

Josephine County Democrats
Executive Committee meeting (Zoom)
July 26, 2020

The meeting convened at 12:12 pm with a quorum present. Those on Zoom were Chair Brian Clark, Vice-Chair Lynda Spangler, Treasurer Dorothy Yetter, Secretary Lynda Demsher, Membership Chair Geri Ventura, Office Manager Sheri Morin.

Action:

After the treasurer's report indicating we have a current balance of \$9,500 the Committee voted to use \$1,300 to help local candidates with an emphasis on getting more senate seats in Oregon's legislature.

Discussion:

Predictive dialing software, a tool telemarketers use to determine who is most likely to answer their phone and respond, is being considered by the Democratic Party to help people doing phone banking. However, further research revealed it isn't free, but could be useful to avoid wasting time on unreachable voters.

Reports:

Brian said he is donating a surveillance camera set to the office since the one that was donated needed nearly as much extra purchases as buying a new one. The cameras will be installed in the stairwell and near the front window and monitoring can be done on an iPhone. Volunteers are needed as the office opens more days and hours. Currently it is open Tuesdays and Fridays when volunteers are available.

Lynda S. said we have almost triple the number of Democrats running for office this year, so we need to start scheduling forums soon. It was suggested we get Jackson, Curry and Douglas county Democrats involved as some statehouse districts overlap.

Mary Middleton will be speaker at our August meeting. Lynda said she would also like to line up representatives supporting the Oregon Psilocybin Program Initiative that would allow the medicinal use of hallucinogenic mushrooms by licensed service providers. It has been claimed that the chemical in the mushrooms, is useful for treating depression, anxiety, PTSD, and addictions.

The Neighborhood Leader project needs postcard writers and phone bankers. Geri said we could start now getting postcards ready to send out at a specified date. Texting was brought up as a more viable way to reach some voters. Geri said she would help people figure out how to do it without revealing their own phone numbers. The Neighborhood Leader program usually involves going door-to-door getting people to sign postcards pledging to vote, with those cards sent back to them when ballots are mailed out reminding them of their pledge.

Submitted by Lynda Demsher, Secretary