

Lewis and Clark Central Committee Meeting Minutes, March 19, 2024

Location: Lewis and Clark Library, Main Meeting Room

Meeting Started: 6:30 pm.

Treasurers Report

Raised since last meeting: (2/21-3/19): \$837.94

- \$131 from ActBlue contributions
- \$705 from Champagne brunch (net \$305.05 after catering and alcohol)
- \$1.94 interest from bank

Spent since last meeting: \$1,344.58

- \$182 PO Box renewal cleared
- \$2.50 monthly banking fee
- \$300 Creperie catering for M&M Champagne Brunch
- \$500 M&M Sponsorship
- \$99.95 Champagne for Brunch
- \$23.41 ActBlue fees
- \$236.72 hats

Cash in bank: \$5,089

Secretary Report

February Minutes, approved

Precinct Reports

Mary Ann Dunwell: Who can precinct candidates get VAN reports from: Jakob, Shani, Thai

John Driscoll: May Butler building update: Proposal from Good Samaritans was not accepted; the May Butler center will be turned into teacher housing.

Discussion of planned spring/summer events

Jakob discussed Crossing the Divide events;

Summer events being planned:

- L&C/Cascade/Teton county social
- L&C/Jefferson/Silver Bow/Broadwater social

Local government update

Ben Kuiper: Helena Citizens Council Chair

Two new mill levies approved by commission going to the ballot:

1. Public safety to fund 15 new firefighters and 9 police positions; \$15.3 million total.
2. General bond request to fund a new fire station north of the railroad tracks. Will cut down response time across the tracks by at least 5 minutes. 5.66 mils per year

In addition to question on local government review: Should local government conduct a formal government review process?

Other upcoming events

- April 6 event at the Library, 3-5 pm: Kev Hamm will conduct a social media training for candidates and party members.

Summer events

- Farmers Market table on nonprofit days
- Pride Parade on Aug 3;
- Election Judge training in April
- Letters to the editor
- Letters to the editor virtual training, April 4 by Lee Enterprises

Upcoming event details available at <https://lccdemocrats.com/events>

New meeting space at the Montana Medical Association

Jakob discussed meeting space available at Montana Medical Association. Will cost \$25/mtg.

Shani: Comparatively inexpensive; accessible; full-tech capabilities. Its a nice space.

Motion to approve: Carried. Meetings will start there next month.

Presentations by candidates

Lisa Kallio, District Court Clerk: Non-partisan race. The job is to keeps court records; provides access to court and records; operate the court schedule and facilities, call people for jury duty.

Mary Caferro, HD81: 20 years in legislature: 12 campaigns ; HHS specialty; sponsored bill to increase Medicaid provider rates so that services would remain open; public pressure forced house and senate and dems and republicans to work together and get the bill passed.

Michelle Crapeau, HD84: Lives in E. Helena, retired from state service but now running for HD 84. Experience in taxation; very interested in healthcare and access to public lands.

David Williams, HD84: Theology student; Marine corps/Vietnam service; VISTA volunteer in NYC; got a degree in philosophy; was Teamster in Los Angeles for 37 years. Retired 15 years ago and then moved to Montana. Have always been an activist. Mostly interested in education issues; access to the internet; women's reproductive rights.

Laura Smith, SD40 candidate: Covers the western part of Helena. Fed. Prosecutor for 5 years: murders, assault, fraud, wildlife issues; worked as a deputy director of DPHHS. Last session one of my big focuses was working through the toxicity of the legislature. Worked on building relationships with everyone, and was successful in passing bipartisan bills to improve the lives of children. I will focus on extension of Medicaid affordability and improving government accountability.

Jeff Benson, SD38: Advisor/consultant to various Fortune 50 companies; work with companies. My family settled in Huntley after the civil war. New people coming to Montana driving up housing costs; interested in protecting the constitution; improving property taxes; improving senior rights.

Leonard Bates, HD17: Includes Lincoln, Augusta, Fairfield and Choteau. This is a heavily Republican district but I want to raise the profile of other democratic candidates. I've spent 40 years in health education; my main interest is in woman's rights issues, esp. related to healthcare. Healthcare decisions need to be made by patients and care providers: not political officials.

Emily Harris, HD79: Have worked in politics since I was 18, I currently work with Raph Graybill and help smaller candidates navigate the political campaign system. From Helena, live my grandma's house on the westside. Working with Democrats and knowing firsthand how bipartisanship matters has made building relationships really important to me.

Kev Hamm, MT2: 87% of the land, half the people, 40% of the voters. Lived here in Helena, went to Four Georgians then Capital High. Moved away and lived all over the US, but came back to Montana. Have run Montana Pride since 2014, have been an outspoken advocate for my community. We have lots of very nice Democrats, I am not. I will make people uncomfortable but will gain their respect and get things done. I grew up in a Republican household: If I can't build a bridge, I will burn it and light the way to the next bridge. I believe politics can be exciting and fulfilling but also very draining. But we have to stand up, people need to hear we exist and tell our stories. We have to reach younger people.

Jakob thanked all the candidates for showing up, and thanked them for running.

Question: Can we get the abortion ballot brought to the general meeting? Yes, as soon as it gets out. Need 60K verified signatures in 40 counties; probably need 100K signatures to make that goal. The Central Committee will find out more and get info out to folks.

Meeting ended: 7:49pm

Motions Approved

1. February minutes accepted
2. Move general meetings to Montana Medical Association and pay \$25/day for the space

Attendees

Benjamin Kuiper

Bob Filipovich

Bob Schmitt

Brian Coplin

Christopher Facando

Ciera Maxwell

David Williams

Emily Harris

Jakob Miles

Jan Clinard

Jeff Benson

John Driscoll

Kent Stevenson

Kev Hamm

Leonard Bates

Laura Smith

Linda Beischel

Lisa Kallio

Liz Harter

Mark Makin

Mary Ann Dunwell, state senator,

Mary Caferro

Michelle Crapeau

Monica Abbot

Robert Abbot

Robert Bird

Shani Henry

Thai Nyguen

Tom Snell