

**LCDCC November 10, 2020 VIA ZOOM**

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**Call to Order and Introductions: Quinlan O'Connor (Chair)**

- **Quinlan** called the meeting to order at **7:03 PM** via Zoom. Quinlan welcomed all, and asked for introductions. In attendance (by Zoom identification): James Reavis, Mark (and Carol?) Mackin, Tonia Bossell (Vice Chair), Kate Dramstad, Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell, Rep. Moffie Funk, Sen. Jill Cohenour and Joe Cohenour, Jorge Quintana, Catherine Scott, Shani Henry, Jan Clinard, Diane Papineau, Kyle Joiner, Paulette Hutcheon.

**Minutes and Financial: Group**

- Secretary **Linda Beischel** submitted October minutes to the chair, who posted them on Zoom for participants to view.
- Treasurer **Shawn Whyte** submitted her report of approximately \$1500 in checking (\$100 savings). This balance reflects an additional \$1800 contribution to the Montana Democratic party, to be split evenly (\$360 each) in support of the campaigns of five statewide candidates. This dispersal was approved by the executive committee, meeting via Slack.
- Joe moved to approve these reports, without objection.

**Business: Social media wrap up**

- **Quinlan** summarized that the central committee spent a total of \$500 on Facebook ads for 2020 candidates (reaching 10,000 users).
- In addition, the central committee contributed \$6000 to local legislative and statewide candidates. Quinlan noted that "we did a lot with the resources we had", even though "we wish things were different for statewide candidates".

**Business: Standing subcommittee recruitment**

- **Quinlan** noted that the [newly adopted by-laws](#) provide for standing subcommittees, such as legislative action, fundraising and precinct representative. Required members include the chair and/or vice-chair, and the treasurer as a member for fundraising. Most subcommittee organizing will be via Slack.
- **Precinct representative** tasks include improving the accuracy of the VAN as well as building a contact list for the central committee. Filling the numerous precinct vacancies is a priority. Those who volunteered to be members included Jorge, Kyle, Rep. Dunwell, Jan, Paulette, Mark, Linda, Quinlan, and Tonia. Jorge noted that party structure reflects 19<sup>th</sup> century organizing. A new model is needed. Jan said more organizing is needed in neighborhoods, since few voters answered phone banking calls this year.
- **Fundraising** volunteer members include treasurer Shawn Whyte, Tonia, Shani, and Kate.
- **By-laws** members include Quinlan, Tonia, James, Mark, Linda, and Rep. Dunwell. Now that bylaws have been updated, this subcommittee will meet infrequently.
- **Legislative action** subcommittee (as suggested by Tonia) includes Kate, Tonia, Quinlan, James, and Catherine.
- **Quinlan** said he would invite subcommittee members to the appropriate Slack channels.

**Open Discussion: 2020 Montana election results**

- **Rep. Funk** asked the question “What happened”? The magnitude of the loss of all statewide offices surprised her. She felt the Republican message about “socialist Democrats” resonated somehow.
- **Jan** reported phoning voters on numerous occasions via the coordinated campaign and could remember speaking with Democrats on only 3 occasions.
- **Mark** said he was frustrated with calling locally for the coordinated campaign. He didn’t see any Dem names he recognized on the lists. In frustration, he switched to voter protection. **Linda** noted that she switched to voter protection as well.
- **James** echoed Jan and Mark. The dialer app used by the campaign showed an unfamiliar number on recipients’ phones. No one answered. He felt it would be more productive to use local phones. He agreed voter information in VAN is poor (disconnected, moved, etc). The Bullock message scripts were too long and did not speak to voter concerns.
- **Rep. Dunwell** emphasized how hard the state-wide candidates worked. Kathleen Williams’ campaign was strongly focused on voter concerns, but she couldn’t break through. Now that Dems are an even smaller minority in the statehouse, it will be essential to get on record the constitutional problems with the “bad bills” that Gianforte will sign. There may be a chance to appeal to the courts.
- **Tonia** proposed a subcommittee on legislative action to respond to legislators’ requests for participation at the upcoming session.
- **Kate** said she looked at election results by county in 2016 and 2020.
- **Jorge** noted that the Sandi at the MDP is leading a “postmortem” assessment. In general, many new (since 2016) Trump supporters voted in 2020 for a straight R ticket. His contacts at the DNC noted that these are “dark times”, but the “darkness of the womb, not the tomb” in giving birth to an improved party. Some states had organizing successes that other states might adapt. For example, those of Stacy Abrams and other groups in Georgia. Jorge noted that Montana demographics are not good for Democrats, but year-round organizing will help.
- **Mark** said that building from the ground up with engaged precinct representatives needs to happen NOW. Republicans nationalized the election, but Dems in Montana couldn’t.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM. **Next meeting Tuesday December 8** at 7 PM via Zoom. Respectfully submitted, Linda S. Beischel, secretary