



**Nebraska Democratic Party Central Committee
Meeting Lincoln East High School - Lincoln, Nebraska
Saturday, March 18, 2017**

Call to Order - Meeting called to order by State Chair Jane Kleeb

Pledge of Alliance

Invocation – Pastor Janet Banks

Welcome – Jane Egan, Lancaster County Democratic Party Chair

Refugee Empowerment Center, Board Director, Krista Fearnow thanked the NDP for the Refugee Welcome Basket donations.

Candidates Spoke - Zack James, Grant Sturic and Maggie Squires

Quorum - 86 present - Secretary, Charlene Ligon

Congressional District Caucus Reports

CD1 – Richard Register

CD2 – Mark Hoeger

LD7- Janet Bonet – Delegate

LD7 – Melissa Breazile – Alternate

LD13 – Doug Bowman – Delegate

LD13 – Jason Valandra – Alternate

LD31 – Brett Masterson - Alternate

CD3 – Stan Kontogiannis

LD30 – Cheryl Nichols – Delegate

Motion to seat the delegates by Joe Gruber LD39, seconded and carried by voice vote

Approval of Minutes – No corrections noted, the minutes stand approved as distributed.

Motion by Lisa Jennings, LD10 to include a list of delegates and alternates present at the SCC meeting in the minutes amended to include in the March 18, 2017 meeting minutes going forward to include excused members, seconded and carried by voice vote.

Candidate Spoke - Lou Braatz

Treasurer's Report – Ted Kessler, Treasurer

Patty Zieg, National Committeewoman - Discussed the Finance Plan.

Motion by Joe Orsi, LD4 to accept the Finance Plan as presented, seconded and carried by voice vote.

Pam Hopkins, Chair, Rules Committee – Presented an overview of Nebraska Democratic Party structure and the Rules Committee Report.

Motion by Clayton Christiansen LD1 requiring a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the SCC Body shall be required for consideration of a resolution not previously submitted to the Committee, if written copies are provided to the entire voting body. If a two-thirds (2/3) vote is not given, the presiding officer may refer the matter to the Committee for report and action at the next regular meeting of the State Central Committee, seconded and carried by voice vote.

Jennie Butler, Chair, Platform and Resolution Committee –

Resolution Opposing the Construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline - Submitted by Tom Tilden

WHEREAS, the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) is a 1,172 mile pipeline being constructed to carry up to 570,000 barrels per day of Bakken crude oil from North Dakota to Southern Illinois; and

WHEREAS, construction of DAPL may threaten significant sacred, cultural and historic sites of great importance to the original tribal inhabitants of the Great Plains; and

WHEREAS, DAPL poses an increased risk to the water supply of millions of Americans who depend on the Missouri River for drinking water and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, DAPL has been opposed by Tribal Nations, tribal organizations, and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; and

WHEREAS, peaceful protestors of DAPL have been harassed by law enforcement and private contractors armed with military vehicles, automatic weapons, attack dogs, water cannons, and tear gas in a militarized response that has injured elders, children and peaceful protesters; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nebraska Democratic Party stands in support of the Standing Rock Sioux and the entire Great Sioux Nation's opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nebraska Democratic Party remains fully committed to protecting tribal sacred, cultural and historic sites and will always work with American Indian and Alaskan Native people and tribal governments to protect tribal sovereignty and tribal lands for all future generations.

Moved by Joe Shaw to approve by acclamation, seconded and carried by voice vote.

Passed

Resolution To Vote Keith Ellison DNC Chair (NOP) – Submitted by Ken Riter

Not Passed

RESOLUTION REGARDING STATE FUNDING OF COURT JUDGEMENTS – Submitted by Charles Riedesel - Withdrawn

The Nebraska Democratic Party Resolution Opposing Attacks on Our Health Benefits 3-3-2017 submitted by Sue Martin, AFL-CIO

WHEREAS: Americans want and deserve health care that enables their children to grow into their full potential, does not force them into impossible choices between receiving lifesaving treatments and medicine and putting food on the table, and makes it possible for our seniors to be fully part of the life of their families and communities;

WHEREAS: Comprehensive health benefits are essential to ensuring working families and retirees can get the health care they need, when they need it;

WHEREAS: Health insurance should be affordable for all Americans;

WHEREAS: Medicare is a promise to the American people that must be kept for current and future generations, including the 55 million seniors and people with disabilities enrolled today and the many millions more counting on it for their retirement;

WHEREAS: Turning Medicare into a voucher system will break that promise—benefits would no longer be guaranteed and health care costs for seniors and people with disabilities would rise dramatically;

WHEREAS: Raising the Medicare eligibility age from 65 to 67 will not only harm millions of American seniors, but also increase costs for employers and states because they will have to cover more medical costs for people ages 65 and 66;

WHEREAS: Health benefits that working people earn on the job are the biggest source of health coverage in the United States, covering 178 million workers, retirees, and their family members;

WHEREAS: Some in Congress want to tax part of the cost of workplace health benefits by including it in workers' taxable income;

WHEREAS: Taxing workplace health benefits will penalize working people by raising their taxes and result in cuts to their health benefits, increased deductibles and other out-of-pocket requirements, and even the elimination of entire health plans by some employers;

WHEREAS: The Affordable Care Act (ACA) was an important step toward providing comprehensive, affordable health care for all;

WHEREAS: The ACA has reduced the share of people without health insurance to historic lows by guaranteeing everyone's right to buy insurance, providing new financial support for buying individual coverage, expanding Medicaid, and encouraging many employers to contribute toward the cost of workers' health benefits;

WHEREAS: The ACA requires insurance companies to treat consumers fairly, to provide meaningful insurance without tricks and traps, and not to discriminate against anyone because they have a preexisting condition or because of their gender;

WHEREAS: The ACA's expansion of health benefits has provided much needed help in addressing the opioid addiction crisis;

WHEREAS: Repealing the ACA without a replacement will put 30 million people at risk of losing their health benefits entirely and strip away vital protections and benefits from the many millions more with Medicare, Medicaid, and workplace coverage;

WHEREAS: More than 74 million people get health benefits through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP);

WHEREAS: Repealing the Affordable Care Act in its entirety will take health benefits away from the approximately 11 million people who gained coverage through that law's Medicaid expansion.

WHEREAS: Cutting federal funding to Nebraska for Medicaid through block grants or per capita caps will shift health care costs onto our state, force impossible choices between cutting health benefits or even eliminating eligibility for them, take funding away from other essential services, and require state taxpayers to pay more;

WHEREAS: Cutting federal funding to Nebraska for Medicaid will threaten the health care, nursing home care and the long-term supports and the services that allow seniors and people of all ages with disabilities to live independently in their own homes and communities;

WHEREAS: Cutting federal funding to Nebraska for Medicaid will threaten the health benefits that, together with the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), ensure that one-in-three children can get the medical care they need;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Nebraska Democratic Party opposes any and all attacks on our health benefits;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Nebraska Democratic Party calls upon all members of Congress representing the people of Nebraska to oppose any and all attacks on our health benefits, including legislation that:

- Turns Medicare into a voucher system, increases the Medicare eligibility age beyond 65, or in any other way cuts seniors' Medicare benefits or shifts additional costs onto them;
- Imposes new taxes on or otherwise threatens the health benefits working people earn on the job;

- Repeals the Affordable Care Act without a replacement plan that ensures that anyone with coverage today is able to afford it and keep it and that maintains key protections for all working families and seniors;
- Repeals the Affordable Care Act's expansion of Medicaid benefits to millions of people; or
- Block grants or imposes a per capita cap on federal funding for Medicaid;

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:

The Nebraska Democratic Party calls upon all members of Congress representing the people of Nebraska to support real reforms that bring us closer to the goal of providing comprehensive, affordable health coverage for all by strengthening and expanding health benefits and controlling and lowering health care costs, so that everyone in America can get the care they need, when they need it.

Motion to pass by CJ King LD4, seconded and carried by voice vote.

Passed

Resolution Putting Nebraska First in Energy Decisions – submitted by CJ King

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Democratic Party platform states that we must move towards energy independence and the best way to achieve that goal is through increased use of alternative energy sources; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy technologies have continued to advance resulting in cheaper prices for the electricity produced; and

WHEREAS, renewable and green energy sources have and continue to provide employment opportunities in the State of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, at our 2016 Nebraska Democratic State Convention we recognized that climate change poses a clear and present danger, we stated as a party that we support and encourage the use of Nebraska grown renewable energy resources to mitigate rising emissions while creating economic development opportunities across the state; and

WHEREAS, in a State that is growing and thriving, the increased need for energy mandates that we have a strategy that includes support for new energy projects, on both a utility and residential scale, we find better ways to conserve energy including promoting weatherization, improving existing infrastructure to utilize newer technologies and replacing outdated infrastructure with more efficient, environmentally friendly solutions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nebraska Democratic Party opposes projects that do not take into account the all of the above factors and the effect they may have on the environment, jobs, costs to consumers and the move towards energy independence; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the Nebraska Democratic Party calls upon all decision makers in the State to consider these factors prior to approving projects within the State and, when appropriate, defend these principles on projects that take place beyond our borders but can impact the residents of Nebraska.

Motion to approve by John Yoakum LD27, seconded and carried by voice vote.

Passed

Resolution in Support of Organized Labor and Working Men and Women – submitted by Patty Zieg

Whereas, the income and wealth gap between the richest Americans and the average American has increased radically as the rights of working people to organize have been diminished and membership in labor unions has declined;

Whereas, this enormous and growing gap is a danger to our democratic republic;

Whereas, our founding documents state that our government is founded "to promote the General Welfare", and that each of us is created equal with certain inalienable rights;

Whereas, our government has a moral obligation to use our common resources to protect and empower all of us equally;

Whereas organized labor has secured concessions from management and government that have strengthened our families and our communities--the 8 hour work day, paid vacation, the weekend, the guaranteed minimum wage, workers compensation insurance, OSHA and an end to child labor--to name a few such victories;

Whereas, the President of the United States has repeatedly stated that "U.S. wages are too high." and Republican legislatures, governors, and appointees to courts and administrative bodies continue a coordinated and concerted assault on the rights of working men and women which will lead to more inequality in America;

Therefore, be it resolved that the NDP condemns all actions in all branches of government and at all levels of government to weaken the human rights and legal rights of working men and women to organize and to bargain with management in either the private or public sector;

Be it further resolved, that the NDP will support policies and candidates which promote the well being of working people and their families and

Be it further resolved, that the NDP stands with its brothers and sisters in Labor to strengthen our families and communities by creating good jobs, safe work places, a healthy environment and an economy that works for everyone, not just a few.

Motion to pass by Sandy Skorniak, seconded and carried by voice vote.

Passed

Resolution – End Transphobia – submitted by Brandi Bossier

WHEREAS: Transphobia leads to the senseless deaths of beautiful human beings, destroys families and relationships.

WHEREAS: The Transgender community is among the most vulnerable across the various marginalized communities, especially trans women of color.

WHEREAS: Transgender equality lags far behind the rest of the LGBTQIA+ Community.

WHEREAS: A higher proportion of trans people are victims of violence compared to the rest of the population,

Therefore be it resolved, that the NDP stand firmly in support of ending transphobia.

Be it further resolved the NDP consider helping in the creation of a state level committee for gender identity issues to help give trans and gender nonconforming persons a safe space and an area of concentration in a Democratic organization that may not always be respectful enough of gender identity issues.

Motion to approve by Stan Kontogiannis, seconded and carried by voice vote.

Reports from Caucus Chairs

- Women's Caucus written campaign plan(attached), Janet Stewart, Chair
- Catholic Caucus, Ellen Moore, Chair
- LGBT Caucus, Brian Whitecalf, Chair
- Black Caucus, Chelsey Gentry-Tipton, Chair
- Native Caucus, Jason Valandra

Motion by Ted Kessler, NDP Treasurer to reimburse the Veterans Caucus \$260.00, seconded and carried by voice vote.

Motion by Ted Kessler, NDP Treasurer to reimburse the Nebraskans Experiencing Disabilities Caucus \$180.00, seconded and carried by voice vote.

Project Updates

Blue Bench Project

Chair Kleeb stated a training will take place in Lincoln and Omaha and the focus will be canvassing. There will be a knock on every door event the same day in North Platte.

Knock Every Door – Tom Tilden and Linda Anderson

Tom Tilden stated they had done some preliminary contacts and talked about issues.

Chair Kleeb introduced the staff Jacob Glantz, Grassroots Outreach; Eric Aspengren, Political Outreach and VAN; and Ryan Krumwell, Office Manager.

Chair Kleeb thanked Stephanie Matejka, the convention committee and Lancaster County Democratic Party for setting up the SCC meeting.

Meeting adjourned by motion.

**Submitted by Charlene Ligon
Secretary, Nebraska Democratic Party**

	A	B	C	D	E
1	First Name	Last Name	LD		Attendance 3/18/17
2	Clayton	Christiansen	1	Delegate	p
3	Eston	Clarke	1	Alternate	
4	Janet	Kirkendall	1	Delegate	
5	Karen	Richardson	1	Alternate	
6	Karen	Harvey Holmes	2	Delegate	p
7	Mark	Minchow	2	Alternate	p
8	Gary	Tafini	2	Delegate	p
9	Susan	Tafini	2	Alternate	p
10	Karima	Al-Absy	3	Delegate	p
11	William	Forsee	3	Delegate	p
12	Robert	Gerber	3	Alternate	p
13	Dee	Austin	4	Delegate	p
14	Clarence	King	4	Delegate	p
15	Chris	Walters	4	Alternate	p
16	Michael	Burgess	5	Delegate	p
17	Elizabeth	Evans	5	Delegate	
18	Craig	Jackson	5	Alternate	
19	Lacey	Merica	5	Alternate	
20	Jennie	Butler	6	Delegate	p
21	Mikal	Eckstrom	6	Alternate	
22	Michael	Hughes	6	Delegate	
23	Maureen	Monahan	6	Alternate	p
24	Janet	Bonet	7	Alternate	p
25	Melissa	Breazile	7	Delegate	p

	A	B	C	D	E
1	First Name	Last Name	LD		Attendance 3/18/17
26	Benjamin	Cass	7	Delegate	p
27	Christopher	Nowicki	7	Alternate	
28	William	Clark	8	Delegate	excused
29	Cherie	Clark	8	Alternate	excused
30	Jesse	Parker	8	Alternate	
31	Sandi	Skorniak	8	Delegate	p
32	Doreen	Jankovich	9	Delegate	
33	ken	Riter	9	Delegate	p
34	Mark	Vondrasek	9	Alternate	
35	Leslie	Wiseman	9	Alternate	
36	Lisa	Jennings	10	Delegate	p
37	Keith	Kubec	10	Delegate	p
38	Jessica	Kubec	10	Alternate	p
39	Charles	Spence	10	Alternate	
40	Meg	Barr	11	Alternate	p
41	Chelsey	Gentrey-Tipton	11	Delegate	p
42	Kyle	Jones	11	Delegate	p
43	Richard	Ream	11	Alternate	
44	Mary	Byrnes	12	Delegate	p
45	Trevor	Fitzgerald	12	Alternate	p
46	Robert	Meyers	12	Delegate	excused
47	Cindy	Wormington	12	Alternate	p
48	Linda	Bowman	13	Delegate	p
49	Doug	Bowman	13	Alternate	p

	A	B	C	D	E
1	First Name	Last Name	LD		Attendance 3/18/17
50	Gail	Knapp	13	Alternate	
51	Preston	Love	13	Delegate	
52	Rob	Carraher	14	Delegate	p
53	Rachel	Carraher	14	Alternate	excused
54	George	Lippert	14	Alternate	p
55	Peg	O'Dea Lippert	14	Delegate	p
56	Julie	Anderson	15	Delegate	p
57	Adam	Johnson	15	Alternate	p
58	Anna	Rodriguez	15	Alternate	
59	Vernon	White	15	Delegate	p
60	Michael	Arias	16	Delegate	
61	Candra	Guenther	16	Alternate	p
62	Pam	Hopkins	16	Delegate	p
63	Charles	Rohlfing	16	Alternate	
64	Jana	Adam	17	Delegate	p
65	Delmer	Adam	17	Alternate	p
66	Frank	Adams	17	Delegate	p
67	Meena	Dalal	17	Alternate	
68	Noah	Bennett	18	Delegate	p
69	Tim	Bennett	18	Alternate	p
70	Ellen	Bennett	18	Alternate	p
71	Suzanne	Curran Carney	18	Delegate	
72	Pete	Rizzo	19	Delegate	excused
73	Stacy	Tjaden	19	Alternate	

	A	B	C	D	E
1	First Name	Last Name	LD		Attendance 3/18/17
74	Sue	Weaver	19	Delegate	
75	Leann	Widham	19	Alternate	
76	Nathanial	Gadzinski	20	Delegate	p
77	Anna	Marasco	20	Alternate	p
78	Fiona	Matthews	20	Delegate	
79	Jeremy	Wright	20	Alternate	
80	Alex	Fall	21	Alternate	
81	Jodie	Smith	21	Alternate	
82	Elbert	Traylor	21	Delegate	
83	Michaela	Vander Weil	21	Delegate	p
84	Sharon	Brown	22	Delegate	
85	Tom	Havelka	22	Delegate	p
86	Susan	Klug	22	Alternate	
87	Virgil	Tworek-Hofstetter	22	Alternate	
88	Maria	Cadwallader	23	Alternate	p
89	Mikel-Jon	Divis	23	Alternate	p
90	Russell	Neumann	23	Delegate	
91	Jennifer	Norris	23	Delegate	p
92	Maegan	Nuss	24	Delegate	p
93	Deanna	Pulse	24	Alternate	p
94	James	Reamer	24	Delegate	p
95	Thomas	Green	25	Delegate	p
96	John	Roosmann	25	Alternate	
97	Jennifer	Seaman	25	Alternate	

	A	B	C	D	E
1	First Name	Last Name	LD		Attendance 3/18/17
98	Kate	Venter	25	Delegate	
99	Charise	Grimes Middendorf	26	Delegate	
100	Chris	Heiden	26	Delegate	
101	Ken	Nickerson	26	Alternate	p
102	Amanda	Schnakenberg	26	Alternate	
103	Dan	Marvin	27	Alternate	
104	Cleome	Mullinson	27	Alternate	p
105	Shayna	Swift	27	Delegate	
106	John	Yoakum	27	Delegate	p
107	Linda	Anderson	28	Delegate	p
108	Janet	Goodman Banks	28	Alternate	p
109	Vincent	Martinez	28	Alternate	p
110	Kellen	Smith	28	Delegate	
111	Debbie	DeFrain	29	Delegate	
112	Mary	Herres	29	Alternate	
113	Brandon	Langlois	29	Alternate	excused
114	Edison	McDonald	29	Delegate	p
115	Zachary	James	30	Delegate	p
116	Faith	Jones	30	Delegate	p
117	Steven	Jones	30	Alternate	p
118	Susan	Martin	30	Alternate	excused
119	Benjamin	Bartek	31	Alternate	
120	Barbara	Payne	31	Alternate	
121	George	Poleshuk	31	Delegate	p

	A	B	C	D	E
1	First Name	Last Name	LD		Attendance 3/18/17
122	Melanie	Williams	31	Delegate	p
123	Catherine	Axon	32	Delegate	
124	Shaun	Friedrichsen	32	Alternate	
125	Rebecca	Gonzales	32	Alternate	
126	Travis	Waldron	32	Delegate	p
127	Brent	Hultine	33	Delegate	excused
128	Kathy	Jensen	33	Delegate	p
129	Deb	Quirk	33	Alternate	
130	John	Quirk	33	Alternate	
131	Kent	Goertzen	34	Alternate	
132	LeEllen	Haynes	34	Delegate	p
133	Richard	Maciejewski	34	Delegate	
134	Michael	Niece	35	Delegate	
135	Brenda	Schmid	35	Delegate	p
136	Sonja	Weinrich	35	Alternate	p
137	Brian	Whitecalf	35	Alternate	p
138	Merikay	Berg	36	Alternate	
139	Scott	Foster	36	Alternate	
140	Joy	Roos	36	Delegate	
141	Luis	Sotelo	36	Delegate	
142	Kathleen	Alff	37	Delegate	p
143	Penny	Parker	37	Alternate	
144	Caleb	Rohrer	37	Delegate	
145	Justin	Simmons	37	Alternate	

	A	B	C	D	E
1	First Name	Last Name	LD		Attendance 3/18/17
146	Steven	Kile	38	Delegate	p
147	Elena Olson	King	38	Delegate	p
148	Lisa	Lieth	38	Alternate	
149	Jarod	Markley	38	Alternate	
150	Joe	Gruber	39	Delegate	p
151	Sara	Kohowski	39	Delegate	p
152	Kevin	Pierce	39	Alternate	
153	Kristie	Pierce	39	Alternate	
154	Marlo	Johnson	40	Delegate	p
155	Vacant		40	Delegate	
156	Donita	Anderson	41	Alternate	
157	Gale	Pemberton	41	Delegate	
158	Art	Tanderup	41	Delegate	
159	Shaun	Baker	42	Alternate	p
160	Susan	Conrad	42	Alternate	p
161	Terry	Sigler	42	Delegate	p
162	Lauree	Sigler	42	Delegate	p
163	Asia	Carr	43	Alternate	
164	Richard	Landgren	43	Delegate	p
165	Aimee	Norman	43	Delegate	
166	Roger	Wess	43	Alternate	
167	Justin	Daake	44	Alternate	
168	Phil	Lyons	44	Delegate	p
169	Sharlette	Schwenninger	44	Delegate	p

	A	B	C	D	E
1	First Name	Last Name	LD		Attendance 3/18/17
170	Angela	Thomas	44	Alternate	
171	Roy	Gertig	45	Alternate	p
172	Robert	Ligon	45	Delegate	p
173	Nancy	Scott	45	Delegate	p
174	Jean	Seibel	45	Alternate	p
175	Erik	Delaney	46	Alternate	
176	Stephanie	Matejka	46	Delegate	p
177	Angel	Schmidt	46	Alternate	p
178	Joe	Shaw	46	Delegate	p
179	Ann	Klein	47	Delegate	p
180	Evan	Mehne	47	Alternate	p
181	James	Moore	47	Delegate	p
182	Jazmin	Pruneda	47	Alternate	
183	Stan	Kontogiannis	48	Alternate	p
184	Mike	Meister	48	Delegate	p
185	Michelle	Meister	48	Delegate	p
186	Rae Ann	Schmitz	48	Alternate	
187	Lisa	Fricke	49	Alternate	p
188	Lorri	Kile	49	Delegate	p
189	Anne	Boyle		Finance Chair	
190	Mark	Hoeger		CD2 Chair	
191	Ron	Kaminski		National Committeeman	excused
192	Ted	Kessler		Treasurer	p
193	Janet	Kleeb		Chair	p

	A	B	C	D	E
1	First Name	Last Name	LD		Attendance 3/18/17
194	Stan	Kontogiannis		CD3 Chair	p
195	Frank	LaMere		1st Associate Chair	p
196	Charlene	Ligon		Secretary	p
197	Bryon	Line		Chair Veterans Caucus	excused
198	Marta	Nieves		Latino Caucus Chair	p
199	Joe	Orsi		Working Families Caucus	p
200	Bud	Pettigrew		Chair of Chairs	p
201	Lynn	Redding		Persons with Disability Caucus Chair	p
202	Richard	Register		CD1 Chair	p
203	Kimara	Shipe		CD1 Associate Chair	
204	Janet	Stewart		Womens Caucus Chair	p
205	Tom	Tilden		2nd Associate Chair	p
206	Judy	Vohland		CD3 Associate Chair	p
207	Mechelle Sky	Walker		Native American Caucus Chair	p
208	Christa	Yoakum		CD1 Associate Chair	p
209	Patty	Zieg		National Committeewoman	p