

Minutes
Lincoln County Democrats of Oregon
General Meeting
Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 6:00 PM

The meeting was held via Zoom. There were 22 participants.

Chair Update

Chair Harbour called the meeting to order precisely at 6:00 PM. She pointed out that several of our committees needed more members and encouraged those in attendance to volunteer for them. She also described the [survey](#) (also available at the Lincoln County Democrats web site) that indicates how to get more involved as this year's elections grow nearer.

Budget

Treasurer Marta West announced that our bank balance stands at \$10,206.90. We are, according to Chair Harbour, in "good shape."

Guest Speakers

Tobias Read (Oregon State Treasurer)

There have been four Secretaries of State in the last seven years and the office has received considerable negative publicity during that time. He wants to rebuild confidence in the office and believes he has the experience to accomplish that. He further believes that state government can change and improve lives at the same time that it protects democracy. The main responsibilities of the Secretary of State are: 1) to audit taxes, 2) to provide an office where businesses can register, and 3) to oversee and monitor elections. Comments from the audience included praise for Treasurer Read for his efforts to promote sustainable forestry; skepticism about the state kicker, which negatively affects Oregon's credit rating and limits its reserve fund; and a question about whether the Secretary of State would count the votes if rank choice voting is adopted (to which he answered ". . . we're not sure yet.").

Ron Morgan (Political Organizing Coordinator, Democratic Party of Oregon)

Provided a brief history of the Neighborhood Leader Program (NLP), which was begun in Washington County Oregon. The NLP organizer has three main responsibilities: 1) contact Democrats in his or her neighborhood, 2) record canvassing results, and 3) encourage local Democrats to vote and to distribute election information, such as slate cards. Why should the local NLP organizer conduct these activities? Because research has shown that the most effective political communication is when a local volunteer talks to his or her neighbors. In a recent election in which this hypothesis was tested it was found that turnout for Democrats not contacted by an NLP organizer was 78.5% as opposed to 90.2% when such contact had occurred.

Ron believes the NLP played a key role in getting Governor Kotek elected. The Democratic Party of Oregon (DPO) views the program as a partnership between the DPO and county organizations and provides technical support and training to ensure that the partnership is successful. More information about the NLP and an application form are available at the DPO website under the "Get Involved!" heading.

Reports from Elected Officials

David Gomberg (State Representative, District 10)

Cautioned attendees that the Democratic majority in the state House is not as firm as you might think. Indicated that he is working on funding improvements to our water and sewer services and mentioned that our increasing housing stock (both locally and statewide) will strain the existing system.

Judy Casper (City Council, Lincoln City)

Praised the *Lincoln County Leader* for its coverage of local housing issues.

Committee Reports

Coordinated Campaign Committee (Lisa Spence-Bunnett)

Mentioned the efforts of her committee to reestablish contact with former Lincoln County NLP organizers by looking at activist codes within the VAN and pointed out that several want to get reinvolved. The committee's strategy is to contact NLP organizers in February, train them (e.g., on how to use the MiniVan), and then have them begin working their neighborhoods in April/May when ballots go out. Lisa stressed that there are other ways to get involved besides the NLP and encouraged everyone to fill out the survey indicated in the "Chair Update" section of these minutes above. Lisa thanked Debbie Kozar-Duus for her leading role in organizing the rallies that take place every Saturday in Newport.

Recruitment Committee (Chair Harbour reported for Linda Perrine)

Described the efforts of the committee to find candidates for the 2024 elections.

Communications Committee (Lynetta Richardson)

The inaugural edition of *Democrats Step Up!*, the newsletter for Lincoln County Democrats will appear soon. If you would like something included in the newsletter then contact Lynetta Richardson at lynettarichardson.dem@gmail.com.

Technology (Judy Bowman)

An analytics/statistics appliance and new calendar have been installed that will significantly improve our web site. Anytime anyone is involved in an event then contact Judy Bowman at jbk97367@gmail.com and she can help you publicize it on our web site.

Adjournment,

Chair Harbour adjourned the meeting at 7:23.