

**Lincoln County Democrats of Oregon
General Meeting Minutes for March 23, 2022**

Call to Order

The meeting began at 6:00 pm and was held online via Zoom. Chair Michael Gaskill welcomed everyone and reviewed protocols and the proposed meeting agenda, noting that the meeting was being recorded for note-taking purposes.

Publicity and Fundraising Chairperson Eliot Sekuler invited participation in the upcoming trivia fundraising event, both as attendees and volunteers, especially those who had participated in previous trivia nights.

Upcoming County Commissioner Forum

Saturday, April 16, 2022, 3pm-5pm at the Newport Visual Arts Center

Chair Gaskill reminded everyone about the upcoming forum featuring candidates for the two open Lincoln County Commissioner positions. He stated that he will be sending out more information about the event and links to allow people to RSVP and to a Google form that will allow Lincoln County Democrats to suggest questions to be asked of the candidates at the forum.

4th Congressional District Candidate Andrew Kalloch

Chair Gaskill introduced Andrew Kalloch, a Eugene resident, who is running for Congressional District 4. Mr. Kalloch described his background as the son of schoolteachers who solidified public service and community service as part of his family's identity. He sees civic life as central to his life. After Law School, he worked as a civil rights attorney for New York City. More recently he has worked in the private sector on global public policy for Airbnb. He noted that he is a Millennial, and like others of his generation has faced six-figure student loan debt and expensive child care bills. Kalloch stated that he considers himself lucky that he and his wife have been able to afford these costs, and he recognizes that the majority of people struggle with debt and basic living expenses. He stated the he is happy that with the redrawn CD4, there will be a stronger coastal representation in the district, which will make for stronger representation in Congress. Kalloch warned that CD4 is not necessarily a safe seat, and that everyone needs to think about potentially well-funded GOP candidates and to prepare for that challenge.

Andrew Kalloch's campaign and contact information:

<https://andrewkalloch.com/>

Andrew@Andrewkalloch.com

Questions to Candidate

Chair Gaskill opened candidate questions asking, given that climate change is a real issue, what specifically will Kalloch do to advance climate justice, whether or not Democrats are in the majority in Congress?

Kalloch responded that Democrats need to join arms with farmers and rural communities to address climate change. He emphasized bringing people together and not casting people out because of past votes or past statements, but rather forming a foundation of trust.

Oregon State Representative David Gomberg asked Mr. Kalloch to share his thoughts on vacation rentals and housing, given his background with Airbnb. Kalloch responded that Airbnb's impact isn't the same in all communities, and his job has been working with communities to address the impact, noting that Airbnb asks to be taxed. He stated that short term rentals do have an impact, and that some regulation and restrictions are needed, which Airbnb encourages. He added that the larger problem of housing affordability can be addressed by a range of policy changes, such as changes to restrictive zoning and changing tax codes to support not luxury development but instead low-income housing.

Via the chat, users Brian and Lisa asked, "What would your top 3 legislative priorities [be]?" Kalloch responded that climate change is the through-line that runs through every issue, including housing. Given that, his priorities would be housing, as every community in the country is being affected by houselessness, providing economic opportunities for communities left behind by the 21st Century economy, and continuing Peter DeFazio's legacy with transportation infrastructure and the Blue Ribbon Commission for the "blue economy."

Monica Kirk asked via the chat, "what is AirBnB's climate action plan?"

Kalloch responded that Airbnb ranks among the top businesses for its climate impact, in large part because of how corporate operations are run. In addition, Airbnb has a formal action plan for sustainability that is available on its website.

Eliot Sekuler asked what committee assignments would Kalloch seek. Kalloch answered that he hoped to continue Peter DeFazio's legacy on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, particularly given the district's ports along the coast. He expressed interest in serving on the Education Committee, noting that Oregon is 48th in the nation in graduation rates, and on the Judiciary Committee to work on critical criminal justice issues.

In the chat, Kalloch responded to questions about tourism and the economy: "On tourism: it is an increasingly important component of the economy of the coast and many communities across the country. The challenge is making it an engine for family wage jobs the way industries were in the 20th century. That's not easy, but I think there are a few steps we can take: (1) keeping more money in community instead of being siphoned to multinational hotel corps (the promise of home sharing)— ex. I stayed with an RN in his spare room in Coos Bay a few weeks back, (2) make sure tourism jobs are union jobs and/or have access to SBA funding to create co-ops— this should be the case for hotel workers, professional cleaners, and others who rely on tourism; and (3) ensure that tourism is one component of a diverse economy — I don't want Oregon to be the

exclusive retirement community of Californians. We need a diverse economy that promotes tourism as one of many industries.”

And, he answered a question about his position on gun safety: “On gun safety: I’ve been endorsed by Ceasefire Oregon Action Fund— a gun safety group— and am proud to lead the charge to enact comprehensive, common sense gun safety legislation, including universal background checks, federal “red flag” legislation, updating gun dealer regulations, a ban on “downloadable” guns that evade background checks, and eliminating the law (PLACA) that shields gun makers from liability.”

Precinct Committee Person Filing

Chair Gaskill thanked everyone who filed as Precinct Committee Persons and added that even though the filing deadline has passed, people can still be appointed. LCDCC Secretary Carol Shenk asked Chair Gaskill to explain what a PCP does and how many are needed. Chair Gaskill explained that the precinct is the smallest geographic unit of the State Democratic Party. Precinct Committee Persons are able to vote on decisions within the county Democratic Party organization (in our case, Lincoln County Democrats), such as approving large expenditures. PCPs can bring up measures to the County party to consider for a vote. And, they can be part of the Democratic Party’s State Central Committee, with access to the Democratic Party of Oregon (DPO) Commission. Most importantly, being a PCP is a way of saying you are going to help take care of your neighborhood (precinct) and help be responsible for canvassing and campaigns in the precinct. Anyone interested can contact Chair Gaskill for more information.

Chair Gaskill closed saying that every precinct has room for at least one female and one male PCP. Representative Gomberg later noted that in order to be more inclusive, the gender specification has been removed and the rule is simply that there is room for 1 PCP per every 200 people in a district.

Marion Mann asked where someone would file to be a PCP. Lisa Cejka, Region 2 Representative to the Democratic Party of Oregon, stated that it is still possible to register as a write-in candidate, using the Secretary of State’s online SEL 105 D form: <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/write-in-candidate-declaration-sel-105d.aspx>

Trivia Night/Silent Auction Fundraiser

Saturday May 21, 7-9pm

Glenden Beach Community Clubhouse

Publicity and Fundraising Chairperson Eliot Sekuler announced the dates and location for the upcoming trivia night/silent auction fundraising event. He requested volunteers to help set up, especially those who have attended previous trivia events, such as people who know how many questions to ask.

Vice Chair Cherie Harbour has arranged for Oceans Apart to cater with Hawaiian food, and there will be beer and wine available with a suggested donation. Eliot thanked Marta West who is donating 100 desserts.

People are invited to donate items for the silent auction being.

Chair Gaskill encouraged everyone to attend, pointed out that for this campaign season, LCDCC has a goal of raising \$10,000 overall and is hoping to raise \$800 to \$1,000 at this event. He reiterated the importance of the upcoming County Commissioner races, the Congressional District 4 race, Lincoln City Mayor Susan Wahlke's reelection campaign, and other races.

Chairperson Sekuler invited those interested in helping with the trivia event to participate in the April 6, 6:30PM Trivia Night planning meeting and to email him at eliot.sekuler@gmail.com for the meeting link.

Open Seat for Zone 6 Oregon Coast Community College,

Marion Mann, Oregon Coast Community College faculty member, announced that the Oregon Coast Community College Board is looking for candidates that live in Zone 6, which includes South Beach and the Nye Beach area of Newport. The announcement can be found on the college website: <https://oregoncoast.edu/>

Mann added that she recently became president of the college teacher's union, and that they are negotiating for new contract, the last contract having expired on June 28, 2021. They are entering mediation facing a smaller budget. She stated that the college is doing great work, but that the administration is attempting to balance budget shortfalls at the expense of the faculty, such as by freezing step increases and cost of living adjustments. Mann invited everyone to participate in monthly public board meetings.

Elected Official Announcements

Representative David Gomberg

Representative Gomberg stated that the legislative session for 2023 concluded at the end of February, and that Lincoln County did very well, with more than \$70 million to be invested in dams, water systems, parks, schools. He noted this is likely a one-time opportunity for the County that will have a long-lasting impact.

Gomberg pointed out that because of population growth, his congressional district has changed in its demographics, and that he is the only Democrat in the state legislature between Brookings and Astoria. He requested help with his reelection campaign, such as by displaying signs and talking to neighbors. He asked everyone to watch their mailboxes for legislative updates.

Lisa Cejka asked how people can help with his campaign, and he responded that canvassing ("door knocking") is greatly needed.

Lincoln City Mayor Susan Wahlke—

Lincoln City Mayor Susan Wahlke thanked Representative Gomberg for being a PCP. She announced that Lincoln City has hired a new City Manager, Lila Bradley, and that the Lincoln City Council will be considering a fireworks ban in March.

City of Newport Councilmember Ryan Parker

Newport City Councilmember Ryan Parker applauded Lincoln City for promoting Lila Bradley and noted that she has positive ideas about how the city can support sustainable tourism and provide services to residents.

He announced that he and fellow-councilmember Cynthia Jacobi will be participating in the upcoming League of Oregon Cities conference in Hermiston.

Mr. Parker added that there are signs available in support of his County Commissioner candidacy, and he shared in the chat that his Twitter handle is @RPforCountyComm.

Lisa Cejka, Democratic Party of Oregon

Lisa Cejka announced that she would be traveling to Roseburg for the State Central Committee meeting at the end of March and would provide a summary of decisions made there.

Waldport Mayor Greg Holland

Waldport Mayor Greg Holland announced that Waldport is holding its “Beach, Bikes and Blues” festival on Sunday, April 30, from 1pm-7pm. This will be the 10th anniversary of the gravel bike race. Mayor Holland commented that he is proud that Waldport is becoming a creative community with art galleries and community events.

Chair Gaskill closed the meeting stating that the LCDCC is looking to be more active on social media, such as with an active Instagram Account. If people want to be Facebook administrators or send Michael events to share, he would love help putting out content highlighting local community and volunteer events---anything fun or that has a service bent to it. Councilmember Parker recommended Hootsuite in the chat.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.