

Minutes

Lincoln County Democrats of Oregon

General Meeting

Wednesday, September 27, 2023, 6:00 PM

The hybrid meeting – in which 22 attendees participated in-person at the Newport Visual Arts Center and six attendees participated via Zoom– 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

Claire Hall (Lincoln County Commissioner)

Announced that she is up for re-election next May and plans to run again. Described the homelessness situation in Lincoln County and outlined the steps the county is taking in response; these include receiving a \$1,000,000 grant from the state and the creation of overnight shelters that will be opened in Newport and Lincoln City and made available for the next five months. The Housing Authority has bought one property for this purpose already; churches in the two cities will be used in the interim.

Cynthia Jacobi (City Council, Newport)

Beatriz Botello has been appointed to the City Council to take the seat that became vacant when Jan Kaplan was appointed mayor. Announced that parking meters will be installed in the Bay Front area at the end of October. A public meeting on the subject will be held prior to that time. A search to replace retiring City Manager Spencer Nebel will begin in July of 2024. Information about how to join the Urban Renewal Agency can be found at the city's website (newportoregon.gov).

Budget

There are currently \$9,775.93 in the treasury, a significant increase from last month because of the Trivia Night proceeds, and a considerable increase from last year at this time.

Linda Perrine

Her presentation, entitled "Inflation Reduction Act, What Can I Do/Electrify Lincoln County," described local climate change developments. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), "the largest climate investment in American history," was passed in 2022, in part to reduce carbon emissions. The bill promises to create new jobs and to directly benefit energy consumers through an extensive system of rebates, tax credits, and other refunds. Rewiring America

(rewiringamerica.org) is the best source of information about the effort. Linda answered several questions about rebates available to home owners who switch over to energy efficient heat pumps. Tax credits available to purchasers of e-vehicles and electric stoves also generated considerable interest. Toward the end of her presentation Linda stated her belief that since we are all contributing to the problem, we all have to work to reduce our carbon emissions.

Minutes

The minutes of the June 28, 2023, and the August 23, 2023, meetings were unanimously approved.

Trivia Night

The following figures provide more detail about our recent Trivia Night:

Presales:	\$2370
Sales at the door:	\$195
Donations:	\$310
Silent Auction:	\$2062
Bead Raffle:	\$25
Gross proceeds:	\$5272
Less cost of meals:	(\$953)
Net proceeds:	\$4319

Committee Reports

Coordinated Campaign (Lisa Spence-Bunnett, remarks read by Brian Bunnett)

Mentioned the following three events: 1) an October 4 meeting with Ron Morgan, former Director of the Democratic Party of Oregon, to discuss the Neighborhood Leader Program, 2) the committee will meet on October 3 to establish a draft activities list and calendar for the 2024 elections, and 3) Dave Haun pulled addresses from the VAN for the local ballot measures we support in Yachats and Toledo and for the write-in candidate in the Lincoln City Council Ward 1 election. Postcards will be addressed, stamped, and mailed by members of the committee.

Recruitment (Linda Perrine)

Linda introduced herself as the new chair of the committee. Its first meeting was attended by Susan Wahlke (Mayor, Lincoln City) and Chair Cherie Harbour among others. There are two vacant positions on the Lincoln City Council: Chair Harbour will meet with the candidate for Ward I, Todd Barker (a registered Democrat), to determine if we will endorse him as a write-in candidate. Marci Baker, the candidate for Ward 2 is running as a Libertarian. Linda is preparing a spreadsheet detailing the elections throughout the county in 2024. She underlined the importance of finding someone to run against Dick Anderson for State Senator in 2024.

Programming (Carol Schenk)

Louis Ross will speak on Artificial Intelligence at our October 25 meeting, which will take place at the Visual Arts Center (777 Beach Drive) in Newport. The meeting will begin at 6:00 and continue until perhaps 7:00 PM. Carol shared her ideas about a different sort of meeting she is contemplating for some time next year. She has a venue in mind, the Primaltones Community Venue in Aquarium Village in South Beach. The program would be oriented to a slightly younger audience than is usual at our meetings and might include music/karaoke.

Communications and Technology (Judy Bowman)

Before beginning her remarks, Judy was complimented by Chair Harbour on our excellent web site. Judy then mentioned that she is updating our social media presence, including Instagram and Facebook. She pointed out that the Lincoln County Democrats will have a table at the Senior Fair on October 3 at Chinook Winds.

Announcements:

Celebrate Ukraine is an apolitical get-together devoted to food, dance, singing, and speakers. The free event will take place on November 12, from 2:00 to 5:00 PM, at Sterncastle Publishing, 1682 N. Coast Highway, Newport, OR.

Kate Kelly reminded the attendees of the “Keep Your Laws Off My Body” rally that will be held on Sunday, October 1, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM, in Newport. Participants in the rally should meet at the Newport Public Library parking lot and will then proceed to Highway 101 near City Hall.

Adjournment

Chair Harbour adjourned the meeting at 7:12 PM.