



Josephine County Democratic Central Committee Minutes January 15, 2019

Action: The Minutes of the December meeting were approved with a correction: Michele Anderson is a CD, not an SEC.

Two people, Lynda Demsher and Joe Stodola were appointed Precinct Committee Persons

Treasurer's Report: New treasurer Anita Savio reported the JCDCC has a balance of \$4,480 in the bank and is operating in the black. She did a roundup of 2018, reporting that Democrats took in a total of \$7,500 for the year, with \$5,100 in expenditures. Office expenses accounted for the largest expenditure at 41%, spending on events took 37% while bank fees and insurance accounted for 12%. She said her goal is to increase the income for 2019.

Events: Chair Brian Clark announced the following events:

- The Women's March at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 19. Participants are asked to gather at Riverside Park by 10 a.m.
- Women in Politics – a workshop for women interested in running for any elected position is being held at The Haul, 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan 19, after the Women's March. Cass McLeod-Skinner will be there as well as others who have been involved in campaigns.
- A memorial for former JCDCC chair Howard Owens will be held at the UU Church at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19.
- Rep. Greg Walden will hold a town hall at 8:30 a.m. Friday Jan. 18 at Grants Pass High School.
- A Road Clean-Up is scheduled Sunday, Jan. 19 at 1 p.m. This is for the Democrats adopt-a-highway project along Hwy 199. Participants are asked to meet in a field at the corner of 199 and Hubbard. Bring gloves.

Announcements:

Brian said he received notice that a former JCDCC Chair Tom Johnson died on Christmas Day. Cause of death was a massive coronary. He was 66. A service is being planned in Grants Pass July 28 in Reinhart Volunteer Park.

The Finance Committee still needs a chair, a Parliamentarian is still needed, and a Luncheon Coordinator is needed. Until a Luncheon Coordinator is found, the monthly lunches, held 4th Thursdays, will be on hold.

JCDCC meetings will now alternate between speakers or programs one month and work party sessions the next.

Committee Reports: Membership Committee Chair Kevin Marr said there are 14,000 registered Democrats in Josephine County but obviously not everyone participates in the party.

He would like to get more of them involved and urged everyone to bring a friend to our meetings, even if they are Independents or Republican. He said Democrats need to get involved in non-partisan issues in the community and said one project he's been working on is the proposed Warming Shelter. Volunteers are needed to run the shelter, set to open March 1 at the 7th Day Adventist Church in Grants Pass.

Program:

Kathie Saunders, District Coordinator for Josephine County TaxAide and TaxAide volunteer (and JCDCC Vice-chair) Dorothy Yetter give an overview of the 2017 Tax Reform Bill and how it affects people's taxes. TaxAide, funded by an AARP foundation began in 1968 with four volunteers. Kathie has been a TaxAide volunteer for 30 years and Dorothy for nine. Volunteers have to pass an IRS certification test and an ethics review. Dorothy said it's very satisfying work and volunteers are always needed. According to Kathie, last year TaxAide volunteers helped locally with 2,500 tax returns and brought in \$3.5 million in refunds. They do most tax forms with the exception of rental homes and farms, which are more complicated. Rule changes every year are a challenge, said Saunders, but big changes are in store this year. The main changes are a significant increase in the standard deduction while exemptions have been reduced. Filing taxes will be simplified to a "semi-postcard" if all you need is the equivalent of a 1040EZ, but other forms have actually gotten more complicated. In Grants Pass TaxAide is at UCan on 7th Street. There are also locations in Cave Junction and Rogue River. Details about what to expect when you do your tax return, what to have with you when you arrive for tax help, where to find a TaxAide office or how to volunteer can be found on the TaxAide website www.joco-freetaxes.com.