

Minutes

Sept 14, 2021

Josephine County Democrats General Meeting

Hybrid in person at the UU Church building/Zoom

The meeting started at 7 pm after a half-hour of conversation. Chair Dorothy Yetter said she had been attending State Central Committee (SCC) meetings and was reminded the kickoff for the 2022 elections will be coming up sooner than realized. Primaries are in May of 2022. The time is now to start recruiting people for important local offices, she said.

Dorothy also said she is on the Josephine County Charter Review Committee and asked for volunteers to help her with research. Lynda Demsher volunteered. Other announcements were that Geri Ventura resigned as membership chair, Patty Downing is moving over to chair that committee from Communications while the three people left on the Communications Committee will share duties until a new Communications chair is found. Geri was thanked for the great job she did while Membership chair. Volunteers are always needed as we gear up for the next election season, especially people who have WordPress experience, web coding, a flair for writing and/or graphics and social media. Let Dorothy know at Chair@josephinedemocrats.org if you would like to volunteer.

An October Women's March has been announced but nothing is being organized locally, Dorothy said.

Action: Last month's minutes were approved. Rhonda Lawrence was approved as a PCP.

Colette Storms gave the treasurer's report, with a current balance of \$9,274 after paying our website hosting and domain renewal fees. Colette said this puts us on track with our budget. She said the in-person fund-raiser we had planned in October will probably have to be canceled or postponed until late spring because of the recent COVID spike so alternatives were discussed. A Zoom raffle with special guest speakers was one possibility. A fund-raising email or letters to large donors was also discussed. The Executive Committee will take this up when it meets this month.

Caucus and Committee Reports

Joey DeShields said his Campaign Committee is contacting possible candidates to run for county commissioner. Prominent, moderate people are being contacted whether or not they are Democrats. He will be announcing another meeting soon.

Joe Stodola said the Environmental Caucus meets twice a month. Projects they are working on include LED bulb replacement, the Save Pipe Fork effort and Tellurium mining. Jerry Allen has also provided insight into green farming. Lynda Spangler urged people to send emails to county commissioners and other representatives to let them know there are, indeed, people here who support the Wyden/Merkley environmental legislation.

Brady Keister, Gun Caucus Chair, reported there was little interest from the public in meeting with Gun Caucus members at the fair. He said he is contributing to the state gun caucus platform regarding ammunition control and warned that SB554 will be on the ballot because of Republican shenanigans. He said he will be scheduling another meeting to discuss these issues in a few weeks.

Dorothy said there is so much going on now regarding health care she is hoping someone will revive that caucus soon.

Speaker

Everyone got a chance to speak at this Open Mike Night. Dorothy set the rules....be civil, speak for only 3 minutes and include the actions needed by whom to get your concern resolved.

Libby Watts spoke about reasons to recall all three county commissioners and said the recall would have to be organized like an election. She said a chief petitioner will be needed, a treasurer and fund-raisers as well as volunteers to collect signatures and help promote the recall. She said our commissioners handling of the COVID crisis in our community has allowed it to spiral out of control, impacting our hospitals, schools and families. People interested in the recall are being asked to fill out a survey at <https://www.citizensforahealthycounty.com/home>

Other speakers included Mark Seligman who thought the Josephine County Fair Director should be responsible for the maskless gathering of anti-vaxxers at the fairgrounds. Constance Palaia urged people to write to the Three Rivers School Board which has been hesitant about using the word "equity" in the All Students Belong curriculum. Dorothy and Constance reported on their meeting with three high school students along with Joey and Eva. The students are wary of becoming involved in party politics but they have concerns they want heard. Colette reported on the thank you gift and snack baskets for hospital workers that has been very appreciated. Lynda S wants to find out if Sen. Art Robinson actually gave all his COVID money to the Right to Life clinic in Grants Pass and talked about redistricting. Lynda Demsher said candidates need to be found to replace County Counsel Wally Hicks. Comments were made about the podcast.

Submitted 9/15/21 by Sec. Lynda Demsher