

December 14

Goals Meeting, Josephine County Democrats

Chair-elect Dorothy Yetter discussed goals for the new year.

The Party's main purpose was defined as getting Democrats elected.

Toward that goal, the Party needs to be built up, with more involvement from new people who can be groomed for holding office as older members slow their involvement. Dorothy said she would like to see all the committees and caucuses chaired by new people not currently on the Executive Committee.

Committees include:

Election

Membership

Finance

Rules

Communications

Campaign

Caucuses include:

Healthcare

Environment

Gun Owners

Dorothy recommended we keep caucuses limited to three for now to get them re-started and off the ground again after the scattering caused by COVID. Each can cover a range of issues, for example Healthcare can include homelessness. Those attending agreed.

To recruit new people for committee and caucus assignments, it was suggested finding people who showed interest in getting involved during the election and contacting them personally, putting committee vacancies in the newsletter, and sending out emails to PCPs listing needs. Various names were suggested, including Jerry Allen, who ran for state senate.

Strategic Planning: An update to our plan is needed to include building the party up and getting our messaging out. The ByLaws also need some adjusting to clarify our endorsement policy and to make caucus chairs members of the Executive Committee. PCP duties also need to be clarified, with duties spelled out and encouragement to stay in contact with precinct Democrats in off-election years to let them know there are like-minded people in the neighborhood. Geri Ventura said Anita in Cave Junction had a good procedure – knocking on doors and asking Democrats in her precinct to send five postcards (regarding the Georgia runoff). This keeps them involved and makes them feel like part of the party.

Community Presence:

In order to prepare for the next local election, we should start now pointing out the shortcomings of those we want to target. The County Commissioners are all going to be very partisan Republicans who have followed Trump regarding COVID, Public Health, and other issues not entirely in sync with the general public. City Council issues should also be followed, but we have to be careful not to look like scolds. We should invite these people to speak at our meetings to explain issues and support them if they are doing something needed. It was suggested we have people follow meetings and write up reports on relevant comments and decisions. Where to post them was under discussion: either our website, a blog page for this purpose, or on our Facebook page. It was noted that the Fairgrounds reader board is an inexpensive way to get a message out. The next election will be in May, so we will need to determine if we need to utilize that for anyone we support.

Other business:

Dorothy suggested we have two meetings a month, both with speakers. One would be our regular meeting on the second Tuesday of the month. The other would be a social, on the last Thursday of the month, at least until our luncheons resume. Dorothy will send out a survey to see when the best time for Executive Committee meetings would be for those involved.

Speakers suggested for the January meeting included: someone from Public Health, someone from the police department on the challenges of dealing with the homeless.

Geri said she is willing to take over sending out the newsletter but will need content.