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Union County Democrats

Meeting Minutes

7/14/10

Recorded by Sharon Evoy

Attendance: Kathleen Cathey (chair), Glenn Scheele, Jean McKern, Bill Whitaker, Jerry Sebestyen, Suzann Chapman, Carole Halvorson

Platform Convention

Glenn & Kathleen report: articles reviewed, legislative items & action reviewed and prioritized, group voted and passed platform. Senator Wyden gave an address. LNG (liquefied natural gas) plant in Astoria was discussed. There was very little discussion of Education benchmarks (re: governor's plan), speaker Tim Kain - topic – Democrats need to do better job of communicating what has been accomplished

Website is new and well organized, easy to find what an issue and give input:

www.oregondemocrats.org

Glenn reported the experience was valuable and is willing to go again next year.

Union County Fair

Susan Chapman reports: booth clean up - July 31st at 9:00, Brian Cantwell needs a ride – **KC** volunteered, voter registration forms needed – **KC** volunteered to get these.

Discussion:

Admission is free – any parking permits? In past we've encouraged folks to use public transportation, or park on side streets and walk. Surveys or bean count vote on issues. We've covered many of the same issues for the past few years. This year, it will be financial reform, immigration, jobs/economy, energy policy, education, tax reform, health issues.

Suzann sent around booth sign up for time slots, but still needs a few more bodies. **Nan McDaniel** will help. **Suzann** will send out schedule on Dems email list.

Kathleen will put out on Dems email list a call for articles (newspaper, magazine, etc) to display at fair booth

Suggestions of voter input/display at booth – “Why I'm voting for Democrats this fall”, “List of achievements in the Democrat majority congress”, “Changes I'm thankful for...” (e.g. health care reform),

Parade

Friday at 5:00ish, whoever shows up can be a part of the parade!

Kathleen will bring white pick-up and UCD banner, and will try to get posters for Wyden, Kitzhaber and Wheeler

Jerry S T-shirts, flag

Suzann has a flag that was flown in Iraq, **Kathleen** will help her design a sign about flag.

Senator Jeff Merkley

Town Hall -Sunday July 25th 5:30 Senior Center

Meals on Wheels

Jerry reports that Meals took a \$50k hit in budget. Sydney Gleeson is starting a catering service with delivery to raise funds to help needy seniors afford meals (charged by sliding scale). Union County Dems will put on Facebook and website. **Kathleen** will check with Sydney and Frank Thomas from Community Connections to see if this is acceptable, and also to see if they have 501(c)3 status so contributions are tax deductible.

Issue discussion: low voter turnout,

Glenn offered a succinct discussion with many talking points about the clear distinctions between Democrat and Republican choices, and noted that many of us tend to forget what President Obama inherited. This led to suggestions that we need to write letters to the editor or comments, especially addressing Walden and Rich Lowrey right after they are published in The Observer. It was suggested that we establish a committee to coordinate these efforts.