

Josephine County Democratic Central Committee

Minutes, July 11, 2017

Regular Meeting

The meeting began at 7 p.m. with a flag salute led by JCDCC Chairman Brian Clark. Forty-nine people were in attendance. Pizza and beverages were served during the social between 6:30-7 p.m.

Committee Reports: Treasure Dorothy Yetter reported the JCDCC had \$1,187.59 in expenses, bringing a balance of \$5,807.43 down to \$4,591.18 by 7/10/17. The expenditures have been for merchandise to sell, a booth at the fairgrounds, rent on the meeting place, food during meetings, printing, and expenses related to the office start-up in town.

John Rickert reported that we still need precinct persons as we have 53 compared to the Republicans, who have around 130. If all slots were filled, we could have 224 PCP's. He pointed out each precinct has to have an equal number of men and women, but if your precinct is full, you are allowed to be a PCP in an adjacent district. He said the goal is to get over 100 PCP's in Josephine County, since they are the first line of our political organization. Four people present agreed to become PCPs, were nominated and accepted. Current PCPs were encouraged to recruit PCPs from their neighborhoods and acquaintances.

Chairman Brian Clark reported that, according to our bylaws, we still have organizational vacancies. A Parliamentarian is needed, as well as a Campaign Committee chair. Linda Spangler was nominated for that position and confirmed.

Sheri Moran announced she has procured a fair booth in a good location and needs volunteers to help set-up, occupy, and take down the booth. The fair, running August 16-19, will open at 10 a.m. with the booth open for as long as we have volunteers for each day. Volunteers are being asked to commit to two-hour or longer shifts. Anyone interested can sign up with Sheri.

Democratic Party of Oregon reports:

Linda Spangler gave highlights of the state meeting in Burns, saying the Black Caucus and Veterans' Caucuses she attended were informative. The Black Caucus is going to provide training for "White Privilege" while the Veterans' group was coalescing around how to provide services for homeless vets which she said is a "natural fit" for the Democratic Party. Brian urged everyone to go to DPO.com to find out more about other caucuses and the resolutions passed at the Burns meeting.

Ron Morgan, Political Organizing Coordinator from the DPO said a new campaign to get Democrats out to vote has begun. Called the Neighborhood Leader Program, it involves getting volunteers to contact neighbors who are Democrats and getting them to pledge to vote in the next election. Studies have shown that turnout is Democrats' biggest problem, especially in mid-term and down-ballot races to the point where we have basically conceded local elected positions to the Republicans, even in blue counties, because they tend to vote anytime a fellow Republican runs for anything. He said the Neighborhood Leaders will be the frontline in changing Democrats' voter participation. Counties that have had this program in place are already getting more Democrats elected to local positions and have a better chance of unseating Republicans in the statehouse and Congress. In answering a question about how to function as a Neighborhood Leader out in Josephine County's very rural areas "full of mean dogs and shotguns" Morgan said first contact may be sending out postcards asking for a meeting, or holding small gatherings in your home. Those signing up to be Neighborhood Leaders will be sent lists of Democrats in their vicinity to contact, and voter pledge cards will be available to hand out. The idea behind that is to get a voter to sign the card, give it back, then during the next election the card is sent back to that voter as a reminder of his or her pledge. Morgan then said he would be holding a training session for anyone interested at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the UU Center.

Speaker:

Dr. Alan Journet, a climate scientist, gave a sobering presentation on the causes of global warming, which is responsible for climate change. Through graphs and charts during a slide show, he demonstrated how the warming trend has been accelerating since the 1970s and if nothing is done, will make the planet nearly unlivable in our children or grandchildren's lifetime. Global warming is caused by heat being unable to escape because of the gaseous "thermal blanket" over the planet, caused mainly by methane gasses coming from "fugitive emissions" or leakage from fracking and natural gas transport. He emphatically said "bull...." to those who claim natural gas is a clean fuel, and described the LNG pipeline as a disaster that will negate everything else the state of Oregon is trying to do to combat global warming. Josephine County's own warming has increased by .9% during the last half-century, and will go up by 8.8% by the end of the century if nothing is done. Toward the end of his slideshow he had a picture of his three-year-old grandson, and said if nothing is done by the time he turns 18 "we're toast."

Comments:

Patricia Bloom of Selma urged those present to become aware of the Pickett West Timber Sale of lands in the Selma, Grants Pass and Murphy areas. The BLM plan, which has not been subject to an Environmental Impact Report, calls for reducing the forest canopy down to 30%, she said, pointing out that 29% is considered clear cutting. While no economic advantage for the area has been specified for this project, there will be negative effects on tourism, hunting,

fishing, water, climate change, and the appeal the area has for new enterprises. She urged everyone to write letters to the BLM or email them at pwest@blm.gov. before it's too late.

Ray Wilberg gave a short presentation about what the Republicans advocacy of voter "cross-checking" really means. He said they can go through voter registration and drop ethnic-sounding names to thin those who might vote for Democrats in certain areas. This also happens to people unfortunate enough to have the same name as a felon, or someone who died. That name can be axed from any district, even if the person targeted never lived there, he said. Ray Morgan pointed out that it is up to the voter then to prove he or she is not the felon or deceased in order to be able to vote...with the point being that Republicans count on those being axed who don't bother to go to the trouble to get cleared.

Announcements: Dorothy Yetter said the next regular meeting of August 8 will be a picnic at the Tom Pearce Park, Shelter #1. The use fee of \$155 has already been paid. It was voted to have everyone pay \$20 per person for furnished food rather than make it a potluck.

Our annual fund-raiser has been planned for Saturday, September 9, 5:30-8 p.m., Dorothy reported. It will be held at the Woolridge Creek Winery on Slagle Creek Road in Applegate Valley. Tickets will be somewhere between \$65-\$100 per person, depending on who we get as the speaker, and that will include one glass of wine with appetizers. Additional wine can be purchased, however. Dorothy said she is starting with Michelle Obama and working down the list, hoping to get a prominent Democrat to come. Jean Mount and Kay Fontaine are organizing the silent auction and would like donations of "good quality items" for the fund-raiser. The aim is to get at least 100 people to turn out, Dorothy noted.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Submitted by Lynda Demsher, in for Secretary Pat Bath.