

**Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)  
Minutes of the meeting of 15 November 2004**

The meeting was convened at 7:15 pm in the Unitarian Church by Chairperson Beverly Guild. Eighteen persons were in attendance, of which seventeen were Committee members, as documented by the attached attendance record. We were honored by the attendance of Len Solo, a long time resident of Sudbury, who described his life-long affiliation with the Democratic Party beginning with his experiences as a youth in a family of coal miners in Pennsylvania, and who expressed an interest in joining the SDTC. He was accordingly nominated, seconded and unanimously approved for membership in the SDTC.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 27 October, that had been vetted by email and also available in printed form at the meeting, were approved without change.

Helga Andrews, Treasurer, was not present, so there was no Treasurer's Report. It was rumored, however, that our campaign donations to the Democratic National Committee and the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee, which had been returned on what seemed like a technical misunderstanding of campaign financing law, still remain in our possession. If this be the case, it was the sense of the meeting not to press these committees further to accept the funds; we ought to keep the money for future exigencies. In this connection, Jerry Glass proposed that we send \$100 each to the campaigns of Messrs. Melancon and Mount of Louisiana. These two Democrats are engaged in run-off elections in two districts for the U.S. House of Representatives. This proposal was seconded and approved unanimously.

It was decided to hold the annual holiday party of the SDTC on 5 December in the Hosmer House, starting at 7 pm (later revised to 7:30 pm). Everyone was encouraged to contribute food or supplies for a pot-luck supper. Coordination of the supper will be undertaken by Guild by email. The Secretary was instructed to extend invitations to all state level Democratic elected officials, state Democratic Committee members (of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Middlesex and Middlesex/Worcester Districts), and to a few other old friends of the SDTC.

Carl Offner described the MaDemsForum email group that was started two years ago by Kate Donaghue as a means by which Massachusetts Democrats can discuss party activity, positions, direction, etc. He volunteered to add the names of everyone on the SDTC to this email group, for which offer there was no objection and broad agreement.

Carl Offner discussed the recent nomination of Alberto Gonzales for Attorney General of the U.S. by President Bush and expressed the opinion the SDTC ought to oppose the nomination publicly. To this end, he moved that we accept for dissemination a statement that he prepared and distributed to the meeting. This was seconded and, after some discussion, approved unanimously for distribution to newspapers (press release or, under the signature of Beverly Guild, letter to the editor), our U.S. congressmen, our state representatives, the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee, and the state and national Democratic Committees. The discussion allowed for some revision of the statement with final wording to be vetted by email. The final version is attached to these minutes. In the discussion, Donald Chauls suggested that future political statements ought to be processed through a subcommittee formed or resurrected for that purpose. Alternatively, political statements could be screened by email prior to meetings so that meetings are better prepared on the issues that provoke a statement.

Henry Noer reported on a recent meeting of the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee that he attended. The chief item of business was the next state convention on issues and platform. He was surprised and disappointed that there was no substantive discussion of the recent election and the lessons to be learned from that experience. He noted that the budget of the State Committee is only ca. \$0.5 million, a critical factor in the inability of that Committee to undertake new

organizational work and to support difficult campaigns in the election cycle. This figure can be compared with the raising of ca.\$30 million for Democratic campaigns statewide in the November elections. Noer announced that 48 communities across Massachusetts have now expressed reservations against the USA-PATRIOT Act, and that on 2 November nine legislative districts voted disapproval of the Act with a vote ratio of the order of 2:1.

Noer submitted the text of a letter to Senator John Kerry for approval by the SDTC. The letter focused on the many reports of voting irregularities on 2 November and the need for Mr. Kerry to encourage the investigation of these thoroughly in order to achieve a national understanding of the true outcome of the elections. The text of the letter was discussed at length, and its adoption was seconded and carried by a vote of 15 to 3. The final text of the letter is attached to these minutes. In the discussion, objection was raised over the sentence, "We are disappointed that you so quickly conceded the electoral vote to Mr. Bush". Some, particularly Jonathan Sclarsic, felt that Kerry's concession was timely and appropriate, and the sentence ought to be struck. It was understood that a copy of the letter would be forwarded to Mr. Edwards, the Democratic National Committee, and the Democratic Committees of states (particularly Florida and Ohio) against which serious allegations of voting irregularities and fraud have been raised.

After setting **the next meeting for 7:15 pm on Monday 10 January 2005 at the Unitarian Church of Sudbury**, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

### **Announcements**

If you have not already done so, please forward your 2004 dues of \$25 minimum, c/o SDTC, to Helga Andrews, 11 Maple Ave., Sudbury. Dues were expected on or about 1 January 2004, and new dues are expected on or about 1 January 2005.

Please remember to submit to the Secretary a copy of text or outline of verbal reports made at meetings, particularly if the report is long or complex. This is the only way to assure that an accurate summary is entered into the minutes.

Thomas Hollocher, Secretary, 21 November 2004.