

Josephine County Democrats

Minutes: May 14, 2019

Present: Chair Brian Clark, Vice Chair Dorothy Yetter, Secretary Lynda Demsher, and about 17 others.

Action: There was no PCP quorum present on this rainy evening, so tentative approval was given the April minutes, treasurer's report, and for three new PCPs.

Announcements: Brian announced proposed changes to the bylaws. One, the state party has made it possible for the Chair to appoint a voting delegate to attend a district or state Democratic meeting but he can't until it is part of our bylaws as well. Two, committees will be called caucuses in our bylaws to reflect the state's vernacular. Dorothy said a Caucus is more independent of the central committee, can do its own fund-raising for special projects, and can vote on propositions to submit to the central committee for approval. Dorothy also announced the results of a strategic planning session. Goals of the session: recruiting 60 additional PCPs, getting non-affiliated voters (NAVs) to register with a party, hopefully Democrats, before the May 2020 primary, and form an LGBTQ Caucus and a Youth Caucus.

Sheri Morin encouraged people to sign up to walk along with the Democrat's Boatnik Parade entry. She said Brian's truck will be decorated with the theme Anyone's A Super Hero to a Kid and encouraged people to dress as "superheroes" such as doctors, nurses, firemen, servicemen and women, and workers. She hasn't gotten word on where our entry will be staging, but will let everyone know when parade officials give her a map.

Reports: Dorothy Yetter gave the Treasurer's report in the absence of Anita Savio. She reported a balance of \$3,145, thanked those who give monthly contributions and encouraged others to do so as well.

Discussion: It was noted that the large number of Democratic candidates running for president is adding a layer of confusion to a race that should favor the Democrats if they don't cause problems for themselves. This seems to stem from a lack of leadership at the top and we should have a "hotline to the leadership" of the party from the grassroots end of the party to tell them we are concerned. Brian pointed out that we have a full contingent of delegates attending both the district and state meetings coming up in Prineville, and our delegates will voice those concerns to the leadership there, which will pass it on to the national leadership. It was also noted that after Super Tuesday in March of 2020, there could be just a few Democrats still in the race.

Speaker: Josephine County Finance Director Arthur O'Hare gave an overview of the county's finances (see separate report). He explained the purpose of the county budget is to provide essential services, especially law enforcement, and thanks to county taxpayers, he is able to pay the bills and meet payrolls. Only 18 percent of the money the county gets goes into the General Fund, he said, while the rest is dedicated money for specific purposes such as public health. There are also special taxes for the jail and animal shelter that can't be spent for anything else. Out of a total budget of \$144 million, the county's general fund gets about \$25 million, which funds services offered at the courthouse. While he often hears people complain about their taxes, O'Hare pointed out "there's no free lunch."

Actionable Items: The public can attend the next budget meeting May 21, 4-6 pm when Sheriff Dave Daniel will present his proposed budget.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by **Secretary Lynda Demsher**