

Minutes
Lincoln County Democrats of Oregon
General Meeting
Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 6:00 PM

The hybrid meeting – in which 16 attendees participated via Zoom and 27 participated in-person at the Yachats Commons – was called to order by Chair Cherie Harbour at 6:00 PM.

Chair Update

Chair Harbour began her remarks by pointing out that this was the first of our traveling meetings which will take us throughout the county. She then proceeded to describe developments that have occurred since our last meeting. These include: 1) passing the proposed budget, 2) approving bylaws changes, 3) contacting candidates and offering to support them in the May elections, 4) meeting with the Executive Committee and with all committee chairs, and 5) introducing logos for the new regional committees.

Budget Report

Treasurer Marta West demonstrated the new QR code that facilitates access to our donation forms. She further indicated that donations worth \$260 had been received from Act Blue in the period from April 1 to April 26. There is a current balance of \$5,599.69 in our treasury.

Reports from Elected Officials

Ryan Parker (Councilor, Newport City Council) described two environmental initiatives active in the state legislature. The bill restricting the use of polystyrenes has passed both the House and Senate and now awaits the governor's signature. The Watershed Enhancement Bill is currently in committee but a floor vote is expected soon. Councilor Parker closed his remarks by stating that he believes we have a real voice in Salem. He encouraged all attendees to avail themselves of the state's very helpful legislative website.

Judy Casper (Councilor, Lincoln City Council) indicated that all cities in the county have joined together in an interurban effort to reduce homelessness. Assisting in the effort is a professional consulting group; its meetings are open to the public and will take place on the second Wednesday of each month, from 1:00 to 3:00. Location for the next meeting is, at present, undetermined.

Candidate Statements

Alison Baker (candidate for Board of Education, Oregon Coast Community College, Zone 6) mentioned her years of experience in higher education and master's degree in Public Administration as relevant to the position, which she has occupied the last six months as the incumbent. This tenure on the board has convinced her of the importance of OCCC as a community asset; she added that she is very impressed with its programs.

Guest Speakers

Maia Stout and **Mike Allen** described how they became climate activists. Maia, from Yachats, recently completed high school at Waldport and will soon begin college at UC Berkeley. She is afraid that if we don't do something soon then the environment will be irreparably harmed. She went on to share her ideas about involving members of her age group in climate advocacy efforts: first, it is a myth that teenagers have lots of free time on their hands, for this reason you have to make it easy for them to get involved; second, they tend to be a little wary, but like to see their work acknowledged and appreciated. Mike Allen's climate activism began in the 1980s, and has organized periodic "climate strikes" calling for the city of Florence to adopt a climate action plan. Mike is a prominent member of Elders Climate Action and the creator of the Florence Climate Emergency Campaign.

Committee Reports

Coordinated Campaign Committee (Lisa Spence-Bunnett) indicated that six precinct chairs had volunteered to work the phone bank for the May elections, and three more volunteered to walk their precincts. She mentioned that CY Smith conducted miniVAN training last week for three precinct committee chairs (PCPs) and that she and Secretary Brian Bunnett recently met with CY to brainstorm how to attract younger members to the party and to serve as PCPs. CY has made a contact at Oregon Coast Community College to discuss communication opportunities with their students.

Public Relations/Fundraising (Mellissa Sumner) announced that the LC Dems trivia night will take place in June at the Pines Dine in Taft. The first meeting of the committee is scheduled for mid-May.

Technology/Communications (Judy Bowman) reported that turnout in Lincoln County in the last election was 67% and that 81% of Democrats voted as opposed to 23% of Republicans. Judy also described her examination of the county's voting machine in the company of the County Clerk.

Programming (Carol Schenk) announced that our next meeting will occur on the fourth Wednesday of May in Newport. She reminded the attendees of the upcoming Loyalty Days parade in Newport and said that our August meeting will take place in Toledo.

Adjournment

Chair Harbour adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM.