

Josephine County Democrats

April 13 ZOOM meeting

The agenda and March minutes were accepted.

Treasurer Colette Storms reported she is working on a budget and PCPs may get emails asking for input.

Chair Dorothy Yetter reported the office will be re-opening when volunteers are fully vaccinated. A July outdoor event is being planned and Democrats may start meeting indoors later this summer with a ZOOM component.

Committee and Caucus Reports:

The Membership Committee is gearing up to work on the May 18th election. Outreach efforts and a Get Out the Vote campaign is in the works.

The Communications Committee has sent its platform proposal to the Executive Committee for review. Input is welcomed.

The Campaign Committee is reviewing endorsement procedures. Two candidates have requested endorsement but both didn't make the request until after our deadline.

The Environmental Caucus meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month 5:30-7 pm. The short films featured the fourth Wednesday have been popular.

The Health Caucus held a Vaccine Q & A Forum with three doctors present. It didn't draw a large audience but a recording will be put on the Democrats YouTube channel for people who missed the informative session.

The Gun Owners' Caucus isn't active at this point but members are monitoring state gun legislation.

The Youth and Stonewall caucuses are looking for new leadership to get them going again.

All the caucuses and committees would like to have more participation. Those interested can email a member of the executive committee for more information.

Geri Ventura took over chairing the meeting since Chair Dorothy Yetter was included among the four Fire District candidates introducing themselves at the meeting. The discussion was non-partisan as not all the candidates for the Fire District Board are Democrats and support for the district is practical rather than political for those involved in campaigning for it.

Three short videos were played explaining the measure, which are on yesonfiredistrict.com. Including Dorothy, candidates Jeff Hollenbeck, Mark Jones and Danny Kahler were present. Randy Benetti had a conflict and couldn't attend. All five have been endorsed by the committee that sat up the fire district proposal called Measure 17-98 on the ballot. Mark and Randy are retired firefighters. Jeff owns Quinn's Pump Service. Dorothy is retired and was vice chair of the

fire protection committee. Danny owns Smokey's Stoves. They all warned that the two people not endorsed by the committee are running for the board in spite of being against the district. If the district is approved by the voters, there will be a transition period as the board sets standards and goes over contracts. It was stressed that during that time people will continue to be covered by their existing plan and will not have to pay double with overlapping assessments. Fuels reduction will be an important component of the district and Dorothy pointed out there is \$1.5 million available from the state the district will get for that if it is approved. Otherwise, she said, with no entity to accept the money, it will just go back into the state's fund and be spent somewhere else. Misinformation about the district, such as the claim that the tax assessment people pay will go out of the area were cleared up and a call for a volunteer fire department to serve the district was called impractical because of the difficulty of finding enough volunteers. The problem of the current system, where only 76 percent in the area pay for fire service, carrying the burden for those who do not pay, will be eliminated if the Fire District passes. The problem of fireworks being allowed during the driest season of the year was also addressed. All candidates were in favor of some restrictions on their use, and possibly a common area deemed safe by the fire department, could be set up for Fourth of July.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.