

Vermont Progressive Party State Convention November 17, 2018

1) Meeting called to order by Meg Poleit at 2:20; welcoming remarks and introductions. Staff, members and volunteers recognized for their contributions.

2) Elections Update: Josh, Jack and Carter gave an elections update. More candidates than ever before, the fusion candidacy phenomena continues. 7 holds in the house, pickups for D/P's 5 for the House. How do we want to deal with the D/P issue? 7 Senate seats, we are now the opposition party. Doug Hoffer, David Zuckerman both won re-election. David beat back a 3 to 1 spending advantage to win almost 60% of the vote. Our candidates raised almost \$500k in small contributions.

3) Doug Hoffer made some remarks about the use of cherry picked numbers by the Scott Administration and as Auditor disputed some of the assertions and conclusions based on those numbers.

4) Issues Panel, Diana Gonzalas VT House, Kate Logan of RAD, Anne Watson Mayor of Montpelier, Heather Reamer director of AFT. Kate talked about her work in women's rights and march organization, the Centennial of Women's Suffrage is coming up; issues for RAD this year \$15 minimum wage, paid family and medical leave insurance, need to recognize that state government needs to address the erosion of women's rights on the federal level. Anne talked about climate change and policy issues; carbon emissions continues to increase, Montpelier continues to pursue a net zero goal; has been advocating in the State House for an expansion of local ability to make policy; advocating for a carbon tax; explained the Essex Plan for a revenue neutral carbon price that would benefit the bottom 80%; advocated a shift in the economy away from fossil fuels. Heather spoke about AFT and labor in Vermont; issues about state support for education vs. the goal of free tuition; talked about the nurses' strike, flat hierarchy and open process resulted in a 16% minimum increase in nurse pay, minimum wage for support staff will go to \$15 an hour; talked about the issues around the "non-profit" hospital system in VT, Doug gave some numbers, advocated more public oversight; organize, honest assessment of the health system. Floor opened to questions.

5) Announcements; Meg explained the focus process with the issue set, three dots only; Martha Abbot VPP Treasurer took the floor to talk about party finances and the need for monthly donors; Meg announced openings on the CoCo, 2019 State Committee Meeting dates. Josh talked about the local elections coming up on Town Meeting Day, urged that we think about school and select board. VT 350 statement supporting pipeline moratorium, carbon tax, asking for the VPP to help support legislation to move the state goals forward. Advocacy of working for the transfer of military resources to more human needs as represented by opposition to F-35. Affordable housing advocacy, Affordable Housing Coalition looking for allies. Brenda Seigal pitched a fundraiser to pay her campaign debt off. Took a break!

6) Remarks from elected Progressives. Lt. Governor David Zuckerman facilitated, spoke about the need to run and how today's successes are built on yesterday's losses, actually out poled Scott by 7,000, more Progressives in the Senate than Republicans, supported ranked voting an issue to rekindle. Diana, returning for a 3rd term, vice chair of the Progressive Caucus in the House, looking at how we can leverage the supermajority with the Dems. Brian re-elected along with Selena Coburn, on the healthcare committee working on a universal primary system to work toward universal care, talked about a zero waste economy as a developing issue and one for study. Mari ran on climate change, universal

healthcare and \$15 minimum wage in a district she was told this would not connect in, advocated for Progs running for the local offices, would like to look at ways of maintaining direct communication with her constituents. Zack won walking away, feels that Progressive values made all the difference, thanked RAD for its help; urged candidates to seek help. Bob Hooper replaced the last Republican in Burlington, runs on the progressive platform, he has issues from the past he want's to work on as a past President of the VSEA. Shout out to Christian Hubbs who won JP in Burke. David made a plea for donations and to collect signs, he said in 2020 there are seats to be won, if turn out goes up to 60-65% the Governor's seat is up for grabs. State Committee meeting Feb 23.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.