



Seth Sturm <sethsturm@gmail.com>

Fwd: Belinda responses

1 message

Seth Sturm <sethsturm@gmail.com>
To: "liiracle@tutanota.com" <liiracle@tutanota.com>

Sat, Aug 21, 2021 at 3:38 PM

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From: **Seth Sturm** <sethsturm@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Aug 6, 2021 at 10:21 AM
Subject: Re: Belinda responses
To: Charlie Mullins <charliemmullins@gmail.com>

The committee isn't officially sanctioning any of these actions. There is major overreach happening. That's why I speak up forcefully. Just look at the listening tour. Everyone on that committee is not sure when they authorized any of the dates, the copy in the invitation, or the graphic they put out with it. From what I've figured out through conversations, Mary Thorp and Selina set it all up and Rosemary signed off on it. That should have been brought back to the committee as a whole to approve or amend. I don't want a handful of people taking unauthorized actions that make us all look bad. It's our reputations on the line.

Seth Sturm

On Fri, Aug 6, 2021 at 9:58 AM Charlie Mullins <charliemmullins@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks for passing this along. This is a lot to take in, and unless I'm misunderstanding, it seems like a lot of things require greater changes within the state party makeup itself, rather than just what we could do as the caucuses/AAC?

On Thu, Aug 5, 2021 at 11:07 AM Seth Sturm <sethsturm@gmail.com> wrote:

If it weren't for MAC, I doubt I would have seen it. Have a look at it below.

Seth

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From: **Mary Claytor** <maryannclaytor@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 2:06 PM
Subject: Belinda responses
To: Seth Sturm <sethsturm@gmail.com>,

Below are the requests being made of the exec committee which the AA committee would like to discuss with you, Doug, & I.

I'll work to schedule such a meeting tomorrow. Thank you.

1. **Rescind the current DRAFT AA Plan** - The AA Plan passed last Thursday must be rescinded. Period.

As Chair I do not have the power to rescind an action of the State Executive Committee. I am committed as I have stated from the start to work with the Affirmative Action Committee to make changes to the DRAFT. Such changes could include a complete replacement of the AA plan pending approval by the Executive Committee.

It is my hope the announcement of the Political and Outreach Director will be able to help all of us outreach to those communities and to organize caucuses for the groups not yet formed

The AA Committee must be allowed to do our own plan as required by art. VIII of the Bylaws. We are not going to amend the current plan adopted by the EC on June 3. We anticipate we can be done by the end of July or mid-August. 3 caucuses haven't even formed and, while the AA Committee has started this process, we will not complete it without the other 3 caucuses represented on the AA Committee and in the plan. The other 3 caucuses must be able to come together, elect their co-chairs, and have input into the AA Plan.

2. **Finances to implement our AA plan** – We have every intention of creating a dynamic and thorough plan, that, when implemented, will produce increased voter registration, increased voter participation, increased diversity on county committees, the EC, and increased diversity of candidates and elected officials. We can't have a plan and place it in a drawer or on the website. Our plan will be implemented, and to do that, we need a budget to implement the plan. The DNC has recently announced grants to red states to build their Party.

We advise the AA committee to create a proposed budget based upon the goals and outreach programs the Committee aspires to accomplish

3. **Our own Dedicated Financial Account** – We want to fundraise for our outreach work, and therefore need to be able to raise our own money to do the work of the committee.

We have asked for a response for compliance counsel

4. **Bylaw Changes:** On May 28th, Chair Biafore said she intended to add 6 more diversity members to the Executive

Committee. That requires a bylaw change. There are other areas where we see a need for change to make the Party more inclusive.

The 6 seats were referring to the 6 at large seat appointments that were being made to the Committee along with the 2 Co Chairs. not an additional 6

A. 10 additional at-large positions We want just 4 more – each of the 9 diversity caucuses co-chairs.

- Currently there are 8 diversity representatives. (the 2 co-chairs + 6 at-large)
- Biafore offered 6 more on May 28. (8 already + 6 proposed = 14)
- When all 9 caucuses are formed, there will be 18 co-chairs. If all co-chairs were automatically members of the EC, that would be a great start to having diversity representation as indicated by the Democratic electorate (proportional representation)
- We are asking for 4 more than she offered on May 28, 2021.
- If a co-chair is already a member of the Exec. Comm, then the caucus chooses another representative.

This would require a change to the WV party bylaws. The process is provided in the new bylaws.

B. Six Basic Elements to an Open Party – In January 1968, the DNC adopted the Six Basic Principles of an Open Party and required state parties to include these in their Party rules. They were in the WVDP Bylaws prior to 2007, but have been systematically removed. We want them added back in.

This would require a change to the WV party bylaws. The process is provided in the new bylaws.

C. Rules of Procedure for Virtual Meetings – People of diversity were repeatedly muted and not called on. There was not a queue that people could get in. People in the meeting and people watching on YouTube had no idea who or how many people were present in the meeting. There must be rules adopted for the running of virtual meetings that allow all members to participate, make motions, make amendments, and be heard. Also, Executive Committee members that did not attend the meeting and hear the discussion were allowed to vote on the AA Plan, which is unacceptable.

The WVDP will work with the DNC and ASDC to review our processes for virtual meetings and implement any best practices as needed.

D. Independent Parliamentarian – It appears that the Parliamentarian position is being used as a weapon for shutting down diversity voices, as opposed to being a fair umpire. An independent Parliamentarian needs to be hired for Executive Committee meetings, and future Parliamentarians need to be certified or, if no certified parliamentarians run for the position, they must agree to get certified in a certain time period and an independent Parliamentarian will be used until they are certified.

The Parliamentarian of the West Virginia Democratic Party is a duly elected position outlined in the bylaws of the State Party. A new parliamentarian will be elected in 2022.

E. Board of Appeals – Because of the serious nature of the Board of Appeals to protect the rights of Democrats, the Co-Chairs of the AA Committee need to be members of the Board of Appeals.

The bylaws provide for membership on the Board of Appeals,. If a change is sought, an amendment can be proposed.

5. **Vice-Chair positions** – As Vice-Chair and Associate Chair positions open up, the AA Committee will be asked to make nominations.

These are elected positions and any individual who meets the

qualifications and requirements to run may do so

6. **Diversity of the Board of Appeals**

- **The Board of Appeals has no diversity members.**

- The Board of Appeals consists of no one of diversity. The BOA needs to be reconstituted to include both of the AA Co-chairs as members.

The bylaws provide for membership on the Board of Appeals. If the AA committee would like to change the makeup it would require amending the bylaws.

7. **Voter Action Network** – We need access to VAN to do outreach to diversity groups and track members and volunteers.

8. **Webpage** – We need a page on the Party's website dedicated to the AA Committee and caucuses to post our notices and information. We also need to allow people to sign up for updates and new information.

This request has been accommodated

9. **Written agreement and joint press release.** The terms and elements of the agreement must be memorialized in a written agreement signed by the Co-Chairs of the AA Committee and Biafore as Chair of the Executive Committee. In addition, a joint press release describing the elements of the agreement shall be issued.

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Sent from my iPhone