

Minutes
Lincoln County Democrats of Oregon
General Meeting
Wednesday, June 28, 2023, 6:00 PM

The hybrid meeting – in which about 6 attendees participated via Zoom and 21 participated in-person at the Newport Visual Arts Center – was called to order by Chair Cherie Harbour at 6:00 PM.

Chair Update

Chair Harbour welcomed all present, quickly reviewed the agenda, and then invited the elected officials in attendance to speak.

Remarks from Elected Officials

David Gomberg (State Representative, District 10)

Described the recently completed legislative session which emphasized housing, public safety, elementary education, and behavioral health. Carrying through on these priorities was made much more difficult as a result of the Republican walk-out, the seventh such time this tactic has been resorted to in the last five years. Because of the walk-out, the Senate was not able to properly study many important bills and funding for them was not approved, proposals from many local cultural institutions among them. Other highlights from the session include: 1) the governor's proposal to expand the urban growth boundary was not approved, 2) funding for the Newport dam was passed, and 3) the constitutionality of Measure 114 has been challenged and will be decided in the courts. Representative Gomberg mentioned that the kicker is at an historic level, he referred to it as "lousy public policy" but said it is unlikely to go away anytime soon as it is popular throughout the state. He closed his remarks by returning to the Republican walk-outs, which hold the state hostage and diminish its quality of life. His proposal to lower the quorum to a simple majority of the legislature's members will be elaborated upon in an editorial appearing in the July 2 *Oregonian*.

Ryan Parker (City Council, City of Newport)

Summarized the environment bills that the Council supported and the fate of those bills during the just-completed legislative session. The results, he believed, were not unrelievedly bad. In fact, Oregon remains a leader in environmental issues.

Cynthia Jacobi, (City Council, City of Newport)

Characterized the renovation of Newport's "downtown core" as slow, although the city has bought several empty lots in the area. The Council voted to ban personal fireworks in Newport; the fireworks sellers you see in tents in the parking lot at Walmart, for example, are the result of contracts already signed before the ban went into effect earlier this year. Mentioned that a fifth

or more of the positions within the city's offices and departments are unfilled and that the pace, even of routine business, has slowed perceptibly.

Legislative Update (Chair Harbour)

Ranked choice voting will appear on the November 2024 ballot. The county party will send a delegation to the Democratic Party of Oregon Platform Convention in Monmouth, August 18 – 20. Contact Cherie if you are interested in attending; there are two remaining spots available to it.

Committee Reports

Overview (Chair Harbour)

Remarked that our decentralization effort has succeeded in getting more people involved in the county party, although members are still needed for the South and Central committees.

Coordinating Committee (Lisa Spence-Bunnett)

Described a meeting she has planned with a representative from Oregon Coast Community College at which, among other things, a flyer will be discussed that can be distributed to the students. It is hoped that this might draw some younger members to the party. The committee members will meet soon to establish an election activities calendar for November.

Programming Committee (Steve Shaw)

Announced that the August 24 meeting of the Lincoln County Democrats will take place at the Trinity Church (across from the Thriftway grocery store) in Toledo; the first of our "road shows" was held in Yachats in April and was very well attended.

Communications/Technology Committee (Judy Bowman)

Encouraged those staffing the Democratic table at the county fair to take pictures that she can then add to the web site. If you have any ideas for the web site then contact Judy through email (her address is posted on the "Committees" section of the site). Added that we now have an Instagram account.

Budget (Marta West)

Reported that our treasury, as of June 28, consisted of \$4500. She indicated that we receive about \$200 a month in Act Blue donations, approximately \$1300 so far this year.

Votes

Minutes of the April meeting were approved by a unanimous vote (22 in favor, none opposed or abstained) as were those of the May meeting (16 – 0 – 0). A motion to reimburse Carol Schenk \$500 for expenses she incurred in creating printed materials also passed unanimously (15 – 0 – 0).

Short Announcements

Kate Kelly and Debbie Kozar Duus described the table we will have at the county fair, at which various items (tee-shirts, bumper stickers, etc.) will be offered for sale, flyers of different types (e.g., what Democrats stand for, what President Biden has accomplished, etc.) will be made available, and raffles will be held on the last day of the fair..

The state fair of Oregon will begin on August 26 and end on Labor Day. Lincoln County has been assigned a day on which it will be responsible for staffing the Democratic Party of Oregon (DPO) booth. Contact Cherie if you are interested in working at the booth.

Our trivia night fundraiser has been rescheduled for September 23 at the Pines Dine in Lincoln City.

Planning for the senior fair at the casino in October has not yet begun, but will soon.

Our Summer Gathering is scheduled for July 30, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM, at the Pacific Maritime Heritage Center, and will consist of a potluck dinner and live music, among other things.

Eileen Kiely (Vice Chair of the DPO) described the national Democratic Convention to be held in Chicago and our statewide delegation to it.

Adjournment

Chair Cherie Harbour adjourned the meeting at 7:04 PM.