

Laramie County Democratic Party
09/19/2009

The Laramie County Democratic Party meeting was held at the community center in Pine Bluffs, as part of a Pie and Ice Cream social hosted by the Laramie County Democratic Grassroots Coalition.

21 people attended.

- 1) Linda Stowers called the meeting to order.
- 2) Minutes were not available – will be voted on at the next meeting
- 3) Treasurer's report - \$3425.11 cash on hand. All bills have been paid.
- 4) Announcement was made encouraging people to attend the Jefferson Jackson Dinner in Riverton next week.
- 5) Katherine Van Dell announced that the next Grassroots Coalition fundraiser will be held on October 30, at the VFW Club at 4343 South Greeley Highway in Cheyenne. There will be a chili feed and Halloween Party, running from 5:30 PM to 8:30 or 9:00. There will be chili, hot dogs, pie, ice cream, and costumes. The Grassroots coalition will also be holding a Christmas party on December 12, as a luncheon at the Holiday Inn.
- 6) Mike Bell has been named Vice Chair of the Western Caucus of the Democratic National Committee. He's been to meetings in Richmond and Washington. Mr. Bell says one of the big concerns is redistricting. He says we need to add 5 seats in the House to prepare for redistricting. He also talked about fundraising for the state party, and the need to raise more money.
- 7) Katherine Van Dell introduced Albany State Senator Mike Massie. Mr. Massie gave his personal background – he was born in Ohio and came to Wyoming 30 years ago to get an advanced degree in history. He lived in Cheyenne for a time, then spent seven years as curator in South Pass City before moving to Laramie. He works for a private organization that deals with disabilities in children. He's been in the Senate for 11 years, and served 4 years in the House before that.

Mr. Massie discussed the state's investment in education, including the Hathaway Scholarship, improvements at the University of Wyoming, and teacher salaries, and how the investments in economic development led to NCAR's (National Center for Atmospheric Research) supercomputer coming to Cheyenne. He talked about the upcoming budget session, and that fewer funds will be available, so the challenge will be how the Legislature deals with it. Mr. Massie asked if energy development will continue to be relevant in Wyoming as we move away from carbon based systems over the next decades, and the challenge of making sure Wyoming is still the nation's source for energy. Mr. Massie said quality education is the key to the future, from K-12 on up.

- 8) There were questions for Mr. Massie and continuing discussion on education, energy, and other issues.
- 9) The Grassroots Coalition auctioned off the remaining pies as a fundraiser.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.