

Minutes, September 9 2019 – Updated 10/8/2019

Josephine County Democrats

Present: Chair Brian Clark, Vice-Chair Dorothy Yetter, Treasurer Anita Savio, Secretary Lynda Demsher, a quorum of PCPs. A total of 35 people in attendance.

Action:

- The agenda was accepted without change.
- The minutes were accepted without change.
- Rules were changed allowing any individual to contact the Chair with an item to put on the agenda.
- The attached budget and expenditure resolution were approved.
- A resolution presented by the Stonewall Caucus requesting \$35 funding for an informational booth at the Southern Oregon Pride Festival was presented and approved. This will include materials to educate the community about the Democratic Platform and the significance of party affiliation
- Request from Constance Marr for \$125 candidate training was approved. She intends to run for the Three Rivers School Board.
- Three new PCPs were approved.

Treasurers Report:

The bank balance at the beginning of the month was \$6054 and the ending balance was \$6,033. An income for August of \$1,150 because of some generous donors, with a net income of \$212 after expenses, Treasurer Anita Savio announced. The donations came in a timely manner as expenditures, due to various activities including our informational booth at the Josephine County Fair were higher than usual, but higher expenses are an indication that we are an active group, she said.

Announcements:

- Chair Brian Clark announced the Oregon Summit, a biannual gathering of Democrats in Oregon, will take place October 18-20 in Sun River. This is a political conference any Democrat can attend, but it is pricy, he added. The cost to attend the conference is about \$300, and lodging in Sun River runs at least \$150 a night, so an attendee can expect to spend \$700-\$800 to go, he reported. There is a lot of good information at these conferences, but the cost is a little more than the average Democrat can afford.

- Last Saturday five Democrats protested at the NRA dinner at the Josephine County Fairgrounds. They were reminded that the lunatic fringe is alive and well in the county. While they were generally left to peacefully protest, one NRA attendee came over and said “we can't wait until the earthquake happens cause we'll have all the guns.” This was a wake-up call, Brian said, to let us know these kinds of people are still out there and a reminder that the sheriff's elections are important for keeping a like-minded person out of office.

- ~~October 14~~September 12 is the first day to file if you are running for office in Oregon, Brian announced. He said the DPO will send someone to talk about how to become a delegate in a few months if we request it.

- The Kate Brown recall effort seems to be energetic in Josephine County, but the DPO doesn't seem to be too concerned about it overall.

- The gathering at Double Taps has a new name and new time: the Monthly Social will be held the third Tuesday of the month instead of the third Wednesday. The change was made by Double Taps because they have scheduled another event for that time. The time, 6-9 pm will be the same.

- A change in the bylaws will be coming up. Currently our bylaws say at least 25 percent of all PCPs have to be present to vote on an action. Currently we have about 70 PCPs. In order to avoid having to postpone a needed action because attendance is low, it has been proposed to make a change more consistent with other county central committees, some of which only require 10 percent to be present. The Executive Committee will come back with a request for change at the next meeting.

- Anita announced that plans for the September 28 fund-raiser are going well. In addition to Secretary of State candidate Jamie McLeod-Skinner, DPO Chair KC Hanson will be attending. Tickets are on sale now and will be \$50 per person until September 20 when the price goes up. Parking is limited, so ticket purchasers are urged to arrange ride sharing. The event will be from 4-6 pm and there will be a live auction of sponsorships to keep the action going.

- Anita also made an appeal for another Finance Committee member. More eyes are needed to peruse the budget for updates, and help with the next budget cycle, she said.

- The Membership Committee is reaching out to young people and non-affiliated voters, and is preparing a script and questions for people helping with calls. Dorothy has tutorials on josephinedemocrats.org for those interested in learning how to access VAN lists.

- Sheri ~~Moran~~[Morin](#), office manager and events coordinator, thanked all the volunteers who helped with the fair booth. She said this year we had more positive feedback from people who basically said they were glad we are a presence in Josephine County. She intends to write a letter to the Fair Board thanking them for their support this year. Events like the fair are important to participate in because people here need to know we aren't going away, she said. She also announced she would like a Monday noon-3 pm volunteer at the office. She can be contacted through the website.

- Michelle Anderson announced the Stonewall Caucus met Aug. 29th and had an election and she was elected chair. They are planning to attend the Pride Parade October 8 and set up a booth at Lithia Park to distribute information about the importance of being a Democrat. Caucus meetings have been set the 4th Thursday, 7:15 pm at Interplay, 1680 Williams Highway.

Speakers

Environmental Caucus Chair Richard Flora said progress is being made on getting local environmental groups together to create a campaign for environmental legislation. New member Vanessa... has set up a Facebook page for people who want to get involved in the Climate Emergency Mobilization Project. Richard said the Jordan Cove pipeline project is still negotiating about 12 permits so it isn't finalized, and some of the permit processes still allow public input. The final pronouncement won't be issued until at least mid-January 2020, he said.

Lynda Spangler gave an overview of state environmental legislation passed and not passed during the last session. She said even though Democrats have a super majority not all Democrats in the state legislature are environmentalists. (See josephinedemocrats.org for her complete list). She said some important legislation, like the ban on Styrofoam lost, but the ban on single-use plastic bags given out by grocery stores did pass. That ban will take effect in January, she said. In addition, legislators are

expected to take up new rules making it more difficult for minority legislators to walk out in order to shortchange the quorum needed to vote on a bill. Currently, the legislature can be ruled by the minority, as seen in the failure of HB 2020, the cap and trade legislation, to pass.

Richard introduced the Caucus's guest, Brian DeLaGrange, who started the Josephine County Climate Alliance. He announced there will be a Climate Strike Friday, September 20, 4:30 pm at the Josephine County Courthouse. They will have speakers, music and sign-making materials available and would like to see this become a regular event on Fridays. This is kicking off a week of climate awareness activities worldwide. The strike is in cooperation with Swedish teen Greta Thunberg's efforts to make people aware of the climate crisis through worldwide Friday Climate Strikes. The September 20 event also involves high school student walkouts in Ashland, Medford and Phoenix, and is aimed at making people aware that climate change is an actual emergency and should be treated as such. He said hopefully these efforts will grow and increase awareness about climate change's impact on the world. We need to start at the local level and work up in order to affect change, he said.

On Wednesday August 28th, the Finance Committee met to modify the 2019 Budget

1. The following was added to the budget to accommodate part of the Strategic Plan

Candidate Training: \$250

A change to the Standing Rules will be forthcoming where a request can be made by a potential candidate via email to the Chair. The expenditure can be approved by either the Executive or the Central Committee

2. The following is recommended to add to the budget, plus expend up to the amounts below, the money for a supply of bumper stickers for sale, Vote Earth buttons for sale, and Vote Earth stickers for give-away

Bumper Stickers: quantity of 24 for \$53 (sell for \$3 each)

Vote Earth Buttons: quantity of 100 (2.5") for \$89 (sell for \$1 each)

Vote Earth Stickers: quantity of 500 (3") for \$185

The finance committee found areas that could be reduced or eliminated (such as expenditures for a picnic) to partially accommodate the above.

This is submitted to the Central Committee for approval.