)
  - a. She stressed the importance on focusing on the effectiveness of the party as whole and not on personal or factional agenda.
  - b. The chair announced that EC meetings would be recorded going forward to keep precise track of proceedings, as well as part of Committee records.

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

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- B. Copies of the last meeting held July 14, 2011 were distributed and read silently by all present. One change was made under Voter Registration for clarification purposes only. The 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, 4<sup>th</sup> sentence should read:

“Susan said the MCDP name will be added to the banner, when it is allowed.”

- C. The minutes were approved as read, with one change, as noted.

### III. Treasurer's Report

- A. Laura Johnson, Treasurer, gave the report, with a starting balance of \$6,135.71.
- B. Expenditures included
- a. 341.12 – Checks
  - b. 75.00 – Voter registration materials
  - c. 5.00 – Bank service charge
- C. Additions included:
- a. \$145.00 – Donations (7 donations made)
- D. Ending balance: \$5,669.59 as of July 30, 2011.

Laura Johnson read and presented her letter of resignation from the office of Treasurer of the MCDP Executive Committee, effective August 11, 2011. She cited a scheduling conflict with her duties as secretary of the Southwest District Lay Dept. of the CME Church. (*See attached copy of the letter of resignation read by Laura Johnson. Appendix 2*)

It was moved and seconded to accept her resignation as presented. A copy of the resignation letter was given to the Chair, Susan Walton Banks.

Morris Merriweather nominated Drew Baker, newly nominated member of the EC, as a new Treasurer. It was moved and seconded to approve Drew Baker as the new Treasurer of the MCDP Executive Committee.

Prior to acceptance, there was question as to compliance with Bylaws to nominate and accept a party who had not been formally approved as a member of the EC. It was determined that the EC is in compliance with the EC Bylaws. The nomination and approval was rendered final, after discussion.

### IV. Committee Reports

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A. **Development Committee – Chair, Robert Hill** (report made at beginning of meeting to accommodate announcement from Mike McWherter, who had to leave meeting early).

- a. **Announcement:** Mike McWherter and family have approved the Development Committee plans to host a Gov. Ned Ray McWherter Day as our major fundraiser April 5, 2012.
- b. The event will include all 20 counties in West TN. The venue has not been confirmed. But getting the date set is the 1<sup>st</sup> step as deposits will need to be made.
- c. The goal is 1,500 attendees, but Mr. McWherter stated that even 750 would be real success.
- d. Initial proposed tickets prices will be \$50 per person/\$100 a couple.
- e. The proposed event was approved by the EC.
- f. The Development Committee is ready to start planning the proposed Fall Fest to be held at the Hill Party Barn.
- g. The suggested date for Fall Fest event is October 22, 2011.
- h. It was moved and seconded to accept the event as a fundraiser and to move forward with the suggested date.
- i. The Fall Fest will be a jazz-focused evening of food and entertainment with live music from local talent.

B. **Young Democrats – Chair, Cody Goodman**

- a. Cody noted that Young Dems would be seeking participation from the newly opened University of Memphis, Lambuth campus here in Jackson.
- b. As chair, he will continue to build on the existing structure and to identify and recruit young area leaders, between ages 13-36, for participation.

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### C. LGBT Caucus – Drew Baker, Chair

- a. Drew reported on the 1<sup>st</sup> annual TEP Family Fun Fest held on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at Conger Park. The event was a success as a TEP fundraiser, raising funds for the TEP chapter. It was well attended and supported. He thanked all EC members for their support and for those that were able to attend the event.
- b. Tommy Schlindwein, guest, will be working with Drew on the LGBT Caucus.

### D. Women's Caucus – Chair appointment and formation of this caucus is pending.

### E. Obama 2012 – OFA Report

- a. Chair Banks asked guest Elizabeth Crews for an impromptu report of OFA activities in the TNDP.
- b. Elizabeth stated the focus for OFA for the TNDP presently is focused on recruiting interns and voter registration.

## V. Unfinished Business

### A. Voting on New EC Members

- a. Drew Baker was accepted and approved as an official member of the MCDP Executive Committee.
- b. Jerry Williamson was accepted and approved as an official member of the MCDP Executive Committee.

### B. West TN Mini-Summit

- a. Chair Banks reported that Lane College might no longer be an option as a venue for the mini-summit, as no confirmation has been received from them.
- b. A suggestion was made to use the Hill Party Barn as an alternate venue. No final decision was made.

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- c. The focus of the summit will be Drew Weston videos on crafting and communicating the Democratic liberal/progressive platform.

### VI. New Business

A. **Rebuild the Dream – Angela Jones** (Angela Jones unable to make the meeting. Report will be postponed until the next meeting.)

#### B. **Primary 2012 Decision**

- a. The chair reported the EC had to make a decision about whether to hold a primary or caucus in Madison Co. for the upcoming election. The deadline for decision October 7, 2011 at 4 p.m.
- b. After discussion, a motion was made to hold a primary in Madison Co. The motion was seconded and approved.

#### C. **African Street Fair**

- a. Discussion was held on plans for the MCDP EC booth at the African Street Fair held on Labor Day weekend.
- b. The previous suggestion of sharing a booth with the NAACP was discussed in detail, as to pros and cons.
- c. Robert Hill suggested we consider a “supper booth” in cooperation with local organizations, i.e. NAACP, and other groups.
- d. Volunteers were solicited to help/form committee on to make decision and ask for participation from other local groups, i.e. NAACP, sororities/fraternities, etc.

#### D. **Nominations for EC**

- a. Drew Baker nominated Tommy Schlindwein for membership on the EC.

#### E. **Announcements**

- a. Drinking Liberally 8/19/11 – Showing “Iron-Jawed Angels” film at Hill Party Barn.
- b. TEP Meeting scheduled for 8/15/11, 7 p.m. at Los Portales on Old Hickory.

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- c. Beth Bates announced the Business & Professional Women would be marking Women's Equality Day on August 26<sup>th</sup> by holding Flash Mobs at various locations about town honoring women who demonstrated for women's suffrage.
- d. Jackson Day – 10/1/11 Tribute to Gov. Ned Ray McWherter.

### VII. Adjournment

Susan Walton-Banks, Chair, adjourned the meeting at **8:19 p.m.**