

Vermont Progressive Party Convention
November 17, 2019
Old Labor Hall Barre Vermont

- 1) Convention called to order by Chair Anthony Pollina at 11:20, thanked the NEA for its sponsorship of the convention and the support of the VSEA. Went through the agenda and voting process.
- 2) Anthony introduced the Youth Climate Congress leaders, they gave a presentation on the event held at the capitol today. 160 delegates are attending and they will be voting on a declaration today. They are demanding the declaration of a climate emergency, investments in electrified mass transit, and real reductions in greenhouse gases. Exchanged Q&A with the State Committee. Lt. Gov. David Zuckerman has been a great ally in their effort. Climate justice is a factor in the demands, along with Green New Deal initiatives. Salina Coburn and Chris Pierson gave a report on the work of the climate caucus in the State House. Climate Caucus now has 80 members. Sponsoring a bill called the Global Warming Solutions Act. Creates legal liability for the state failure to meet climate goals. Caucus started in 2011 trying to funnel some of the grassroots urgency into state government, young people especially are pushing government to act. Other bills involve energy production, efficiency and transportation. Enforcement is an issue on the consumer level and we need to bring the contractor community into the effort. Transportation is a huge issue, a regional effort is underway from Maine to Virginia to cap transportation emissions. Transportation works well with upfront investment. More prescriptive language directed to the PSB.
- 3) Update from VSEA. A campaign is being run to switch from the defined benefit plans to a 401k plan by a Texas billionaire who wants this money in the market. Republicans will try to sell this as a way to fill the budget hole and retire the under contribution to the fund. There is a plan already in place to close that gap that we are 10 years into and the plan is to panic the legislature into abandoning it in favor of 401k. They are asking the party to support this effort. They will not compromise on making the defined benefit available to all employees including new ones.
- 4) Martha gave the financial report. Raised \$47k but spent \$49k, NEA made a donation that filled the hole. We now have 150 monthly donors. Asked for an additional \$5 a month to fill the hole. Martha thanked Meg and Morgan for their service on the CoCo and now stepping down.
- 5) State Committee held its elections for Officers, CoCo members. Ben Eastwood moved to accept the slate and have the Secretary submit one ballot seconded Mark Hughs by and approved by acclamation. CoCo at large nominations and speeches held, voting conducted. Top six results for the At Large positions: Cindy Weed, Tanya Vyhosky, Adam Norton, JF Carter Neubieser, Zachariah Ralph and Nick Clark.
- 6) Broke out into regional groups for regional rep elections. Windam;Windsor-Pamela Whitefield; North region Jackie Stanton; Tim Giles, South region; Washington Orange Traven Leyshon; Chittenden/Grand Isle Finn Abbey.

Meeting adjourned at 1:13 PM.