

## **Minutes**

General Meeting

February 9, 2021

A quorum, including all officers was present. A short business meeting followed speakers Kelly Wessels, Chief Operating Officer of UCAN and Grants Pass Mayor Sara Bristol who discussed the proposed homeless shelter. The agenda, minutes, and a new PCP, Wayne Overlin, from Illinois Valley, was approved. Wayne, a registered Democrat, said he's a technician involved in environmental particulate monitoring and has worked in solar electricity. He said after a lifetime of being involved in activism, he decided to focus his involvement through a political party.

**Treasurer's Report:** Colette Storms said we had a January ending balance of \$10,478. Income was \$1,146 and expenditures were \$625 with a net gain of \$521. Colette said she will be working with caucuses and committees in the coming weeks on their budgets so they can start spending on priorities. Dorothy, the former treasurer, said since many of our Caucus and Committee chairs are new to creating budgets it might help to look at those previously developed.

**Chair Report:** In March the DPO will be having elections, or reorganization as the DPO is fond of calling it. K.C. Hansen is running for Chair again but anyone not currently holding a position in the Party can go to the DPO website and apply to run for a state party office. Colette Storms has applied as the CD4 Representative to the DPO and to be on the local events and state fair committees.

**Announcements:** Jayden Oquendo, a CD4 delegate from Douglas County, introduced himself and said he is visiting each county Democratic Party in the district to find out what kinds of topics CD4 Democrats can work on as a team. After listening to each party's concerns, he will put together a list of topics that would benefit from a team effort. He was present during our discussion about organizing a homeless shelter in Grants Pass.

Brian Clark announced the next Adopt-a-Highway road cleanup will be February 21, noon along the stretch of Redwood Highway near RCC. He said those interested in helping can contact him through the road cleanup announcement posted in Events on our website. He expects trash pickup to be light this time because it looks like the jail crew has been through the area, but we still need to fulfill our volunteer obligation at the site.

## **Caucus and Committee Reports**

**Healthcare Caucus:** Jerry Allen and Barbara Villona are the new co-chairs and Lacy Porter is the secretary. They are reviving the caucus and discussing priorities and how to help the Democrats' membership with COVID information. Jerry said he'd like to hold town halls with health care professionals and invite the community to listen in on ZOOM. He also pointed out that this is a good time for the Democratic Party to become relevant and of service to the community providing information about health care access and COVID information. We should be at the forefront of this, he said. The next meeting of the Caucus will be Thursday, March 4, at

6:30 p.m. Those involved can go to the Healthcare Slack channel and post what they would like to have on the agenda for discussion.

**Environmental Caucus:** Joe Sedola, the new Environmental Caucus Chair, announced the former Chair Rick Flora is now Vice Chair and Elva Jarrett is Secretary. He thanked former secretary Kathy Svensen for her term as secretary and welcomed new secretary Eva Manquera. Joe said the Caucus met Thursday, January 21, on ZOOM where they reorganized and chose topics to work on. Jordan Cove is still in discussions, one member is watching and reporting on legislation in the statehouse, and he plans a discussion about environmental calamities that were corrected such as DDT, smog and the Dust Bowl.

Chair Dorothy Yetter reminded those present of the number of open committee seats in the county and urged Democrats to get involved. Open seats include those on the five position on timber which advises the commission on land the county owns, mining, fair board and transient lodging tax committees, among others.

**Membership Committee:** Membership Chair Geri Ventura said we have been getting a good response to our meetings and have been able to document those who attend. She has been working on all new requests for email notifications and the process is automated now so it's easier to get people coordinated with the VAN. She noted the Neighborhood Leader Project will begin to ramp up soon in preparation for the May 18 election. The NLP 2021 launch will be Feb 24 for current and prospective NLs. Senator Jeff Merkley be there to tell how Neighborhood Leaders helped get him elected.

**Campaign Committee:** Joey DeShields is the new Chair. He said his committee is just getting started and plans to hold a meeting in a couple of weeks. He attended a recent ZOOM training on how to recruit people to run for office and develop a strategic plan for recruiting. Joey said he is excited to be involved and looks forward to getting organized.

**Communications Committee:** Chair Patty Downing reported they had two meetings so far, working on refreshing the strategic plan, specifically on coming up with a compelling vision statement to help get people on board with our mission. She said the Committee has been meeting weekly Mondays at noon but will probably meet less often when the vision statement, now up for approval by the Executive Committee, is finished. The Committee is also looking at all the ways Democrats are reaching out and making a list. Member Geri Ventura showed a precinct newsletter she has put together aimed at introducing herself as a Precinct Leader, showing people how to get involved and providing contact information for elected officials. She has an example of her letter on Slack and will help other precinct leaders send out their own newsletters. Dorothy pointed out there is money for mailings but if you finance your own mailings it must be listed as an in-kind donation with the Treasurer. Geri also has lists for precinct leaders who would rather introduce themselves by phone banking. This is a good time to get in touch with the Democrats in your precinct so as the next election comes around a network will already be in place. Patty noted that she recently attended a "Ready to Run" ZOOM workshop where a couple of organizers from Georgia shared tips for winning an election.