

**Minutes of the Wayland Democratic Town Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, January 24, 2012**

The WDTC held a combination potluck dinner meeting and State of the Union Address viewing party at the home of Bonnie Gossels.\* The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7: 30 PM.

**Members Attending:** Michael Gilbreath, Chair; Matt Shear, Vice Chair; Sylvia Dickens, Secretary; Irene Chang, Treasurer, Michael Bate; Sheila Loazya; Susan Hager; Rodney Hager; Bonnie Gossels; Betty Salzberg; Joanne Berry, and Dennis Berry. **Visitors:** Ramuel Raagas

**I. Treasurer's report –**

- Current Balance: \$1128.59
- Members were encouraged to pay their dues for this year.

**II. Wayland Democratic Caucus –** Set for Saturday Feb 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM in the Wayland Public Safety Building.

- Michael Gilbreath reported that he had received information packet from State Party Headquarters for organizing and that he would chair the caucus. He urged everyone to attend and invite others. Hoped we could do a good job of publicizing the caucus in order to draw in new Democrats.
- Matt Shear reviewed key guidelines for organizing the caucus and selecting delegates for the 2012 MA Dem State Convention to be held in June. See attached “Highlights” for full version of his presentation. Points included:
  - Attendees must sign in or be in line by 1:15 in order to participate/vote in the caucus. Thus doors will have to open at least 15 mins prior to the publicized starting time.
  - The caucus must be publicized locally at least 9 days prior to the date.
  - Wayland can elect 9 delegates, plus we get our town committee chair, plus alternates – plus minority, disabled, and youth add ons
  - There must be an equal number of males and females elected. If the number allowed is an odd number, then the last seat can be filled by either gender. The gender of the Chair is not factored in.
  - Each candidate is allowed a two-minute speech and is allowed to distribute material on his or her behalf. Voting shall be by written and secret ballot. In case of a tie, a runoff will be conducted.
  - Those attending the caucus must have registered as Democrats as of 12/31/11. If they wish to run for a delegate seat, they can not have publicly supported or endorsed someone in another party in a prior election.
  - Delegates are required to submit registration fee of \$75 for Convention to be held June 2 in Springfield by April 13<sup>th</sup>. There are discount rates for seniors and financial support is available to those delegates who need it.

One copy of the full description of the Method of Selecting Delegates to the 2012 MA Dem State Convention will be submitted with the minutes for our records. Members can find the full description online at <http://www.massdems.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/METHOD-20121.pdf>

- Sylvia Dickens will obtain list of registered Dems as of Dec 31, 2011 from Town Clerk in order to check people in at the caucus; Michael Bate (former Secy) will help put list in a useable format and review procedure with Sylvia before caucus.
- **Publicity Team for Caucus** - A discussion of how to publicize the caucus followed:
  - Dennis Berry said that over the years they had always looked at the caucus as an opportunity for PR and recommended we make the most of it.
  - Michael G will edit the press release template supplied by the state and get it to Sylvia who will send it to the Crier, the Metrowest Daily, the Wayland Patch, Wayland e News, and Wayland Voters Network.
  - Betty Salzberg offered to write an article about both the caucus and WDTC. Susan Hagar suggested using our relationship with Crier Editor Michael Weiner.
  - Matt Shear offered to send version to Way Cam as a PSA.

**III. March 6 is the Presidential Primary.** WDTC members will be on the ballot that day. (Note: Since meeting, I received a notice from the Town Clerk about the March 6 election and subsequent actions required.)

**IV. State Representative Alice Peisch** from Weston will be representing Pct 1 of Wayland and the new election cycle will be based on the new districts. We will be represented by current elected officials until 12/31. In light of this, it was suggested that we invite her to a meeting or to breakfast at Mels to become better acquainted – perhaps in March.

**V. Irene Chang** promoted a banquet being held in Sherborn where Mayor of Cranston RI, Allan Fung would speak. Elizabeth Warren and Tom Conroy would be present. She had 2 available tickets.

**VI. S772** - Michael G announced favorable forward motion for Jamie Eldridge's Bill to Amend Constitution to Reverse Citizens United Supreme Court ruling.

**VII. New Business** - Michael G reported he had attended Marlborough Democratic City Breakfast and been inspired to join the effort to engage more youth in our Democratic Party. He proposed that the WDTC think of ways to get the Young Democrats group going again at WHS.

- Ideas of teachers as advisors to WHS Dems and having them meet at Mels from 6-7 were suggested.

Michael also asked the Committee to consider the idea of starting a recognition or awards program for young Dems, or for any active young people in the community, who modeled values that Dems hold high. Open discussion followed:

- The goal for giving awards or recognition can extend beyond increasing youth membership in Dem Party. It could also serve to promote Democratic values in the high school and in the community. Members agreed this kind of education is needed.

**Next regular monthly meeting** - will be held at the conclusion of the Caucus on Sat. Feb 25, after a short break. This will replace the monthly meeting originally scheduled for Wed. February 22.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM, in time to watch the SOTU address by President Barack Obama.

- **Note:** The Committee would like to formally thank Bonnie Gossels for hosting the potluck dinner meeting -- lovely New England home, wonderful ambience, a surfeit of great food -- from hors d'oeuvres and wine all the way to the many desserts -- topped off by a very encouraging performance from our President. We bet on how many times he'd say "jobs." We only wish there had been more time to enjoy it all and that even more people had joined us. Thank you, again, Bonnie. We also wish to thank Elaine Gossels for all her help beforehand -- sorry she and Werner couldn't be there!

# KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF DELEGATE SELECTION PROCESS AT CAUCUS

As presented by Matt Shear on 1/24/2012 at the WDTC meeting  
Excerpted from full version entitled, Method of Selecting Delegates to the 2012 Massachusetts  
Democratic State Convention

**Key Guidelines from:** <http://www.massdems.org/2011/10/25/caucus/>

## **Number of Delegates and Eligibility**

On the basis of a formula giving equal weight to Democratic Party registration and the average vote for Barack Obama in 2008 and Deval Patrick 2010, each of the 600 towns and wards in Massachusetts has been allocated delegates for the 2012 convention. To select town/ward members to fulfill the allocation, it is the responsibility of the town/ward chairperson to call and chair a local caucus between the dates of February 11, 2012 and February 26, 2012. The delegate seats will then be open to any citizen of the town/ward registered as a Democrat in that town/ward prior to December 31, 2011.

Candidates for delegate or alternate at the town/ward caucus must be present at the caucus and give written consent to nomination, with the following exceptions. A person serving in the Armed Forces of the United States who advises his town/ward chair of his/her desire to be considered for election prior to January 18, 2012 may be a candidate for delegate or alternate. If there are not enough candidates present at the caucus to fill all delegate and alternate positions, two-thirds of those present and voting at the local caucus may move to have a candidate's name placed in nomination despite the candidate's absence provided that the candidate has notified the chairperson of his or her interest in writing in advance of the caucus.

## **Registering the Caucus**

The chairperson must notify the Massachusetts Democratic Party of the time and date of the local caucus by January 9, 2012. After registering the date with the MDP, the chairperson is required to advertise the date, time, location, and purpose of the caucus in a local newspaper to notify all interested Democrats of the event.

Registration at the caucus will open at least 15 minutes prior to the stated starting time and will remain open until 15 minutes after stated starting time. Since all Democratic Party meetings are open, no person shall be denied admittance, and an area will be set aside for those not eligible to partake in the caucus.

## **Electing Delegates**

Delegates allocated to each town/ward must be equally divided between men and women, except that one delegate may be of either gender if an odd number is to be elected. The gender of the chairperson does not factor in the Equal Division Rule. The chairperson is considered to be an ex-officio delegate and automatically qualifies for one of the allocated seats.

Example:

If a town/ward is allocated 12 delegates, the first seat is given to the chairperson and the 11 remaining seats will be elected by ballot of the caucus attendees. Of these 11 seats, there must be 5 men, 5 women, and 1 of either gender.

NOTE: In the above scenario, if only 2 men showed up to the caucus and 15 women showed up, then only 2 men and 5 women can be elected, with a 6th woman elected to fill the either gender seat. The town/ward will forfeit the remaining 3 seats to the convention.

Separate ballots shall be utilized for male and female delegates. If the town/ward needs to fill an either gender seat, this will take place in a third ballot and those defeated in the first two elections may be re-nominated. Alternate Delegates will be elected after the delegates by the same method.

Each candidate is allowed a two-minute speech and is allowed to distribute material on his/her behalf. Voting shall be by written and secret ballot. Candidates will be elected by a plurality of those present and voting. Eligible voters may vote for as many persons as they wish, up to the maximum number of persons to be elected. In the case of a tie, a runoff will be conducted. The final tally shall always be announced.

## **Disqualification of Delegates**

Any person who publicly supported and/or endorsed any candidate whose announced intention was/is to oppose a nominee of the Democratic Party in a current or previous election is disqualified from becoming a delegate to the state convention.

For U. S. President and statewide offices: 4 years from the date of the election in question. For all other offices: 2 years from the date of the election in question.

## **Additional Select Clauses:**

4) Number of delegates allotted is online at:

<http://www.massdems.org/2012-state-convention/delegate-allocation/>

Wayland gets 10 delegates + 3 alternates. One of the 10 is our ex officio chair. Therefore we elect 9: 4 men, 4 women (can do either one first), then 1 delegate of either gender, then alternates, following the same breakdown.

Local caucus to be held no earlier than February 11, 2012 and no later than February 26, 2012; the caucus start time shall be no earlier than 9 AM on Saturday or Sunday and no earlier than 6 PM on a weekday, in a public place that is accessible to the disabled and does not inhibit participation by any Democrat

5. On the day of the scheduled caucus, the Chair of the Democratic State Committee or his designee may, with the advice and consent of the General Counsel or his designee and the Chairperson of the Rules Committee if possible, declare or grant a postponement and rescheduling of a ward or town caucus due to an emergency on the day of the scheduled caucus that substantially impairs the ability of registered Democrats to participate in the caucus on that day. Any such postponement shall require full and proper public notice for the rescheduled date satisfactory to the Democratic State Committee Chair or his or her designee.

6 It shall be the responsibility of the chairperson of the local committee to make every reasonable effort to notify all registered Democrats no sooner than thirty and at least nine days before the local caucus. For example, if the caucus is on February 11 then publication must occur between January 12th and February 1st, 2012. The minimum notice to the local Democrats shall consist of an announcement indicating date, time, place and purpose of the meeting appearing in [www.massdems.org](http://www.massdems.org) and submitted to one local newspaper or online local newspaper and one newspaper or online newspaper of Affirmative Action and Outreach if available.

19. A candidate for Delegate or Alternate at the local caucus must be present and give his or her written consent to nomination; except that a person serving in the Armed Forces of the United States who advises his ward or town chair of his/her desire to be considered for election prior to January 18, 2012 shall be eligible; unless, if there are not enough candidates present to fill all delegate and alternate positions, two-thirds of those present and voting at the local caucus may move to have a candidate's name placed in nomination despite the candidate's absence provided that the candidate has notified the chair of his or her interest in running in writing in advance of the caucus.

29. The chairperson of the caucus ... must distribute registration envelopes to the elected Delegates and Alternates at the caucus. ... The registration envelope and fee of **\$75.00** per delegate must be mailed by the Delegate/Alternate by **April 13th, 2012**. A late fee of **\$25.00** will be due with each Delegate/Alternate registration received or postmarked after the **April 13th, 2012**.

32. (a.) **The following Massachusetts Democrats shall serve as ex-officio Delegates to the Convention with full voting privileges:** Democratic Members of Congress, Democratic Constitutional Officers, Democratic Members of the State Legislature, Democratic Mayors, Democratic County Elected Officials, Members of the Democratic State Committee, former Chairs of the Democratic National Committee, former Democratic Constitutional Officers, former Democratic members of Congress, Members of the Judicial Council, and City, Ward and Town Committee Chairs ...

(b.) The Democratic State Committee shall select a number of additional delegates - minorities and disabled ... and "young"

33. The Chairperson of each City, Ward and Town Committee at the time of the Convention (as duly recorded with the offices of the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the Democratic State Committee) shall serve as an ex-officio Delegate to the Convention with full voting privileges. If he/she cannot serve or is a delegate in another capacity, the next highest ranking officer (vice chairperson, secretary, treasurer and then affirmative action and outreach officer) shall. If the next highest ranking officer cannot, a meeting of the full committee shall be called to elect one (1) to serve in this capacity, provided the Chair held a caucus for the most recent convention. ...