

## **Minutes, November 12, 2019**

### **Josephine County Democrats**

**Present:** Chair Brian Clark, Vice-Chair Dorothy Yetter, Secretary Lynda Demsher, a quorum of PCPs.  
A total of 41 people in attendance

#### **Action:**

- The agenda was accepted without change. The minutes were accepted without change.
- The language allowing executive committee members to access the Josephine County Democrats debit card for approved expenses to avoid the delay of the reimbursement process was approved. Per September Executive Committee meeting, a motion was put forth and approved unanimously for the issuing of debit cards immediately against the checking account number ..... at ..... bank to the four Financial Committee members: Brian Clark , Dorothy Yetter, Anita Savio and Lynda Demsher.
- A change in the bylaws was approved, allowing 10 PCPs present to constitute a quorum instead of one-fourth of the total PCPs. The motion approved was: shall we amend the bylaws to replace the requirement that  $\frac{1}{4}$  the total number of PCPs should be present for a quorum to allow the presence of 10 PCPs to be a quorum. It was passed with two objections and one abstention.
- A general endorsement of all Democratic candidates running for Secretary of State was rejected.
- An endorsement of Democratic Secretary of State candidate Jamie McLeod-Skinner was approved. After all the candidates were contacted, McLeod-Skinner was the only one who formally requested an endorsement. If we hear from additional candidates, additional endorsements can be considered.
- PCPs present voted to oppose a resolution before the Democratic Party of Oregon to open the Democratic Party's primary to non-affiliated voters. The motion was "this body opposes opening the Democratic primary to NAVs"
- PCPs present voted to approve having a Holiday party at a winery in the Jerome Prairie area and to change the date of the December meeting to Saturday, December 7 instead of the regular time of Tuesday December 10 so we can gather in the afternoon. The time and format of the party will be announced.
- Two PCPs were approved.

#### **Treasurers Report:**

In Treasurer Anita Savio's absence, Chair Brian Clark gave the Treasurers Report. After reporting monthly operational expenses at \$323, he said the ending balance for October was \$9,983.

#### **Announcements:**

- PCP trainings are coming up during the next few months that will go over duties and basics of Robert's Rules of Order.
- Office manager Sheri Morin announced that a couch and chair in the party headquarters is for sale at a reasonable price because they take up room needed for a conference table. The office needs to be reconfigured to reflect the work that will be going on during the election, she said. She would also like to get donations of an office cabinet (not file cabinet) where campaign literature and items can be kept, and a couple of bookcases.
- Healthcare Chair Jerry Reed announced a task-force meeting assessing the idea of universal healthcare for Oregon will be held at the Oregon Education Association building, 2495 S. Pacific Hwy, in Medford December 1, from 2-3 pm.

- A supporter of Beyond Toxics, an activist non-profit working to rid the environment of toxic weed and insect control products holds a protest every Wednesday at the Jackson County Courthouse at 9:15 am and would like Democrats to support them by showing up wearing green. More information is at <https://www.beyondtoxics.org>.
- Bob Lang, Bike and Walkway Committee member, asked for support for keeping the River Road Reserve property in the public's hands, and to keep an eye on the Grants Pass City Council's look at selling other properties throughout the city.

## Discussions

- Brian went through the last election, saying both ballot measures that would have added to property taxes failed by wide margins. The creation of a fire district in the City of Grants Pass separate from the Public Safety department failed, as well as the levy enabling the Three Rivers School District to build a new school to replace the aging North Middle School on Highland Avenue. Bob Bath said their "stealth" campaign didn't work and district voters were hit with a late barrage of anti-tax fliers originating out of Selma. Brian pointed out that election turnout was just 42.49 percent, with just a 15.1 percent of NAVs. He said if all Democrats in the district had voted the outcome may have been different. Bob said although he greatly appreciated the Democrat's endorsement that gave them precincts to target for canvassing, there just weren't enough canvassers to hit every Democrat in the district. He said the issue will reappear on the ballot because it has to. This is the only way we get funding for new schools, he said.
- Brian said he had a Grants Pass police officer come by the office to do a safety check. The officer recommended we install cameras outside the office so volunteers can see who is approaching. Joe Stodola is looking into equipment and costs. Sheri added that as the election season heats up, she would like to see two volunteers in the office during operating hours and that volunteers should have a plan in case someone visiting gets threatening.
- Brian reported our road-cleanup volunteers had only four people but one side of the road had been cleaned by a convict crew. The next road clean-up will be sometime at the end of January, he said. Eight or nine volunteers are needed to make quick work of the job.
- The Bylaws change generated a brief discussion by those who were concerned lowering the number of PCPs needed to constitute a quorum would "leave power in too few hands." The argument for the change was that we are growing, so the one-quarter requirement will mean more people will have to be present to get any business done, which is sometimes difficult during bad weather. Brian pointed out that voting on issues is not limited to the 10 people who form a quorum.
- Vice-Chair Dorothy Yetter went over Project Engage, our effort to get non-affiliated voters to choose a party so they can vote in the primary. People will be needed to help in many capacities, she said, to assist in putting together a coordinated media campaign using social media, websites, blogging, and announcements and said to contact her at [vice-chair@josephinedemocrats.org](mailto:vice-chair@josephinedemocrats.org) to sign up.
- Brian put forth the DPO resolution, which he said will possibly inject some contention into the next SEC meeting. The DPO resolution: Section 1 allows the opening of the Democratic primary to NAVs. Section 2 directs the Secretary of State to open the 2020 primary to NAVs. They will not be able to vote for PCPs or the President of the United States, however, unless they register as Democrats. Bob said he sees a danger with this in giving Republican-leaning NAVs the ability to skew our primary. Dorothy said if passed, it would make our Project Engage difficult. Statistics show NAVs tend to reflect where they live, with NAVs living in blue areas leaning Democratic, while NAVs living in red areas lean Republican. Bob noted that

it may be an advantage for Democrats to allow NAVs in blue areas to open the primary, but in the red rural areas like Josephine County, it could be a disadvantage.

## **Reports**

Colette Storms, Membership Committee Chair, passed around a sign-up form for people interested in helping with phone-banking, tabling, and canvassing in our effort to register more Democrats. She said they will have a table outside the Growers Market to register voters and provide information about the primary. She said they want to pass out candy canes from the Democrats but they need to find a public event that allows political discourse.

Michelle Anderson, Stonewall Caucus Chair, reported that she had a group marching in the Southern Oregon Pride Parade in Ashland last month, where they were accompanied by the DPO Chair.

Richard Flora, Chair of the Environmental Caucus reported that the next meeting would be Thursday, 1:30 pm Nov. 14 at the office.

Submitted by Secretary Lynda Demsher