

WILTON DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE
Feb 7, 2006 Meeting
APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Art Shulman, Richard Creeth, Eric Fanwick, Ernie Loser, Fred Herot, Scott Kimmich, Charlie Lewis, David Borglum, Ernie Ricco, John Gardiner, Toni Lee, Brian Lilly, Ted Hofstatter, Sharon Grace, Jon Tan

GUESTS: Eric Fanwick, Louise Herot, Diane Farrell (candidate for the 4th Congressional District), Martha Aasen (Westport DTC Chairperson)

Absent and Excused: Hallie Wofsy, Lois Alcosser, Troy Ellen Dixon, Alice Ayers, Deborah McFadden, Margaret Reeves, Margaret Derose

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The balance in the Wilton DTC account is \$1,527. There will be an \$800 insurance payment in March.

NEW BUSINESS

Please sign up to be a delegate at one of the conventions to be held in May. Even non-Wilton DTC members are encouraged to sign up, but you must be a registered Democrat in Wilton. Please make sure that you attend the designated convention, if you sign up to attend. On March 21, the Wilton Democratic Caucus will elect the Wilton Delegates to these conventions.

Convention	Date	Location	No of Delegates	Positions Selected by Convention Delegates
State Convention	May 20	Hartford	8	Senate (Lieberman’s seat), Governor, Lt. Gov., Attorney General, Secretary of State, Comptroller and Treasurer. Also Democratic State Central representatives.
State Central Election	May 4	Westport?	8	2 representatives of the 26 th District to State Central. Martha Aasen and Mark Markus are seeking re-election.
Congressional Convention for the 4 th District	May 15	Fairfield County	8	4 th District Congressional representative (Diane Farrell)
State Senate Convention (26 th District)	May 22	TBD	8	125 th District State Senator Democratic challenger to Judith Freedman
State House Convention for the 143 rd District	May 23	Wilton or Norwalk	6	143 rd District State Representative (WHS or Middlebrook voting) Democratic challenger to Toni Boucher

State House Convention for the 125 th District	May 23	New Canaan	2	125 th District State Representative (Driscoll voting)
Judge of Probate Convention	May 8	Norwalk	8	Judge of Probate for Wilton/Norwalk

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Barbara Massey Bear and Brian Lilly are the new members of the Finance Committee.

April 22nd is the date suggested for a fundraiser breakfast. John Larson, Congressman from the First District of Connecticut, has been contacted to be the speaker. Other speakers will be asked if Rep. Larson cannot attend.

Spending \$750 on printing up tickets and paying for the caterer is unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Jefferson Jackson Bailey Dinner is on Thursday, March 30th, beginning at 6pm for cocktails. Dinner is at 7pm. Venue is the Hartford Convention Center.
 - Barak Obama, Senator from Illinois is the keynote speaker
 - Tickets are \$175. For best seats, get your checks into Martha Aasen (Westport DTC Chairperson) now. Your checks will be your tickets. If we get enough people (we already have 2), we can have a Wilton attendees table.
- Other Upcoming Events

Event	Date/Time	Location	Details
Wilton League of Women Voters forum on the town meeting	February 9, 2006, 7:30pm	Wilton Library, 2nd Floor	The Wilton LWV is studying our "town meeting" and our town government. Find out more about our current government and options for changing it. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and offer your own insight. Refreshments will be served.
Mayor's Forum with John DeStefano and Dan Malloy	February 12, 2006, 4-6pm	Westport Women's Club	Hear the candidates for governor discuss the issues. Sponsored by the Westport DTC. For more information contact Martha Aasen, 227-6126. Suggested Contribution \$20
John DeStefano speaks at Wilton DTC Meeting	March 7, 2006, 7:30pm	Wilton Town Hall	Mayor DeStefano will speak at 7:30pm. All Democrats are invited to attend!
Wilton Democratic Caucus to choose Delegates to May conventions	March 21, 2006, 7:30pm	Town Hall Annex	All Wilton Democrats are welcome.

Event	Date/Time	Location	Details
Jefferson Jackson Bailey Dinner, With BARAK OBAMA, Senator from Illinois	March 30, 2006, Cocktails at 6pm, dinner starts at 7pm	Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford	Guest Speaker will be BARAK OBAMA, US Senator from Illinois. Tickets are \$175. Purchase tickets, send a check made payable to "CT Democratic State Central Committee" to the following address: Martha Aasen 31 Ellery Lane Westport, CT 06880 The sooner you send in your check, the better your table!
Mayor Dan Malloy speaks at the Wilton DTC Meeting	April 4, 2006, 7:30pm	Wilton Town Hall	Mayor Malloy will speak at 8:15pm. All Democrats are welcome to attend!

For more information on any of these events or to get involved, contact Sharon Grace at 762-3952.

GUEST SPEAKER

Diane Farrell, Democratic Congressional candidate for the 4th District spoke to the Wilton DTC.

In 2004, we had a very close race with Chris Shays. We garnered 48% of the vote. The direction was clearly moving toward change.

The Democrats view both Connecticut's 4th (Chris Shays, incumbent) and 5th Districts (Nancy Johnson, incumbent) as very competitive. These districts are part of the key to win Congress back for the Democrats.

But this race is more than just displacing Chris Shays and Nancy Johnson. This race is about George Bush and the Republicans trying to push through their own agendas. People are seeing the effects of Medicare Part D, the Iraqi quagmire and the aftermath of the Katrina disaster. The President's approval, at 31% per the Quinnipiac poll, shows voters inclinations and the desire for the change. This race is about restoring checks-and-balances and accountability.

Congressman Shays has aligned himself so closely to President Bush. It does not take Shays 11 trips to Iraq to realize that we are in a quagmire. There has been a disconnect between Washington DC and the situation on the ground.

The Federal response to Katrina has been incredulous. Our troops went into Banda Aceh quicker than they did in Louisiana.

The recent budget reconciliation bill was passed 216-214, without Democrats supporting this. Chris Shays has turned his back on his constituents by voting for the bill, since the bill means raising the copay for Medicaid patients.

The President billed himself as a Compassionate Conservative. There was nothing in his recent State of the Union speech that reflects compassion or concern.

On foreign policy, Madeleine Albright has said that the Iraq war was a war of choice. Iraq has been a distraction. As a result of Iraq, the US cannot respond to Iran and other Middle Eastern volatility.

All of these issues touch every person in this district and in this country, and everyone will see the need for change. Getting the House back is the only way to get measures that the American public is looking for – the centrist direction.

People in this district are now more impassioned.

We have learned that the voting in the smaller Republican-leaning towns like Wilton and Weston, adds to the majority Democratic votes in the big cities like Bridgeport and Stamford.

Diane is 100% committed to this upcoming race; and therefore, she decided not to run for First Selectman in Westport.

Lastly, all the funds that you can give will be helpful. We raised \$1.6 million in 2004.

Sharon Grace (Wilton DTC Chairperson) suggests the following measures that you can take:

1. Be generous with the funds that you give to the campaign
2. Sign-up to volunteer in Diane Farrell's campaign
3. Host a coffee or other meet-the-candidate type forums
4. Write letters to the Editor on the following
 - Shays supports this Iraqi war of choice
 - Shays supports Roy Blount and the corruption in Washington DC
 - Shays balanced budgets on the backs of the needy
 - Shays enables this misguided Presidency and leadership

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48pm.