

# Lewis and Clark Central Committee Meeting Minutes, 2/20/2024

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm

## Treasurers Report

Raised since last meeting (1/17-2/20): \$243.19

- \$241 from ActBlue contributions (all recurring donors)
- \$2.19 in interest received from the bank
- Spent since last meeting: \$692.08
- \$182 PO Box renewal (12 months)
- \$500 MDLCC Celebration of Democratic Heroes sponsorship
- \$7.58 in ActBlue fees
- \$2.50 in banking fees
- Cash in bank: \$5,023.80
- Less \$182 PO Box renewal (check hasn't cleared, was turned in 2/20)
- \$116/month in recurring donations via ActBlue

## Budget updates:

- Swag budget: \$700 remaining of \$700 budgeted
- Prospect mailing/digital ad budget: \$1,000 remaining of \$1,000 budgeted

## Secretary's report

<https://www.lccdemocrats.com/s/20240116LewisandClarkCentralCommitteeMinutes.docx> Approved.

## Precinct reports

John Driscoll: John and Chuck Butler worked to propose the May Butler Center as an emergency shelter for unhoused citizens. Will know on the 27<sup>th</sup> whether it can go forward, and then know for sure on March 12.

## General announcements

No Crossing the Divide events currently scheduled. We are open to doing cross-county events this summer.

Next weekend is Mansfield-Metcalf weekend: <https://www.montanademocrats.org/2024mm>. Discussion of various events being held during that weekend covered in the "Get Involved" section.

LCCDems hosting a champagne brunch, 9-11am. Food, coffee, champagne. RSVP on the website. Suggested donation of \$30.

Call for volunteers to help out with the Mansfield-Metcalf Banquet:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfiXnuCz-PBB0uS5SAhhMcs-w3oug2\\_nGMyDh39fv8GBaslfg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfiXnuCz-PBB0uS5SAhhMcs-w3oug2_nGMyDh39fv8GBaslfg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Motion to sponsor Mansfield-Metcalf at Bronze level (\$500 donation): Motion passes by acclamation.

**Former Felons Ball is this weekend**, come out to support Montana Pride by participating in fourteen free and ticket events that include board games, drag shows, drag story hour, a movie, an aerial fitness show, cocktails, an art event, and more at venues all around downtown Helena. Details at <https://montanapride.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/events/1178995459769113/>

## **Precinct Representatives Discussion**

If you're interested in running as a precinct rep, you need to file a form with the County Elections Office. The form will need to be notarized (can be done at the Elections Office) by March 11.

You need to live in the precinct you represent. If only one person runs, the name will not appear on the ballot. If the election is contested, your name will appear on the ballot.

Precinct representatives are needed to be electors in case there's a need for a special election convention.

Running as a precinct rep is good practice for running for office.

The precinct representative candidate form is located online here:

<https://www.lccountymt.gov/files/assets/county/v/1/treasurer-clerk-and-recorder/documents/elections/2024-precinct-committee-people-candidate-filing-form.pdf>

Precinct map raw data:

<https://ftpgeoinfo.msl.mt.gov/Data/Spatial/MSDI/AdministrativeBoundaries/>

Lewis and Clark County Precinct maps: <https://www.lccountymt.gov/Government/Information-Technology/GIS/Voting-Precincts>

## **MT Democratic Convention**

Scheduled in June. Platform is available on the MT Democratic Party website. If you want to add or change something in the platform, read the platform, bring your ideas to the May meeting and we'll discuss if / how to submit them.

## **Candidate introduction**

**Kev Hamm** MT-1, US House of Representatives discussed his upcoming campaign activities and need for campaign volunteers. Health care, child care, education, property taxes are all hot issues. If you see chatter about why Democrats aren't running candidates, ask what county they are running in: lean into the conversation to find out why they aren't running and offer to connect them to resources and central committees.

**Jeff Benson**, HD48: Key issues for him: property taxes; senior citizen initiatives; accountability. Attended the Jeffco property tax meeting; 100 people attended. Informative,

but republicans tried to hijack the meeting. Sheehy stood up to say something but I convinced him to leave since he wasn't a resident of the county and he shouldn't use the meeting as a campaign opp.

**David Williams**, HD84. It's a large district, I've been exploring my area and talking to people. What's really important is the first impression. I want to do my homework before I make my first impression. John and Maryanne are great mentors and I'm still in studying. I'm a moderate and want Montana to stay the way it is and not turn into Arizona. Army brat, Jesuit for 2 years then joined the Marines, Vietnam vet, became an anti-war volunteer. Got a degree in philosophy at Loyola, became a teamster in Hollywood for 30+ years.

**Mary Ann Dunwell**: This is going to be a very important, critical election. Thanks to everyone for their efforts and showing up to these meetings.

**Mary Caferro**, Thanks to David and Jeff for running. My district has moved north and that means fewer Democrats and more Republicans. I appreciate the work and commitment of people in this meeting

The farthest north district, HD17, in Lewis and Clark county does not have Democrat running. Goes from Lime Creek south of Wolf Creek, goes to Choteau, Conrad, Augusta, into the Scapegoat and Bob Marshall. Ross Fitzgerald is current representative.

Leonard Bates, precinct rep for that district: I can't run, but it probably needs someone with an ag background to run, only a small number of votes will be in L&C county. If you live in that district please consider running. State Auditor and Clerk of the Supreme Court still do not have Democratic candidates running.

## **New Business**

No new business raised.

Meeting ended at 7:54pm

## **Motions Passed**

1. Approved January Minutes
2. Sponsor Mansfield-Metcalf at Bronze level (\$500 donation)

## **Attendees**

Jakob Miles, President

David Williams, HD84

Leonard Bates, Pct 33

Kent Stevenson

Mike Bayak, Pct 13

Ben Kuiper, Pct 8

Bob Schmitt, Secy, Pct 22

Ciara Maxwell, Treasurer, Pct 4

Jan Clinard, Pct 13

John Driscoll, Pct 14

Linda Beischel, Pct 16

Maryann Dunwell, State senator representing Helena and East Helena

Mindy Slaton from Jeffco

Shani Henry, Vice President

Mary Caferro, MT Dems, & HD82

Susan Epstein

Thai Nguyen, Pct 16, State committee person

Tom Snell, Pct 7 candidate

Jeff Bensen, HD48 candidate, Boulder

Kent Stevenson

Kev Hamm, Pct 20, MT-1 candidate