



Union County Democrats
Monthly Meeting Minutes March 11, 2015

Meeting called to order at 5:03

Introductions: Carole Halvorson, Glen Scheele, Randy Knopp, Bill Lindsley, Gray McGuire, Karen Wagner, Lyndal Schick, Bob Dolve, Kathleen Cathey, Sharon Evoy.

Items for discussion:

1. Gray reviewed the Union County Democrats' website. There is a blog feature on the home page that is as easy to use as Facebook. He encouraged Democrats to use the blog space for thoughts and ideas and to communicate through this medium. He said that the county Dems. are still using the Democratic Party of Oregon's web page as our home page. He spoke of the possibilities of breaking off and setting up our own site. It might be cheaper and we would be able to have a newsletter which is currently not available to us. There were no motions over this issue. Discussion also ensued about the VAN. The VAN is a tool for county parties as a contact system and research of voters in the county. The workings and technical details of the Voter Network were reviewed by Glen, Kathleen and Gray. Glen presented the value of the VAN as useful when using "My Campaign" as a way to communicate with active party members. A short discussion of "Motor Voter" and voter registration ensued.
2. Karen Wagner was introduced as the new Eastern Oregon field representative for Senator Jeff Merkley. She briefly gave a little background biography and thoughts about the new challenge. She related Senator Merkley's six (6) priorities for his term in office. 1. Create an economy that allows all workers to thrive, 2. Create financial fairness for working families, 3. Curb climate change and expand energy opportunities, 4. Restore democracy, 5. Equality for LGBT, 6. Solving problems for Oregonians. For further explanation of his priorities go to www.merkley.senate.gov to contact Karen go to karen_wagner@merkley.senate.gov. Several issues and questions for Sen. Merkley were discussed.
3. Kathleen Cathey reminded the group that Senator Wyden will hold a town hall at the La Grande Senior Center on Cove Avenue at 5:00 P.M. on Friday March 14, 2015. Kathleen is Senator Wyden's field representative. Kathleen presented some views the Senator holds regarding trade, economy, and environment. Discussions of topics or questions the Senator will be asked about were discussed.
4. Reorganization: The county party is still looking for a recording secretary. This is an executive committee position which means the secretary is also a voting member of the county party leadership team. The county also needs to recruit more precinct committee people who are also voting members of the county leadership.
5. It was agreed the monthly meetings would be held on the 1st Wednesday of each month. That means the next meeting will be on Wednesday April 1st at 5:00 P.M. to be held in the conference room of the second floor of the Sac Annex.

Meeting Adjourned

Notes of this meeting submitted by Jerry Sebestyen