

Klamath County Democratic Party
Monthly meeting minutes, January 3, 2012
Community meeting room, 133 North 4th Street, Klamath Falls

Meeting called to order at 6:30 by Acting Chair Dennis Sigo. The following people attended:

- **Officers (2):** Dennis Sigo (21), Patrick Vroman (41).
- **Members (9):** Chuck Wells (3), Robert MacKrell (21), Chuck Reed (21), Beverly Sigo (21), Sandy Couch (26), Julie Morrill (36), Victoria Tenbrink (36), Richard Pastega (39), Sally Wells.
- **Guests (9):** Darlene Edelman, Michael Fitzgerald, Lea Anne Giroux, Sheila Gray, John Huddle, Eve Klopff, Ahley Newman, Debra Reyburn, Dorothy Winters.

Minutes: The December minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's report: Our November ending balance was \$3,219.22.

Precinct report: There have been no changes since the last precinct report.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

New business: Michael Fitzgerald spoke about the Move to Amend campaign <www.movetoamend.org>, an effort to amend the U.S. Constitution to overturn *Citizens United* by establishing that corporations are not people and money is not speech. He shared a letter to the editor he sent to *The Herald and News* about the issue. **Motion (Patrick) to invite him back next month passed.**

The Fundraising Cmte. presented its recommendations for fundraisers. They recommend continuing our fundraiser dinner and auction on an annual basis, and finding a better venue for the next one. We should sell 100 tickets at about the same price as last year, and get help from the OIT and medical communities to sell them. Auction items should have a minimum fair market value of \$50. We should budget to clear between \$2,500 and \$3,000. To get help organizing the next dinner and auction, we should send letters to people who volunteered in 2008 or otherwise expressed interest in helping; Sally will draft that letter.

The Fundraising Cmte. also recommends having a smaller social fundraiser this spring. The dress code would be "one step above jeans." MC's on Main could host. They have moved to a new location that can easily hold 100 to 150 people. They would charge \$8 per person with a minimum of 100 people. This cost includes finger food and one glass of champagne. Attendees can buy more beverages if they want them. With minimum effort, we could make \$500 to \$1,000 if we charge \$15 per ticket. Liz Schmitt has obtained a secret door prize for the fundraiser; we should decide whether attendees must be present to win the prize.

If we are successful with our two fundraisers this year, we can open headquarters for at least the duration of the election this year. This is estimated to cost \$150 for utilities, plus rent. The search for a location for our headquarters continues. No information is yet available about 633 Main

Street or 1026 Main Street, where we had our campaign headquarters in 2008. Darlene suggested looking at a storefront across the street from the downtown post office.

The consensus is to try to hold the spring social fundraiser on Friday, April 20, from 6 to 8 PM.

John Huddle, a candidate in the Democratic primary for Oregon House of Representatives from District 55, discussed his open letter to Governor John Kitzhaber. In his letter, he urges Kitzhaber to form a task force to investigate reports of improper spraying of the herbicide OutPost 22K in a residential subdivision in northern Klamath County in summer of 2010. This improper spraying is alleged to be responsible for contamination of well water, several Ponderosa pine trees dying, and adverse health symptoms among residents. **Motion (Sally) to endorse the open letter calling for an investigation passed.** The letter was passed around for individuals to sign, and there was a discussion about getting a large group of people from northern Klamath County to lodge a complaint at a public meeting of the Board of Klamath County Commissioners.

Chuck W. reported highlights from a recent Public Safety Advisory Committee meeting, including a proposal by certain members to decrease the property tax rate for the Klamath County Library Service District to help fund public safety.

Lea Anne has applied to be appointed as a precinct committee person.

Robert announced an informational meeting in the second week of February about the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact <www.nationalpopularvote.com>, a proposed agreement among the states to work around the Electoral College and elect the President of the United States through a national popular vote. This is an alternative to amending the U.S. Constitution to abolish the Electoral College. The meeting will have a presentation followed by discussion. Robert will have more information next month.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57. The next meeting will be February 7.

Patrick Vroman, Secretary