

Minutes, January 14, 2020

Josephine County Democrats

Present: Chair Brian Clark, Vice-Chair Dorothy Yetter, Secretary Lynda Demsher, a quorum of PCPs. Also present was CD2 candidate John Holm and candidate for Superior Court Judge Amanda Thorpe.

Action:

- The agenda was accepted without change. The minutes were accepted without change.
- The 2020 Budget was approved. Mary Middleton was unanimously endorsed as the Democratic candidate for Oregon state HD4. Sheri Morin was unanimously voted to replace Jean Mount as CD2 Delegate.

Treasurers Report:

In the Treasurer's absence, Chair Brian Clark gave the Treasurers Report. After reporting monthly operational expenses, we have an ending balance of \$10,108.00.

Announcements:

- January starts the campaign season and before the May primary election, Democrats will be focused on educating non-affiliated voters and young voters about picking a party if they want to vote for a presidential primary candidate. Brian said we'll need lots of people to help and urged those at the meeting to get involved.
- Brian related a poll showing young voters are concerned about: impeachment, dismantling the electoral college, eliminating private health care insurance, gun safety measures, and student loans. Young people are more engaged in the 2020 election than they were in 2016 and they are more likely to vote against Trump, so it's imperative we get them out to vote, he said.
- Treasurer Anita Savio resigned from that position. Previous treasurer Dorothy Yetter will fill in while training a new person.
- Anita is working on our Instagram account and needs help creating posts.
- Brian urged PCPs to fill out their forms to get on the ballot. They're due in March. Forms can be found on at <http://josephinedemocrats.org/>
- The Democratic Party of Oregon (DPO) will have a "toolkit" for PCPs on its website soon, outlining the duties and responsibilities of PCPs. They will also be putting out a video for those who want to know how delegates to the National Convention are selected.
- There will be a DPO Candidate Boot Camp 11am-6pm Saturday March 28. Anyone interested in attending can contact Brian for more information.
- Brian pointed out that Frontline, on PBS has a two-part program on American divisiveness. If you missed it check the PBS schedule because they re-run them late at night.
- Volunteers are needed to help with road cleaning along a two-mile stretch of the Redwood Highway near RCC. Eight to ten people are needed to make quick work of the project. Call Brian if you would like to help.
- Kevin Marr said volunteers are needed for the warming shelter for the homeless. A training is scheduled for Saturday, January 18, 1- 4:30 pm at Options for Southern Oregon, 1215 SW "G" Street in Grants Pass. Call Allison Spohn, 541-956-4060 for information.

Reports

Environmental Caucus Chair Richard Flora said his group is keeping an eye on the progress of the Jordan Cove pipeline and noted the Coos Bay City Council just accepted it. The proposed pipeline is still going through the environmental process and just cleared one hurdle, he said, but there are others. Another protest in front of the Capitol is planned for February 11. Anyone interested in going can

contact Richard about carpooling. Richard also said his group is collecting signatures on a petition urging local elected officials to participate in a plan to cut emissions by doing what they can right now. This is part of the Climate Emergency Project. More information can be found on a website by that name. Signatories don't have to be registered voters and more volunteers to help gather signatures will be welcome.

Brian, reporting for Office Manager Sheri Morin, said she has redecorated the office after selling the couch and chair about an hour after posting it on a local classified ad website. Brian said a man and his teen son got it down the stairs and hauled off. The couch and chair are being replaced with a meeting table and shelving to better accommodate groups and election workers using the space.

The 2020 budget projects expenses of \$14,665 with an income of \$9970. An election year brings more expenses, but we go into the year with a \$10,108 balance. People were urged to go to <http://josephinedemocrats.org/> and use Act Blue to commit to making a monthly donation to help out.

Kevin Marr, DPO Delegate and PCP reported that a Democrat is still needed to run against State Senator Herman Baertschiger. He said a Democrat in this district may be a "sacrificial lamb" but if Democrats don't run for these positions it looks like we don't care about them. Kevin also reminded Democrats that it's important not to be negative about our own candidates during primaries. He said although Mark Hass is running against favorite Jamie McLeod-Skinner he's a good guy who helped get the education bill through providing more money for our schools. Kevin also noted that Democrats need to show support for local businesses as our party has the stigma of not being part of the business community.

Amanda Thorpe introduced herself and said she had attended one of DPO's Candidate Boot Camps and urged those interested to do so, even if they don't plan to run for anything.

Speaker

CD2 candidate John Holm introduced himself by saying he's held a variety of jobs, and trained as a Democratic Strategist by attending conferences and learning from those involved in the work. He asked what people thought "conservatism" means, and said he learned by sitting in on a Republican fund-raising committee. Republicans there had four tiers of people they targeted: first, the ultra rich millionaires and billionaires, second, the well-off including lawyers, doctors, insurance brokers, large car dealership owners, third, contractors and service providers and fourth, the blue collar workers who give the five and ten dollar donations. He asked the audience if a Republican gets elected, "What's the first thing they do?" Cut taxes, came the answer. "After cutting taxes, what do they cut to make up for it?" When Holm didn't get the answer he was looking for, he said "cops and teachers." With fewer cops, the crime rate goes up, then the lawyers, insurance people and contractors get more work, and with fewer teachers people are less educated so they are more likely to believe what Republicans tell them. He called it "the Republican circle of crime."

Holm said he knows it will be difficult for a disabled trans person to run in CD2, but he decided to use his knowledge of campaign strategy to give it a try. He said while he is transgender, that's only part of who he is and he's not running on that. Then he said he is on a discovery tour right now to see what issues are important to people in the district and how he can help if elected. This led to a lengthy discussion about the plight of local farmers, the housing crisis and hurdles for building new apartments and subdivisions, wages and the loss of union jobs, what constitutes a living wage, single-payer vs. Medicare for All and the pros and cons of both, and guns. On guns, Holm said although he supports gun safety measures he isn't putting that issue on his platform yet.

"If elected I will fight tooth and nail for what the voters want," he said.