



Union County Democratic Central Committee

Meeting Minutes: January 12, 2011

Meeting Called to Order: 5 pm

Present: Glen Scheele, Kathleen Cathey, Gary McGuire, Colleen Johnson, Jerry Sebestyen, Carole Halvorson, Suzann Chapman, Jeffry Spier

Note: There was some confusion about the meeting room; several members were gathered in the library. After about 20 minutes, all attendees gathered.

Introductions: Introductions were made.

Treasurer's Report and Minutes Approval: The Democrats have \$480 in the bank. Last year's expenses were \$500 and included a donation of \$200 for a Military Families event at EOU; rent for the fair booth and \$10 per month for web-hosting through the Democratic Party of Oregon. Report approved.

Item: Officer elections. Glen Scheele was elected chair and took over the meeting. Carole Halvorson was elected vice-chair; Sharon Evoy was elected secretary; Janet Hume-Schwarz was elected treasurer.

State Central Committee elections. Glen is an automatic delegate to the State Central Committee; Suzann Chapman was elected as a delegate to the State Central Committee. Colleen Johnson and Jeffry Spier were elected as alternate delegates to the State Central Committee.

Second CD delegates. No elections at this meeting. Glen will do some research on the Second CD committee and the responsibilities of delegates and report back.

Glen thanked Kathleen Cathey for her service as Chair.

Chairs/Vice-Chairs conference call report: The chairs and vice-chairs from all 36 Oregon counties are invited to meet by conference call with the state Party officers on a monthly basis. Conference call minutes are kept and can be provided to those who are interested. Contact Glen. Glen reported that this meeting covered:

- the need for state fair volunteers
- the plan for the new legislature and that Gov.-elect Kitzhaber is not planning an inaugural celebration in recognition of the economic distress in Oregon.
- Clackamas County is struggling with Americans for Prosperity. The group is making recall efforts of elected leaders. There appears to be no public accountability for their funding. Members who are aware of AFP events/actions locally are asked to let Glen know.

- March 5 is the next quarterly face-to-face chairs/vice-chairs meeting, with March 6 the next state central committee meeting. Location to be announced.

Letters to the Editor: Glen passed out a contact sheet for the Observer, along with word limits. Gray will post this on the website. There have been two letters on health care that the Democrats have recently generated. There was some discussion on whether to form a google group that could plan letters and ensure that conservative writers do not dominate the letters page.

Adopt-a-Highway: Sharon Evoy has been working on this and has volunteers lined up. Volunteers need training on dealing with hazardous materials. Training and first clean-up to take place this spring. Our section of highway will be on Highway 82, out of Island City and toward Elgin.

Plan for next two years: Glen spoke about strengthening the Union County Democrats and adding more precinct committee people. Phone calls and walking are more effective than email. Glen and Jerry will work together on a handout for PCP's, and a plan to build the county party by strengthening outreach to other people, organizations and partners.

Communications: Following discussion, it was agreed that Glen, Gray and Kathleen will meet to discuss communications strategies, including web presence, email, newsletter, lagrandelife and a phone tree.

Meeting day, time and place: Meetings will move to the first Wednesday of the month, 5 p.m. and will continue at White House Coffee for the time being. It is hoped for that the county party meetings will outgrow this space.

Announcements and events:

January 17, 11 am. at Max Square in La Grande, meet for the annual **Martin Luther King March** sponsored by Oregon Rural Action. More info at <http://oregonrural.org/events/social-justice-march-discussion> Non-partisan event.

February 12, starting around 4 pm. **annual pizza party** at Jerry Sebestyen's and Sharon Evoy's home, 204 Spring Avenue, La Grande. Bring pizza toppings. Salads are also okay. Non-partisan event; contact Jerry or Sharon for more information jsebestyen@eoni.com or sharonevoy@eoni.com.

February 17, **Books You Should Have Read in School book club**, 5 pm. White House Coffee—in the library room—1702 Fourth Street, La Grande. Non-partisan event; contact Carole for more information icyriverranch@wildblue.net.

February 12, Walk for Warmth, Union County Democrats will have a team. Contact Brynne Morningstar for more information. brynnemorningstar@gmail.com

Adjourned: 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Cathey