



**Josephine County  
Democratic Central  
Committee**

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**Minutes  
February 12, 2019**

The February meeting opened at 7 p.m. with Vice-Chair Dorothy Yetter presiding. Approximately 20 people were in attendance on the stormy evening, including Executive Board members Anita Savio, treasurer, Lynda Demsher, Secretary, and Sheri Morin, office manager/events coordinator. Chair Brian Clark was absent.

**New Business** – The January minutes and treasurer’s report were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Anita reported an income of \$46 for January, with expenses of \$315. We currently have \$4,397 in our account.

**Announcements:** Anita said we are still looking for a Finance Committee Chair and committee members who can help with fund-raising. Openings for the following also need to be filled: CD-2 delegate, two CD-2 alternates, and Luncheon Coordinator. Joe Stodola expressed interest in becoming a CD-2 delegate but needed to confirm he lives in CD-2. Monthly Democrats’ Luncheons have been suspended until a coordinator can secure the time and place, arrange a speaker or meeting theme, and send information to the Communications Chair who publicizes the meeting. The Environmental Action Committee also needs a chair, and other support people to continue its work.

A presentation on how climate change affects Southern Oregon will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Fruitdale Grange.

Daniel Elash announced the Oregon Education Association is proposing a rally at the Capitol in Salem Feb. 18, Presidents Day. This isn’t about so much about salaries as it is about restoring funding to education after so many years of austerity, he said, and taking a look at what privatized charter schools are doing to public education in the state.

Membership Committee’s Kevin Marr urged everyone present to bring a friend to meetings to help build involvement.

**Action:** A motion to write Governor Kate Brown a letter asking her to oppose the Jordon Cove Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) pipeline proposed for Southwestern Oregon was made by Lynda Spangler and seconded by Anita Savio. It was approved unanimously. Communications Chair Lynda Demsher will start the letter.

**Reports:** A CD-4 reorganization in Florence was missed by Delegate Danial Elash because of weather. He reported difficulty communicating with CD-4 officials regarding whether or not the meeting would be canceled. Brian will be asked to look into that and see if better communication with our distant delegates can be made.

Dorothy said it is important our issue committees set goals and create action plans, with members assigned to “zero in” on local issues and show up for comment sessions so Democrats will have a bigger voice in the community.

Jean Mount, Lynda Spangler, Kathy Svendsen and Richard Flora met with the Deer Creek Valley Natural Resources Conservation Association and met Orville and Mary Camp who manage their 180 acres near Selma by letting nature take its course. Richard said they use the property to demonstrate their philosophy, and asked us if we would like to tour it. He will find out who wants to go and arrange a date.

The Environmental Action Committee is gearing back up now, after pausing during the last election. They are still working on getting local elected officials to comply with the principals of the Paris Climate Accord and studying the impacts of the liquefied gas pipeline proposed to run through Southwestern Oregon. Richard said he went to a meeting held in Central Point for comments on the project and most of the people there opposed the pipeline as potentially dangerous, and polluting, with property owners complaining it would have too big a footprint on their land. The only people who seemed to be for the project were representatives of the pipefitters union. Richard said Gov. Kate Brown hasn't committed herself to oppose the project, so he recommended we send her a letter asking her to come out against the pipeline.

Lynda Spangler reported on her visit to Salem for Legislation Day sponsored by Renew Oregon in support of SB 20-20, the proposed cap and trade bill aimed at reducing pollution and creating clean-energy jobs. They tried to see Rep. Duane Stark and Rep. Carl Wilson, but were referred to their administrative aides who just noted their concerns. They did see Sen. Herman Baertschiger Jr. however, and learned he is no fan of SB 20-20. Lynda said he may come around when he realizes he opposing the bill will be opposing the creation of a lot of clean-energy jobs.

Lynda, who is also on the Campaign Committee, said there are a lot of special district and school board elections coming up in May and we need more progressives to run for these positions. There are also many appointed positions on various commissions and committees to join, she said.

Jean Mount said the Health Committee needs a leader and members to monitor the Healthcare for All movement and stay informed about health issues at the state level. She has been looking for information on how the smoke has impacted health in the community but so far hasn't come across any reports.

Submitted by Secretary Lynda Demsher