

## Josephine County Democrats

Minutes: August 13, 2019

**Present:** Chair Brian Clark, Vice Chair Dorothy Yetter, Secretary Lynda Demsher and about 35 people including PCPs and Delegates. Treasurer Anita Savio was absent.

**Action:** The agenda was accepted. The minutes and treasurer's report were approved. The Strategic Plan for the period May 2019 – June 2020 was approved with changes to numbers 13 and 14 in the list of Democratic Principles. Three new PCPs were approved: Skyler Westra, Nancy Wetzold, and Betty Stephan.

### Announcements

- There will be a fund-raiser for our party Saturday, Sept 28, 4-7 p.m. It will be held at Patti Hansen's beautiful home in Grants Pass. Tickets will be \$50 per person. Brian is looking for a high-profile speaker.
- The Hang Out will be Wednesday, Aug 21, 6-9 pm at Double Taps in Grants Pass
- The Democrats' Lunch will be Thursday, Aug 29, noon, at Climate City. A speaker will address gun reform
- Someone is needed to organize voter registration at tables in front of various locations.
- Members are needed for the Health Caucus, Environmental Caucus, the Rules and Membership committees.
- Anyone want to organize a gun-owners caucus for our local party?

### Reports:

- ✓ The Treasurer's report for July showed an anticipated \$6,195 balance when deposits were all recorded. Cash donations for the month were \$650, with another \$650 in in-kind donations. Expenses for the month were \$181, mostly for the office.
- ✓ Brian reported on the State Central Committee meeting he and Dorothy Yetter attended. He said unfinished business from May was addressed, with the meeting going much smoother since many legislative items became moot when the legislature adjourned for the summer. The big issue for the next meeting will be whether or not to allow Non-Affiliated-Voters (NAV's) to vote with Democrats in all but presidential elections, which is controlled by the national Democratic Party. Other action included support for the Green New Deal and declaring Racism harmful to Public Health.
- ✓ Brian reported the fund-raising committee met and set Sept 28 as this year's gathering with the cost per ticket set at \$50. He said they would like to sell at least 75 tickets. There will be a snack tray from Cartwrights along with beer, wine and water to drink.
- ✓ Brian also announced we received a grant from the Democratic Party of Oregon of \$500 to use for outreach. This is from money received from people who check the "Do you want to donate \$3 to a campaign" box on your state tax form. It has to be used for state candidates and requires we send in a report detailing how the money was spent.
- ✓ Dorothy reported the Membership Committee has put together materials for the Fair Booth and will be able to help people register or change their registration at the booth.
- ✓ Events Chair Sheri Morin said the Fair booth has been decorated with a portion dedicated to honoring veterans, as that's the theme of this year's Josephine County Fair. She said the booth celebrates democracy, and volunteers should stay positive and refrain from engaging with hecklers. Handouts include little star bows for veterans and wrapped candy for kids. There will be a coloring contest for kids, with the three best entries given gift certificates for

ice cream. There will also be materials at the booth to consult regarding various issues people may have questions about.

- ✓ Jerry Reed reported the Health Caucus currently consists of himself and Brady Keister. They have been discussing the various health plan possibilities and would like to hear from more people regarding their preferred plans.
- ✓ Rick Flora said the Environmental Caucus met and has two new members who are getting involved in a new project called Climate Emergency Mobilization, which calls on local elected officials to recognize and make plans to deal with climate change. The group also discussed the Jordan Cove pipeline and has people monitoring that and other issues.
- ✓ Michelle Anderson said the Stonewall Caucus had its first meeting in July with nine people in attendance. They are working to connect with the State Central Committee's Stonewall Caucus and will hold another meeting August 29.
- ✓ Michelle also reported on the CD2 District meeting where the difficulty in getting representatives to the meetings in the very large district was discussed, with the possibility of allowing remote voting being considered.

### **Discussion:**

The discussion centered around the Strategic Plan (posted in News at [josephinedemocrats.org](http://josephinedemocrats.org) Changes to Democratic principle number 13, which states: "We support the constitutional right of every law-abiding adult to keep and bear arms for self-defense, hunting, and recreation" initiated a lively discussion around the possibility that individual gun ownership may not be a constitutional right, so the word "constitutional" was dropped from the sentence and approved by the majority of those present. Democratic Principal number 14, stating "We believe that secure borders are essential to national security. Therefore, every attempt should be made to document immigrants and allow their provisional entry at official border points of entry to mitigate unsupervised and dangerous border crossings. We also believe undocumented immigrant workers and their families should have a path to legal residence and eventual citizenship" also prompted a lively discussion, and eventually the first sentence became "We believe every attempt should be made...." There was also some discussion about leaving out the Strategic Issues section, with some saying we should just concentrate on what we are doing and not worry about how Republicans in Josephine County react. However, it was agreed by the majority of those present that since the county has a very conservative majority, we do need to show awareness of our local situation in order to carry out our strategies.

### **Actionable Items:**

- Support the Fair Booth this week.
- Join a Caucus and/or standing committee
- Volunteer to organize voter registration
- Read the Strategic Plan and decide how you can help carry it out
- Put our events on your calendar and plan to attend

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary Lynda Demsher