

JCDCC BiAnnual Election Meeting
By ZOOM
December 8, 2020

The meeting began with a flag salute at 7 p.m. with 37 PCPs in attendance. The agenda and minutes were accepted. The Treasurer's report indicated we have about \$9,000 moving into next year. Because of an increase in regular donors and other contributions, our election expenses reduced our bank account by about \$1,000.

Nancy Graden was thanked for her years of work with Josephine County Democrats.

Election results: Newly elected positions begin January 1...

Chair – Dorothy Yetter

Vice-Chair – Lynda Spangler

Treasurer – Colette Storms

Secretary – Lynda Demsher

SCC Delegate – Kevin Marr, alternate Patty Downing

CD2 Delegate – Geri Ventura, Sheri Morin, alternates Rebecca Anderson, Joseph Deshields

CD4 Delegate: Lynda Spangler, Colette Storms, alternate Patty Downing

Four new PCPs, Elva Manquera, Joey DeShields, Patricia Downing and Lacey Porter, were unanimously approved.

Chair's Report:

Brian reported that many previously conservative cities and counties got more Democrats elected locally, including Bend, which now has an all Democrat city council, and Grants Pass which has three new Democratic leaning members, including the mayor.

Brian, outgoing two-term Chair, thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity to serve, and said the organization is much stronger now than when he took over, thanks to everyone who has been involved the last four years. He said while he is stepping down as chair, he'll continue to be involved and will remain a PCP.

Those running for offices gave brief introductions:

Patty Downing said she's lived in Obrien for 25 years and has been active in the community, founding an Indivisible group in 2016. Lynda Spangler, incumbent Vice Chair, said she's a retired psychiatric social worker who is currently a canine handler for Search and Rescue. She's interested in the environment and getting Democrats onto local boards and into elected positions. Constance Palaia, a past Chair who has been with JCDCC for many years, recounted how she

was brought up in politics, going to Caesar Chavez rallies with her mother as a child, helping with her father's run for California Assembly and meeting state elected officials. Rebecca Anderson recalled when she first joined JCDCC she met with a handful of people at someone's house and has enjoyed watching the Democrats grow in the community. She said now, more than ever, we need to "keep our foot on the accelerator" to make things happen here. Geri Ventura said she helped found an Indivisible group in Santa Barbara and stayed active in that when she moved to Josephine County, then got involved with the Democrats as she realized that was her leaning all along. Keven Marr, business owner and current SCC delegate, said his first political foray was helping with the McGovern presidential campaign, and remembered being appalled when his vice-presidential pick was chased off for admitting he'd seen a mental health counselor. He said as an SCC delegate, he has worked to bring our rural problems to state meetings which can overlook rural areas unless someone speaks up. Dorothy Yetter, current Treasurer running for Chair, thanked Brian and said if elected she would have big shoes to fill. She said she too got involved when Democrats were meeting at a private house, became a PCP and was soon elevated to the Executive Board as Treasurer. She said as Chair issues in the next two non-election years her focus will be on the environment, housing, health and safety and getting more Democrats elected locally. She said it will take all our Democrats to be active in caucuses, committees and other activities to build up the party in an area where we are only 30 percent of the electorate right now. Colette Storms said she moved to the area a year-and-a-half ago from Santa Monica "where you didn't have to be involved" as there were so many Democrats, but when she got here she decided to find fellow Democrats and ended up becoming an active participant. Lynda Demsher said her background is in journalism and teaching and this will be her third term as Secretary.

A discussion after the election centered on outreach to non-Democrats in the county and concluded issue-based outreach focusing on economic issues with face – to – face contact works best. Everyone said they looked forward to being able to meet in person again. Geri said as soon as we can get back to normal she wants to have a "big *** party for everyone at her ranch.