

Josephine County Democrats

Minutes: April 9, 2019

Present: Chair Brian Clark, Vice-Chair Dorothy Yetter, Treasurer Anita Savio, Secretary Lynda Demsher, 25 attendees.

Action: Treasurers report and minutes were approved. Anita reported an ending balance of \$3,663.

- An amendment to the proposed 2019 budget was approved adding \$200 for travel expenses to reimburse district and state delegates who attend meetings.
- The 2019 budget was approved unanimously by PCPs present.

Announcements: Brian went over the status of proposed legislation, including HB2020, the cap and trade bill working its way through the process, and SB 770-1, a proposed single-payer healthcare bill. Kevin Marr reported on the status of the Student Success Act, a state education investment plan.

- Brian reported on local elections coming up in May. He said everyone should pay special attention to the Three Rivers School Board race where a right-wing candidate faces an Independent. Otherwise, most candidates for various offices are running unopposed.
- Ballots will be out May 1, Brian reported, and asked if we should organize a voter registration table before the election.
- Another road cleaning team is needed for April 27th for a two-hour litter pick-up along Highway 199 near RCC. Brian said he'd like to see 9 or 10 helpers show up.
- A strategic planning meeting will be held Thursday, April 18, at the UU at 6 p.m. Kevin is working on finding a facilitator.
- The Rural Organizing Project's annual Rural Caucus and Strategy Session will be held June 1 in Cottage Grove OR. See rop.org for details.

Reports: Brian reported on the new list of officers for the Democratic Party of Oregon (DPO). KC Hanson was elected Chair, Pete Lee 1st Vice-Chair, Michelle Risher 2nd Vice-Chair and Eileen Kiely, Secretary.

- Michelle Anderson reported she attended the CD2 meeting in Bend where new officers were elected. She said the CD2 delegates now have a Facebook page at Facebook/DPOCD2. The next meeting will be in Prineville.
- Sheri Morin, events coordinator, said a volunteer is needed for every other Tuesday from noon to 3 p.m. at the Democrats' office downtown. She also reported that volunteers are needed for the Boatnik Parade Saturday, May 25. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Speaker: Brian Josephson, head of the Democratic Party of Oregon's Youth Caucus, was visiting from Lane County and stopped by to attend our meeting. He said his group is working to extend the reach of the internship program teaching young people how to organize. He said while this is a popular program in the very blue counties up north, he wants to expand it into rural counties like Josephine and Jackson where organizers are faced with more challenges. He said the problem with rural counties is they have no Democrats to organize, so the right is allowed to run wild there. Answering a question, Brian said the bill allowing 16-year-olds to vote will probably not pass, this year anyway, because it was brought up rather late in the legislative session.

Discussion: Anita went over the budget, saying phone-bank fund-raising will begin in May, when volunteers will call PCP's and ask for donations. She would like to see people pledge a monthly donation to help with office and other party expenses. The budget also includes one large fund-raiser at someone's home that will hopefully bring in a couple of thousand dollars. Projected expenses for the year have been written into the budget as \$7,740 with a small contingency fund included. The budget can be seen at <https://josephinedemocrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2019-Budget.pdf>

- Jean Mount said she attended a meeting of the county commissioners recently where they were very negative toward census rules and urged others to pay attention.
- Daniel Elash said teachers demanding improvement in education have prompted rallies, freeway banner drops and walkouts. The next protest is expected to take place May 8.

Committees: At 8 pm those present broke up into committee groups with Richard Flora leading the Environmental group, Brian leading the Housing group and Dorothy leading the Health group.

Actionable Items:

- Recruiting a volunteer for every other Tuesday at the office, noon to 3 p.m.
- Setting up a voter registration table in town and giving out Vote Earth buttons for Earth Month.
- Recruiting volunteers for road cleanup Saturday, April 27.
- Recruiting volunteers for our Boatnik entry in the parade May 25.
- Planning a phone bank fund-raiser
- Various committee activities
- Paying attention to County Commissioners

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary Lynda Demsher