

Draft Minutes  
Lincoln County Democrats of Oregon  
General Meeting  
Wednesday, October 25, 2023, 6:00 PM

The hybrid meeting – in which 18 attendees participated in-person at the Newport Visual Arts Center and 12 attendees participated via Zoom– was called to order by Chair Cherie Harbour at 6:00 PM.

**Chair Update**

Chair Harbour welcomed all present and quickly went over the agenda. She remarked upon our endorsements of ballot measures in Toledo (to approve bonds for water reservoir and public safety facility improvements), in Yachats (to renew the fire, rescue, and EMS services local option tax), and of Todd Barker (for Lincoln City Council District One). She went on to describe the postcard campaign we conducted in support of these endorsements.

**Treasurer's Report**

Our account shows a balance \$9,871.86.

**Guest Speaker (Louis Ross)**

This month's guest speaker defined the different types of artificial intelligence (AI) and then described their benefits and possible pitfalls. The most advanced type of AI, the so called Artificial Super Intelligence, in which computers can perform higher mental functions better than humans, is still a rather remote possibility. He then explored the potential dangers to democracy posed by AI and a lively question and answer period then ensued.

**Oregon Summit**

Chair Harbour described her recent attendance at the state party's Oregon Summit and mentioned that it was a good opportunity to see what other counties are doing for 2024. She admitted that she was a little discouraged to hear that many attendees were rather pessimistic or negative about next year's elections, that is, instead of offering positive suggestions, too many of them simply complained about Republican conduct in the House or about the former president.

**Announcements**

Dianne Eckstein mentioned the recent passing of Leigh Evans and pointed out his many contributions to the county Democratic organization and to the community.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the September 27 meeting were unanimously approved.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Climate Action Committee** (Linda Perrine)

The membership of this new committee, after its first meeting, consists of Linda (chair), Dianne Eckstein, and Lisa Spence-Bunnett. If you are interested in joining the committee then contact Linda at [laperrine@gmail.com](mailto:laperrine@gmail.com). Its members hope to travel around the county sharing information about, among other things, e-vehicles and heat pumps. An event is being planned in which e-vehicle owners can show their cars and answer any questions about them that arise.

### **Recruitment** (Linda Perrine)

Remarked that the committee intends to create a spreadsheet for all elections taking place in Lincoln County in 2024.

### **Programming** (Dianne Eckstein and Carol Schenk)

The next meeting of the Lincoln Party Democrats will take place on November 15, at the Lincoln City Community Center. The meeting will start at 5:30. The LC Dems' much anticipated holiday party is scheduled for the afternoon of December 17 and will be held in the Depoe Bay Community Hall. The potluck dinner, with jazz band accompaniment, will be free and open to the public.

### **Coordinated Campaign** (Lisa Spence-Bunnett)

Lisa thanked all the volunteers who addressed postcards for the November 7 elections. She mentioned that the committee's preparations for the first quarter of 2024 will include focusing on the Neighborhood Leader Program, determining training needs, voter registration, and how to use the Mini VAN, especially while going from door to door. The Committee will send out a survey soon to the LC Dems mailing list, asking recipients to let the Committee know what activities they are willing to perform in this important upcoming election.

## **Adjournment**

Chair Harbour adjourned the meeting at 7:33 PM.