



Nebraska Democratic Party

## Summer Meeting: June 9-10, 2017

Link to register for meetings and pay for lunch: <http://tinyurl.com/NDPSummer>

The Nebraska Democratic Party (NDP) looks forward to seeing SEC and SCC members along with grassroots Democrats at our Summer Meeting in Chadron!

At our quarterly meetings, the NDP conducts party business, issue and constituency-based Caucus meet to plan events and we gather to further the goals of the party—electing Democrats at all levels in our state.

Our Fall Meeting is in Omaha on Oct. 21, 2017. The Fall Meeting includes a full-day training on Oct. 22 with three tracks for candidates, campaign managers and grassroots leaders.

Included in this packet is everything you need to prepare for our meeting in Chadron plus information on trainings we offer and list serve guidelines.

NDP Secretary Charlene Ligon included minutes and attendance list from our last meeting in Lincoln. Additionally, NDP Rules Chair Pam Hopkins included a detailed list of possible by-law changes the SEC body will discuss and vote on in Chadron.

If you have any questions about the packet or the meeting, please email me [jane@nebraskademocrats.org](mailto:jane@nebraskademocrats.org) or the Operations Manager [ryan@nebraskademocrats.org](mailto:ryan@nebraskademocrats.org).

-Jane Kleeb, Chair

## Date, Time, Location of Summer Meeting

Our Summer Meeting takes place on June 9 and 10 in Chadron, Nebraska. Please note, the times listed on the schedule are MT not CT since Chadron is in the Mountain Time Zone!

The Native Caucus, Meal and Movie takes place on June 9.

The trainings, Caucuses, Congressional Districts, SEC and SCC meetings take place on June 10.

- **June 9:** Chadron Native American Center, 502 W 2nd St, Chadron, NE 69337
- **June 10:** Chadron High School, 901 Cedar St, Chadron, NE 69337

## Registration and Meals

We ask that you register to attend the meeting. There is no cost to attend the meetings and all SEC and SCC members will have name tags prepared even if you do not register-- however, registering helps us plan for meals.

You can purchase a meal for both the Friday supper and Saturday lunch. We have vegetarian and gluten free options at all meals. During the registration process you can choose either meal to be added to your ticket.

- On June 9, we will serve soup, chili and bread during the movie for a cost of \$10.
- On June 10, light breakfast of muffins and coffee is served at no cost. Lunch is \$15 or you can bring your own lunch.

**Link to register for meetings and pay for lunch:** <http://tinyurl.com/NDPSummer>

## Lodging and Things To Do in Chadron

We recommend taking a look at the Chamber's website to make a weekend of going out to western Nebraska: <http://www.chadron.com>

Chadron is home to the Fort Robinson State Park with cabins, hiking paths and more: <http://outdoornebraska.gov/fortrobinson>

## Key Highlights and Reminders

**The Rules Committee:** The Rules Committee has several proposals for your consideration, *please read the attached proposals* and be prepared for votes at the June 10 meeting.

**Chair Kleeb Round Table:** At each meeting, Jane will hold a roundtable to get feedback on key issues facing the state and national party. For the roundtable on June 10, the conversation will focus on the DNC Unity Commission (Chair Kleeb is a member of) as well as the direction of staffing for the state party.

**Questions?** Email [ryan@nebraskademocrats.org](mailto:ryan@nebraskademocrats.org)

## Supplies for Chadron Native American Center

Each meeting we collect items to leave with the community we hold our meeting in—our Winter Meeting we collected diapers for the local shelter and for our Spring Meeting we collected Welcome Baskets for immigrant and refugee families.

In this same tradition, we are collecting items to leave with the Chadron Native American Center. They requested we collect items they can deliver to homeless and other members of the community that need assistance with hygiene care. Grants that support wonderful groups like the Chadron Center often do not cover hygiene items, so groups turn to people like us—Democrats—to fill this need.

Read more: <https://chadronnativeamericancenter.com>

Please bring at least one full size of these items or a few trial/travel size options:

- Shampoo
- Toothpaste (adult or kid)
- Toothbrush (adult or kid)
- Soap
- Brushes and combs
- Laundry soap
- Dish soap
- Diapers & wipes
- Camping utensils (some families are living in their cars, this helps with meal time)

## Training Resources

Staff and NDP Officers can come to your local county party meetings or caucus events and conduct trainings. Jacob is the lead staff person for all training: [jacob@nebraskademocrats.org](mailto:jacob@nebraskademocrats.org)

The DNC offers an in-depth online training program many Nebraskans are certified in and many more are going thru the certification process now. Some topics include Social Media Organizing and Fundraising.

You can also watch the presentations online—we created a blog post on the Nebraska Democrats website where we post all the previous session <http://nebraskademocrats.org/blog/training/>

As the Grassroots Organizer for the Nebraska Democratic Party, one of my jobs is to ensure you at the local level have resources and support to keep building the party.

NDP Officers and staff are available to speak at your monthly meetings, caucus meetings or fundraisers. Every NDP staff member and officer has specific skills and experience on which he or she can train and work with county parties. Those skills are listed below:

**Jane Kleeb, Chair**

Jane can provide updates on national DNC work including the Unity Commission which she is a member of. Jane can also train on grassroots organizing, peer to peer turnout, media work, communications/branding.

**Frank LaMere, Associate Chair**

Frank can train on indigenous organizing and indigenous issues including providing updates on the White Clay matter. He can lead discussions on other progressive issues and can train on how to utilize motivational skills; to keep volunteers engaged. He can also lead discussions based on the movie “Sober Indian, Dangerous Indian”.

**Tom Tilden, 2nd Associate Chair**

Tom can train on canvassing, both traditional campaign canvassing and information gathering canvasses such as; Knock Every Door. Also, he can train on the Obama neighborhood team building model.

**Patty Zieg, National Committeewoman**

Patty can train on prospecting for donors and fundraising. She can also train on messaging strategies.

**Ron Kaminski, National Committeeman**

Ron can train on labor organizing and union history in Democratic politics.

**Eric Aspegren, Political and Field Director**

Eric can train on candidate recruitment, how to use the VAN for targeting voters, creating walk lists and updating info like emails and cell phones. Eric can also train the party on how to create GOTV plans.

**Jacob Denniston, Grassroots Organizer**

Jacob can train on the topics of Organizing Events, Volunteer Recruitment and Building Relationships, Telling your Personal Story, Earning Media Coverage, and Digital Storytelling.

## List Serves

We have three active list serves the NDP manages—one for SEC and SCC Members and one for County Chairs. Our party did not have ground rules in place for these list serves, so we put these in place.

**If you are not on a list serve and want to be, please email [ryan@nebraskademocrats.org](mailto:ryan@nebraskademocrats.org).**

The list serve emails are as follows:

- SCC + SEC Members: [nebdem@googlegroups.com](mailto:nebdem@googlegroups.com)

- County Chairs: [nebraskacountychairs@googlegroups.com](mailto:nebraskacountychairs@googlegroups.com)

## NDP List Serve Ground Rules

### NDP list serves are a big tent space for:

- **Creative ideas and projects** from all members of the SEC and SCC
- **Introductions**, re-introductions, and updates on you and your county, caucus, etc
- **Report backs, lessons learned and success stories** it's OK to brag :)
- **Questions, brainstorm, requests** for advice and collaboration
- **Articles, videos, movies and books** related to movement and party building
- **Strategize rapid response** to pivotal opportunities or crises
- **Diversity of approaches** unity without uniformity
- **Forming spin-off working groups** or conversations on particular projects

### We find list serves are helpful to the party when:

- **Members engage thoughtfully.** We would greatly appreciate your help with self-moderating and carefully choosing when you send messages to the list. You can send posts to the list, we just ask you do not dominate the list.
- **The tone and vibe of discussion is kind.** We want everyone to be kind to one another and work harder than ever to build a community. Never has it been so clear that we need a bigger movement for justice in this country and beyond, and we know that an inclusive vibe and positive tone is extremely important. In practice, this means re-reading your posts to check if the tone of your message might trigger or appear hostile toward other folks on the list, and then re-working to get your points across in a caring way. We are closely watching the vibe of the space - we want it to be a place folks where folks feel great about engaging!
- **"Subject" Lines are clear, constructive, and interesting.** This is important. It sets the tone for the whole conversation, and what will show up in everyone's inbox to decide whether to engage the thread.
- **Posts include interesting, important CONTEXT!** Please, pretty please, give at least a few lines of interesting context (such as: Why are you posting it? What's the relevance or backstory? Questions, hopes or concerns you have in sharing this? What's the underlying theory of change or noteworthy idea that you're pointing out in what you shared?). Exceptions for truly major breaking news.

### The NDP list serves are NOT a space for:

- **Personal attacks, even subtle ones** for example "I'm good, you suck," "I'm right, you're wrong", and snarky put-downs.
- **Dissing** Democrats, organizations or individuals. This includes sending links that dis others.
- **Drama or beef** personal or organizational - take it offline, talk in person.
- **Leaks** you cannot forward information from this list unless you get permission or unless its already public info (like info on meetings, events).
- **Cross-examining** folks in a way that could be read as hostile, attacking or designed to embarrass. It's OK to ask genuine questions, and give honest reactions. But no one on the list should be

expected to disclose private info about their work. Repeated or judgy questioning may be interpreted as attack.

- **No harassing people offline for things they write to the list.** Also no taking things on this list and carrying it over to social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc).



**Nebraska Democratic Party  
Schedule for June 9 and June 10**

Please note, the times listed are MT not CT since Chadron is in the Mountain Time Zone!

**Schedule June 9 (all times are in MT)**

*Chadron Native American Center, 502 W 2nd St, Chadron*

**4:30-5:30pm**

Native Caucus Meeting

**6-7:30pm**

Meal (must purchase ticket for \$10) and Movie Screening of Sober Indian, Dangerous Indian

**7:30-8pm**

Discussion of movie led by Native Caucus Chair Chandra Mechelle Sky Walker, NDP Vice Chair Frank LaMere and Movie Director John Maisch

**Schedule June 10 (all time are in MT)**

*Chadron High School, 901 Cedar St, Chadron*

**8am-Noon**

Check In (get name badge, meeting materials)

**8:30-9:30am**

Climate Caucus

Latino Caucus

Veterans Caucus

LGBT Caucus

Rule Committee Meeting (no formal agenda, available as needed)

Blue Bench Training: Telling Your Digital Story and Sharing of Training Resources and Experiences with DNC Training

*5 minute break to get to next meeting*

**9:35-10:35am**

Working Families Caucus

County Chairs Meeting

Black Caucus

Nebraska Young Democrats

Blue Bench Training: Registering Voters, Creating Walk Lists and Managing Data

*5 minute break to get to next meeting*

**10:40-11:40am**

Women's Caucus  
Catholic Caucus  
Democrats Experiencing Disabilities Caucus  
Platform and Resolutions Meeting  
Roundtable with Chair Kleeb

*5 minute break to get to next meeting*

**11:45am-12:45pm**

CD1 Meeting (vacancies for SCC get voted on)  
CD2 Meeting (vacancies for SCC get voted on)  
CD3 Meeting (vacancies for SCC get voted on)

*5 minute break to get to lunch*

**12:50-1:30pm**

Lunch  
Open-Mic for Announcements, Sharing of Ideas

**1:15-1:30pm**

State Executive Committee (SEC) Check-In Huddle

**1:30-4:30pm**

State Central Committee Meeting (SCC) / meeting expected to end by 4:30pm

## **State Central Committee (SCC) Agenda**

1. Call to Order at 1:30pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Invocation
4. Welcome
  - a. Dawes County Chair, Roger Wess
  - b. Presentation of donated items to Chadron Native American Center, Chandra Mechelle SkyWalker
  - c. Elected Officials present recognized
  - d. Candidates for office recognized
5. Actions of the NDP Secretary, Charlene Ligon
  - a. Quorum
  - b. CD Chair Reports
  - c. Seating of Delegates
  - d. Approval of Minutes (copies available at the registration desk)
6. Treasurer's Report – Ted Kessler
  - a. Summary of accounts including a detailed summary of city election work
    - i. \$50,000 donation from DNC
    - ii. Several unions stepping up in big ways including the Firefighters

- b. Ongoing donations and national support
      - i. \$7,500 per month from DNC to support Eric and Ryan's positions
      - ii. \$5,000 per month from DCCC to support Jacob's position
    - c. Monthly donor update
      - i. Report on current monthly donors and monthly income from new monthly donors
      - ii. Our goal at the end of 2017 is to have at least 225 monthly donors bringing in at least \$6,000 per month
- 7. Finance Chair Report
  - a. Updates from Finance Plan
  - b. Update on Salute to State Senators
  - c. Upcoming fundraisers (included in this packet)
- 8. Rules Committee Chair Report
  - a. Vote on proposals (see letter from Rules Chair included in this packet)
- 9. Platform and Resolutions Committee Chair Report
  - a. Vote on resolutions
  - b. Vote on platform inclusions from the 2016 convention (votes on a handful are not recorded so we need to re-vote on these platform planks)
- 10. Reports from other Caucuses and Committees
- 11. New Business of Chair Jane Kleeb
  - 2017 Elections Update
  - Project Updates
    - o *Blue Bench Project*: Update on training and outreach program
    - o *#KnockEveryDoor and DNC Resistance Summer Program*: Tom Tilden, 2<sup>nd</sup> Associate Chair
      - Update on neighbor-to-neighbor outreach, plans for summer outreach, new staff positions available via DNC program
    - o *10 + 10 = 2020*: Patricia Zieg and Ron Kaminski, DNC Committee Members
      - Update on county level fundraising and voter registration
  - Getting ready for 2018 Elections
    - o 2018 State Legislature races--all even districts are up
  - Staff Reports
    - o Eric: Candidate recruitment, 2017 election information, VAN updates
    - o Jacob: We the People Town Halls, Resistance at Congressional Town Halls, Grassroots organizing, Trainings
    - o Ryan: Office management, Website updates, Intern program

- DNC Updates, Nebraska's DNC Members
  - Unity Commission
  - Upcoming DNC Meeting in Detroit
  
- Dates and Locations for SCC Meetings in 2017 and 2018
  - Vote on schedule
  
- Plus/Delta close out of the meeting

## 12. Adjournment

\*The Rules Committee will hold a meeting after SCC business concludes to discuss priorities for rule changes to be brought to the body at the next State Convention in 2018\*

### **A Letter from Rules Chair Hopkins: Copies of Proposed By-Law Changes**

Dear SCC Members,

The Rules Committee is including several items in your packet. These include your formal NOTICE OF PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES for your consideration at the June 10, 2017 State Central Committee Meeting (SCC). You will be asked to vote to approve these changes to the NDP By-Laws, by a majority vote.

There are three proposed amendments. Two of the amendments relate to the functioning of the Platform and Resolutions Committee (P&R). The purpose of the changes is to provide for a clear procedure for bringing resolutions to the floor at the SCC meeting. The proposed rule is designed to encourage resolutions to pass through the P&R Committee for review and recommendation to the SCC for action. Note that P&R only has authority to make recommendations. It will ultimately be up to the SCC to vote on final approval. Further, if a resolution comes straight from the floor and it is of an urgent nature, the SCC has the right to have the resolution voted on immediately.

The third proposed amendment incorporates a motion passed at the March 2017 meeting into the By-Laws. This amendment requires the Minutes of SCC meetings to include attendance records for delegates to SCC. Our by-laws specifically provide that an SCC member may be removed from their position if they fail to regularly attend SCC meetings, without notice, and this change will make attendance part of the official record of the SCC.

In addition to the above, the Rules Committee is holding a public meeting at the conclusion of the SCC meeting, in order to seek input regarding the priorities the committee should focus on as we prepare for the 2018 Convention. All changes to the NDP Constitution, and most changes to the by-laws, can only be done at Conventions. To facilitate this process, the Rules Committee will need to do the bulk of the work on such changes long before the Convention.

To further our efforts to appropriately prioritize our work, included in your packet is a form to fill out to encourage your thoughtful consideration on issues related to NDP Rules. This form is designed to encourage input, even if you are unable to attend the SCC meeting in Chadron. Here is a link to the existing Rules for your reference: <http://nebraskademocrats.org/ndp-constitution-and-bylaws/>

I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions, or need anything else to help you navigate the Rules to fully participate in your Nebraska Democratic Party. While copies of proposed amendments will be available at the SCC meeting, I ask that you bring these documents with you to the meeting, in order to cut down on waste and cost for the NDP.

Sincerely,  
Pam Hopkins , NDP Rules Committee Chair  
Preferred contact: [pamela.lynn.hopkins@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.lynn.hopkins@gmail.com), (402) 278-0522

**Three Attachments from the Rules Committee:**

- New By-Law 5.5.3
- Amendment of By-Law 5.10.1.1.
- Preferred Priority for NDP Rule Committee at 2018 Convention Survey

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENT: New By-Law 5.5.3**

Please be advised that the Rules Committee is proposing, at the June 10, 2017 SCC meeting, to amend By-Law 5.5 as follows:

**New By-Law 5.5.3**

***Minutes. In addition to all other requirements, minutes of State Central Committee meetings shall include a list of those delegates and alternates attending and a list of those delegates absent with prior notice.***

This change is recommended to bring the By-Laws into conformity with the vote of the SCC membership at the meeting of March 18, 2017 regarding contents of SCC minutes.

If the membership adopts these amendments, By-Law 5.5 will read, in its entirety, as follows:

5.5. Meetings.

5.5.1. Time and Place. The newly elected State Central Committee shall hold an organizational meeting immediately after the adjournment of the State Convention. The State Chair shall call at least four (4) regular meetings each year scheduled among the Congressional Districts on an equitable basis. The organizational meeting of a State Central Committee shall not be considered a meeting for purposes of this rule. The State Chair shall fix the time and place of all such meetings with the approval of the State Central Committee.

A special meeting of the State Central Committee may be called by the State Chair or upon petition of fifteen (15) State Central Committee members with at least three (3) members from each Congressional District represented on the petition. Said petition to hold a special meeting shall be delivered to the State Secretary and the State Chair. The State Chair shall fix the time and place of said special meeting within ten (10) days of receipt of the petition, and unless otherwise specified in the petition, the special meeting shall be held no more than thirty (30) days following receipt of the petition.

5.5.2. Quorum. Quorum for a State Central Committee meeting is forty percent (40%) of the total membership.

5.5.3 Minutes. In addition to all other requirements, minutes of State Central Committee meetings shall include a list of those delegates and alternates attending and a list of those delegates absent with prior notice.

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**NOTICE OF PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENT: Amendment of By-Law 5.10.1.1.**

Please be advised that the Rules Committee is proposing, at the June 10, 2017 SCC meeting, to amend By-Law 5.10.1.1 as follows:

**Amendment of By-Law 5.10.1.1.**

Platform and Resolutions. The Platform and Resolutions Committee of the Nebraska Democratic Party shall develop the Party's platform and resolutions in a timely, orderly, and open process, for presentation and action at each State Convention. ***The Committee is also responsible for a timely, orderly, and open process for presenting resolutions offered for action at meetings of the State Central Committee.***

#### **New Bylaw 5.10.1.1.4**

***Resolutions. At each State Central Committee meeting, the Platform and Resolutions Committee shall submit a report of those resolutions timely submitted to the committee for consideration by the State Central Committee. The committee's report to the State Central Committee shall include the proposed resolutions recommended for adoption, those forwarded without recommendation, those recommended for consideration at the next biennial State Convention, and a list of those not recommended by the committee.***

***A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the State Central Committee shall be required for consideration of a resolution not submitted to the Platform and Resolutions Committee at least ten days prior to the State Central Committee meeting. If a two-thirds (2/3) vote is not given, the State Chair shall refer the matter to the committee for report and action at the next regular meeting of the State Central Committee or the next biennial State Convention, whichever comes first.***

Renumber the remaining sections of Bylaw 5.10.1.1

This change is recommended to clarify that, as a Standing Committee, the Platform and Resolutions Committee has the authority to act on proposed resolutions between State Conventions, and to create a permanent procedure to so act.

If the membership adopts these amendments, By-Law 5.10.1.1 will read, in its entirety, as follows:

5.10.1.1 Platform and Resolutions. The Platform and Resolutions Committee of the Nebraska Democratic Party shall develop the Party's platform and resolutions in a timely, orderly and open process, for presentation and action at each State Convention. **The Committee is also responsible for a timely, orderly and open process for presenting resolutions offered for action at meetings of the State Central Committee.**

5.10.1.1.1 Composition. Each Congressional District Caucus shall elect four men and four women to serve on the Platform and Resolutions Committee. Committee members, including the Committee Chair, are not automatic Convention delegates, but are encouraged to seek such election.

5.10.1.1.2 Hearings. The committee shall conduct at least one platform hearing in each of the State's Congressional Districts during the general election year and county chairs shall be informed of such hearings. A final platform hearing shall be conducted in conjunction with the State Convention.

5.10.1.1.3 Platform Report. The committee shall submit a preliminary platform (exclusive of changes proposed following the convention hearing conducted pursuant to Rule 5.10.1.1.2), including minority reports, in writing to the State Chair not later than three days following the last County Convention in the year of the biennial State Convention. The Committee's Final Report to the convention delegates at the State Convention shall include the proposed Platform and resolutions recommended for adoption, those forwarded without recommendation and a list of those rejected by the committee. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Convention Body shall be required for consideration of a resolution not previously submitted to the Committee. 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.

5.10.1.1.4 Resolutions. At each State Central Committee meeting, the Platform and Resolutions Committee shall submit a report of those resolutions timely submitted to the committee for consideration by the State Central Committee. The committee's report to the State Central Committee shall include the proposed resolutions recommended for adoption, those forwarded without recommendation, those recommended for consideration at the next biennial State Convention, and a list of those not recommended by the committee.

A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the State Central Committee shall be required for consideration of a resolution not submitted to the Platform and Resolutions Committee at least ten days prior to the State Central Committee meeting. If a two-thirds (2/3) vote is not given, the State Chair shall refer the matter to the committee for report and action at the next regular meeting of the State Central Committee or the next biennial State Convention, whichever comes first.

5.10.1.1.5 Petition. Platform items or resolutions rejected by the Committee may be considered by the Convention body provided that a written petition, containing the substitute language, signed by at least 20 percent of the Convention delegates present when quorum was established, is distributed to the Convention prior to debate on the platform. A petition must contain signatures from each Congressional District with no Congressional District represented by more than 50 percent of said signatures.

