

Executive Committee
Josephine County Democrats
ZOOM Meeting
May 23, 2021

The meeting opened with a review of the May 18 election results. Chair Dorothy Yetter won a seat on the proposed fire district board, but the fire district measure didn't pass so there is no board. Dorothy said two major problems contributed to the fire district failure: county commissioners did not support it and the county assessor did not put out exactly what people would be paying if the district passed. Geri Ventura said an advisory measure showed the fire district approval was at 65% but confusion over what people would be paying and misinformation brought that down to 47% approval during the election. During the election report Geri said although participation by PCPs was dismal, we did get 159 new newsletters subscribers because of our texting campaign. Campaign Chair Joey DeShields noted that a key to getting a fire district measure passed in the future would be to find out who the people who approved of a district, then voted against it are and figure out how to educate them.

Reports:

Communication Chair Patty Downing said her committee is working on messaging and strategic planning and emphasized how important it is to pay attention to both external and internal messaging. Supporting each other should be factored in as we work on what our goals are, she said, and we need to support our volunteers where they are regarding how much they can and can't do for the party. A strategic planning session was set for Sunday, June 13 from 1-4 p.m. at Dorothy's house.

Treasurer Colette Storms reported we took in \$900 in donations last month, with some generous donations from people supporting our GOTV efforts. We spent more on our texting campaign than we had budgeted, but we are saving \$200 by not participating in Boatnik this year. She also reported doing research on a possible venue for a fund-raiser. Taprock has a banquet room with several dates available. In addition to deciding on a date, we will have to look at the cost of food and what to charge if we hold a fund-raiser there. Suggestions for speakers included asking someone beginning a campaign for governor to be there. Possibilities include State Treasurer Tobias Read. Taprock's banquet room was also mentioned as a possible place for our first in-person meeting but the usual second Tuesday date may have to be changed according to availability.

Office Manager Ava Manquera said she is getting more office volunteers for Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays but is still looking for more as some shifts are for every other week.

Campaign Chair Joey DeShields is making changes to the Bylaws and Standing rules to allow for more flexibility on endorsements. His changes are available on our shared drive and may be ready to introduce during the June regular meeting with approval then set for July.

Environmental Caucus Chair Joe Stodola said his group has been meeting by ZOOM twice a week, usually with a film of interest and discussion the second meeting of the month. He and Lynda Spangler are organizing a hike into the Pipe Fork area and are still working on possible buyers for the property. The deadline to come up with a buyer is September.

The Gun Owners Caucus is trying to get a restart after the COVID pause and will schedule a meeting soon.

Dorothy suggested party officers start thinking about succession and who they might groom to take their place.

June Meeting

Grants Pass City Council member Vanessa Ogier will be the speaker, giving us a rundown on her experiences since being elected.