

Executive Meeting

Josephine County Democrats

November 25, 2018, Dorothy and Debbie's Mountain Retreat

Attending: Chair Brian Clark, Treasurer Dorothy Yetter, Acting-Sec. Lynda Demsher, Office Manager Sheri Morin, Membership Committee Chair Kathy Svendsen, Michelle Anderson, Jean Mount, Anita Savio, Kevin Marr, Lynda Spangler, Debbie Dean and Gracie.

Action:

New office hours: Tuesday and Fridays, noon to 3 p.m. Thursdays, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Sheri will research a new hours sign for the office as the current one is difficult to see.

We will have a speaker on income tax for the January meeting.

Election protocols were established for the December meeting in accordance with the JCDCC By-Laws.

The December meeting will be largely organizational with election of new officers and delegates. A goals-planning session will start with a chart of possible goals with those attending marking which should be prioritized. Those will be brought up and discussed at a later meeting. Possible goals: Building NLP, building the Young Democrats Club at RCC, having more Democrats attend County Commissioners and City Council meetings, recruiting progressive candidates to run for local office, sponsor a county meeting with other progressive groups, begin planning for the next Jamie McLeod-Skinner campaign. Democrats will buy pizza for a holiday party. BYOB and festive desserts.

Lynda Spangler gave a report on the CD4 election review held in Josephine County "for the first time in history." She said they discussed some Bylaws changes and reviewed the election. Josephine is not nearly as "red" as Douglas County, she said. At the meeting she also found out it isn't that hard to get a college student to work as an intern during an election. We just have to ask some of the social science/political science teachers and professors who they might recommend and if they would give the student credit for helping us. We would provide a plan for the intern to work from. There are templates from other counties to follow, she added.

Dorothy gave a data presentation showing how using VAN can help us see who voted and who didn't. She pointed out that using VAN like this takes time but can be a useful tool when making voter contacts.

Discussion: See attached for Election Review discussion.

2018 Midterm, Ballot Measure and Local Election Review Josephine County Democrats Executive Committee

Each person attending the November 25, 2018 Executive Committee meeting was given three minutes to tell what they observed, learned or would like to see changed, followed by a group discussion.

What emerged: Generally everyone was buoyed by the election because Democrats improved voter turnout, had the highest vote for a Democrat in CD2 since Walden was elected even though our candidate lost, established a base for Democrats in CD2 and proved we can be competitive. In addition, local candidates, all Republicans, came to know and respect us through our candidate nights and communications thereof. Everyone was also satisfied that Democrats in Oregon were given a supermajority and all the ballot measures we were against failed. Concern was expressed about the US Senate improving its majority, but still it wasn't the sweep we expected.

1. We need to find out why the Republican turnout is larger than ours and work on catching up. We need to keep improving the Neighborhood Leader program. We had 81% turnout where NLs went out.
2. We need to have better coordination between groups campaigning for the same candidate. Too many duplicate phone calls and postcards can annoy voters.
3. We need to have on-going fund-raising to be able to do more advertising. It was suggested we hold a "Shoot" at the local gun range to raise money and show the community we aren't really anti-gun.
4. Letters to the Editor are useful but may not be hitting the wider audience we need.
5. How do we turn CD2 around without some major Republican-caused catastrophe?
6. We need a concerted effort to get young voters interested in elections, and convince N/As to vote Democratic. We need to give young people a reason to vote.

7. Some of us need to work with the Young Democrats group at RCC. Tell them why we are Democrats, how they can help in the next campaign, or run for something. We could also help them get a ballot drop-off box at RCC.
8. Computerized phone banking connections need to be improved.
9. We need to reach out to people who may not agree with everything Democrats represent, but who can agree on some issues to possibly work on together. The Council of Elders locally and the Better Angels website has information about how to connect with people.
10. Democrats need to sort out local issues and work on those with people who are not Democrats. That might include pushing for Josephine County charter changes that would increase the number of people on the commission and hire a county manager.
11. We really need to get our Twitter account going to reach young people where they are.
12. We need more one-on-one discussions with people who could be persuaded to vote Democratic. Facts tend to wash out “conspiracy” thinking.
13. For the next election we should think about hiring a staff person to organize our campaign. Interns from RCC or SOU are a possibility.
14. Work with the VAN in dissecting our constituency and possible constituency and do more voter targeting.
15. Find out whether ex-felons vote and how to target them as potential Democrats.
16. Do more to rake in the “low-hanging fruit:” progressives who don’t bother to vote.
17. Reach out to other counties to see what they are doing that works.
18. Our Vote Earth buttons went over well. Perhaps we can use that to make inroads with non-voters and non-Democrats who are concerned about the environment.
19. Revive our Environmental Committee’s petition to take to local governing boards, especially in view of the recent climate change report. Also, concern about wildfires and smoke can be a non-partisan issue to work on.
20. Avoid crazy conspiracy theory nutcases and concentrate on people who will at least listen to other points of view.