

Minutes

Lincoln County Democrats of Oregon

General Meeting

Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 6:00 PM

Visual Arts Center, Newport

The hybrid meeting – in which 16 attendees participated via Zoom and 19 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 announced that Jo Beaudreau will be running for the state senator seat (District 5) presently occupied by Dick Anderson and that she has been invited to our next meeting. David Gomberg will be running without opposition for the state house (District 10). She then described the tee shirts and hoodies that are being developed with the messaging “Only Democrats are working for: . . .” followed by a list of accomplishments and principles.

Budget

The current bank balance is \$9,718.53.. The voting members approved a \$100 donation to radio station KYAQ in Yachats. The donation will enable the station to reach its \$9,000 fundraising goal. Chair Harbour remarked that we received \$150 from the Democratic Party of Oregon and that we have joined the Lincoln City and Newport Chambers of Commerce; this will give us a voice in venues previously dominated by Republicans.

Guest Speakers

Elizabeth Steiner (Candidate for State Treasurer)

Explained that one of the principal reasons she is running for State Treasurer is that she believes the office can protect and improve the health of Oregonians by making them more financially secure. She went on to mention her background as a family physician and her 12 years in the State Senate (District 17). After this brief introduction, there was only time for two questions, since her answers to them were quite complicated and lengthy, as they had to with a February 6 article in *ProPublica* in which it was revealed that she has accepted \$24,000 from Weyerhaeuser since 2020 and has recently introduced a bill considered favorable to the timber industry. The bill, she has said, has nothing to do with campaign contributions. When asked, as a follow up, if she would pledge not to accept any additional additions from Weyerhaeuser Senator, Steiner refused to do so.

Dave Stauffer (Candidate for Secretary of State)

Described himself as “the environmental candidate” in this election. In addition to performing all the usual functions of the Secretary of State, he would, if elected, ensure that environmental issues are always kept paramount - the Secretary’s role as Chair of the Oregon Sustainability Board greatly facilitating such an outcome. His inventions would be enlisted in this effort; of these he mentioned how Fresnel lenses could be used for home heating purposes and how traffic problems in downtown Portland could be mitigated by a different, but unelaborated upon, innovation.

David Price (Vice President, Engagement, Oregon Coast Community College, OCCC)

Welcomed the opportunity to talk about College Bond Measure 21-224, a proposed \$33,165,000 bond that would fund construction of the new Oregon Coast Advanced Technology and Trades Center (OCATT), upgrade safety and security of existing facilities, and expand access to career training. If the measure passes, OCCC would receive \$8,000,000 in a state matching grant, which is the estimated cost of the OCATT. The bond would add 21 cents per \$1000 of assessed property value. The average value of a house in Lincoln County is \$526,000; if the measure passes it would add \$37.80 per year in new taxes to such a house. In April, OCCC’s President Birgitte Ryslinge will hold meetings on the measure throughout the county. In answering a question from the audience, Vice President Price mentioned that OCCC is holding talks with local unions to develop more apprentice programs.

Reports from Elected Officials

Cynthia Jacobi (Newport City Council)

Described the Newport ballot measure that would remain in effect year-round and raise the gas fuel tax by five cents. She heartily supports the tax and believes it will raise about \$500,000 annually that can be used to maintain city streets.

Committee Reports

Communications Committee (Lynetta Richardson)

Committee Chair Richardson mentioned that the April newsletter will be out soon. The committee is concentrating its efforts on expanding its presence on social media and on messaging.

Neighborhood Leader Program (Elissa Wilson)

There are 13,000 registered Democrats in Lincoln County. Twenty four people have been trained as Neighborhood Leaders with the expectation that they will contact at least 50 voters in their home “turf.” They intend to canvass their turfs in the primary and again in the general.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings

The minutes of the November, January, and February meeting were approved unanimously.

Announcements

The Newport Loyalty Days will take place on May 3 -5, 2024, and it has been suggested we participate in the parade. The Executive Committee will consider the matter.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Lincoln County Democrats will take place on Monday, April 22, at the Waldport Community Center (265 East Hemlock, Highway 34) at 6:00 PM. Waldport Mayor Greg Holland will attend. Note that the meeting will occur on Monday.

Adjournment

Chair Harbour adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.