

Josephine County Democrats

Minutes – June 9, 2020

Meeting by Zoom

Vice Chair Lynda Spangler called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. as Chair Brian Clark was having trouble joining the electronic meeting. The agenda was accepted. Brian appeared and led the rest of the meeting. The May minutes were accepted. Treasurer Dorothy Yetter reported that we currently have \$8,396 in the bank, with May expenditures at \$303. She announced that a 50/50 raffle will be on the website to help raise money to meet expenses. People have until June 24th to buy “tickets” using ActBlue [here](#). Dorothy said she researched the legality of doing a fund-raiser this way and determined it was legal. She also said the winner of the drawing will also get a nice bottle of wine donated for our last fund-raiser.

Action: A quorum of PCPs present electronically unanimously endorsed three Democratic candidates: Kat Stone running in Senate District 1, Jerry Allen running in Senate District 2, and Calla Felicity running in House District 1.

Announcements: Brian reported the Black Lives Matter protest in front of the Josephine County Courthouse last week drew about 400 people and was positive. Single protesters have been standing with signs in the vicinity since then.

Danial Elash said he has been part of a group countering the Saltshaker group annoying people at the Growers Market with anti-abortion signs. This group has set up a table and is taking donations for Planned Parenthood, which has already raised several hundred dollars. He said the Saltshakers appear to be a racket, trying to provoke people, then filing a lawsuit against anyone who pushes back. Elash said the donation table, also serves to provide information and counsel to those traumatized by the gross signs carried by the protesters. He said the pro-Planned Parenthood table seems to be a key in dealing with the group.

Brian read a statement from the Democratic Party of Oregon Leadership on Protests and Police Violence signed by K.C. Hanson, Party Chair and other officers. It began by saying the Democratic Party has not lived up to our Party’s vision for true equality and contained a message from DPO’s Black Caucus Chair Rosa Colquitt, PhD saying “The very core of both our Platform and our belief system as Democrats is about the equality of all. But in the wake of yet another senseless killing, we face the sad reality that our advocacy and even our most heartfelt, passionate beliefs were not enough to save George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, and the thousands who came before.” To read the full letter go [here](#).

Brian announced Michelle Anderson and Dorothy Yetter have signed up to be delegates to the Democratic National Convention. June 12 is the last day for people who signed up to select the delegates to turn in their ballots. He said the office is still closed but he is getting a couple of phone calls a day from people, mostly about finding Biden signs, which are now available at \$10

each at the office. He also said those who put themselves on the ballot as a write-in PCP will be contacted by letter for more information.

Brian also announced the turnout in Josephine County for the May 19 primary was 43.4 percent, with just 15 percent of non-affiliated voters casting a ballot. He also said Democrat's support of a proposal to redraw districts in Oregon by an independent commission instead of by the state legislature is still being researched and no opinion on the matter has come forward yet. Jean Mount said the League of Women Voters is supportive of having an independent commission redraw districts, which happens every 10 years after the official census has been taken.

Committee Reports

Campaign Committee Chair Lynda Spangler said she is contacting the primary winners of each Democratic race to find out who we can get to speak at our meetings. She said people in Southern Oregon are anxious to get to know Secretary of State Candidate Shemia Fagan since she hasn't spent much time here.

Membership Committee Chair Collette Storms said she is contacting PCPs and Precinct Captains in anticipation of gathering helpers for a Get Out The Vote campaign. Geri Ventura said it would be good to offer training for those who were just elected. Collette said there are training materials on our website.

Nancy Johnson Wilson and Susan Johnson...the Johnson sisters, have taken on the **Election Committee** in preparation for our election of officers in January.

Environmental Caucus Chair Richard Flora said as soon as he gets his webcam working he will start holding Zoom meetings of the caucus.

Stonewall Caucus Chair Michelle Anderson said her group has a meeting scheduled June 25 after a delay caused by the virus.

Lynda Demsher announced the possibility of a Gun Owners Caucus. She has met with the state Gun Owners Caucus Chair Michael Smith and said such a caucus will help expand our base and create a Democratic voice for gun safety. She has created an announcement that will be sent out on our social media sites.

Speaker: Oregon House District 1 candidate Calla Felicity was guest speaker. She gave a well-informed introduction and answered several questions. She invited Josephine County Democrats to keep up with her on her Facebook page and donate to defeat her opponent who is one of the Republicans who walked out of the Legislative session last year over the Cap&Trade bill. Read Calla's speech here.....

Submitted June 10

By Secretary Lynda Demsher