

Lewis and Clark Central Committee Meeting Minutes, 10/17/2023

Location: Lewis and Clark Library; Zoom

Call to order: 6:43 pm

Secretary's report:

Available on website. Approved by acclamation

Treasurer's Report:

Approved by acclamation

- **Raised in last month (9/20/2023-10/17/2023): \$357.65**
 - \$356 from ActBlue, 15 contributors, no change in recurring donors/amount
 - \$20 cash from Laura Smith
 - \$1.65 in interest received from the bank
- **Spent since last meeting: \$931.26**
 - \$12.17 ActBlue fees
 - \$2.50 bank service charge
 - \$857.60 shirts and hats order
 - \$58.99 Shani Henry reimbursement for Craig event postcard invitations
- **Cash in bank: \$3,722.45**

Upcoming Events Announcement:

- **Pints and Politics @ Confluence:** <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/pints-and-politics>
Raised \$220 so far in Pints and Politics sign ups, 7 contributors; some have donated more than the recommended \$24. Total of 18 signups so far.

Precinct Reports:

- Mark M: Precinct 21 has copies of their precinct map; Carol put together a larger map of their precinct.

Question: Should we make a statement to call out the MT Secy of State on the lack of precinct level information?

Response: We'd probably be more successful asking local board of elections about what we can do to help

Crossing the Divide event report

Jakob reprised recent Crossing the Divide events:

- United Way Day of Service
- Dirt road Revival presentation
- Craig quad-county meet up

There was a general discussion of current Democratic candidates.

Working meetings

Jakob provided an explanation of Tuesday working meetings, MT Democratic Party HQ: Event planning & working on tasks that couldn't be addressed in general meetings. All are welcome to attend and pitch in.

Presentation of LCCDems communication structures and practices

Bob Schmitt described how we've organized communications functions in the past 8 months:

- Website is the authoritative list of events. All communications drive traffic to the website. That said, there isn't a ton of traffic on the website: dozens per day?
- There's a plan to upgrade the website at last Monday's working meeting. Details are in the Executive Board Trello board.
- MailChimp is our single source of truth for names/addresses;
- Social media accounts are now consolidated: Facebook/Instagram/X-Twitter
- Facebook reaches out to our largest audience: 900+, but not a ton of engagement
- Twitter reaches out mostly to partners, not as many individuals
- Squarespace website and related Google workspace are now directly controlled by executive committee
- We have started to send out simultaneous notifications on MailChimp, Facebook & Twitter
- We have established a practice of planning each month's communications during working meetings, and the schedule of communications is recorded in the Executive Board Trello board.
- Announcement process: Bob has been composing the announcements, sending to Exec Board for review/testing prior to sending to the full list. FB and X posts are essentially pared down but verbatim copies of the messages going out via email. We want to have the Executive Board have eyes on all messages going out under LCC Dems name.
- Open/clickthru rates are slowly increasing, 1-2% with each communication.
- If you're on FB or Twitter, like the announcements: they contribute to visibility in feeds.

Values & Vision discussion

Jakob introduced the subject while the Gallatin Democrats Vision and Values statement was presented on the screen.

- Purpose of the discussion is to clearly define what brings us together as Democrats. Gallatin Democrats put together a list that we could probably all agree on, but what's missing? What should we prioritize?
- John Driscoll spoke about the growing importance of addressing affordable housing and homelessness issues and mentioned a number of initiatives and programs happening around the community.
- Other mentions that came up:

- People, we are the party of the people
- Is there some way to explain that people are voting against their best interest?
- Fairness: people like to be treated fairly
- Sustainability with prosperity; and pair freedom with opportunity. Integrity is kinda vague.
- A synonym for democracy is self-government. but I don't know if that conveys meaning to everyone.
- Reproductive rights/freedoms;
- Agency; community engagement
- Not being involved is being part of the problem
- Helena seems like a place that welcomes people who weren't born here (unlike other places I've lived)

Discussion was wrapped up 5 minutes prior to ending the meeting, with a promise to continue the discussion in working meetings and beyond.

Legislators Report

Mary Caferro is running for the House this year. She spoke about a meeting she just got back from, a legislative committee convened to try to map out the next legislative session. Their first meeting was in Big Sky. Republicans on the committee spent a lot of time trying to shift the property tax narrative to blame Democrats. Administration staff stated that there was a huge tax shift from corporations to individuals and Republicans are trying to build a case for a sales tax.

New business:

- Jesse Mullen is running for Secy of State, and will be in town Oct 26 at Brothers Tapworks, 530pm. Mayor Wilmot Collins and Mike Cooney will be introducing him to Helena. He is looking for volunteers to help with his campaign.
- Shani made a plea for people with property near roads, highways, to make themselves known so we can coordinate election signage.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm