



LCCDCC April 19, 2022 IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

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NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY: Since I was out of town, these minutes are based on my remote (Zoom) access to an in-person meeting. There were significant technical issues providing Zoom access (online connection lost at times, extremely poor audio quality, etc). As a result, these minutes are incomplete. Please excuse any omissions or misinterpretations, and send proposed changes to lindabee7999@gmail.com.

Call to Order and Introductions: Tonia Bossell, Chair

- **Tonia** called the meeting to order at **6:30 PM** in person at Lewis and Clark Library and via Zoom, and welcomed all. In attendance (by incomplete sign in sheet and Zoom identification): **Penny Ronning (for MT-2), Vice Chair Shawn Whyte, Treasurer Jacob Torgerson (for HD81), Kev Hamm, Benjamin Kuiper, Bob Filipovich, Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell (for SD42), Patrick Johnson, Monica and Bob Abbott, Sheena Wilson, John Ilgenfritz, Mark and Carole Mackin, Jan Clinard, John Driscoll, Sen. Jill Cohenour (for HD84), Joe Cohenour, Rep. Moffie Funk, Curt Dallas, Katy Wright, Leonard Bates, Shani Henry, Kevin Downs (for County Attorney), Jakob Miles, Bob Schmitt, Brian C? (not legible).**
- Tonia postponed introductions until after the featured speaker.

Featured Speaker: Penny Ronning (<https://www.pennyronning.com/>), Democratic candidate for Montana's 2nd Congressional District, including Lewis and Clark County).

- From **Penny's** website: *"I'm the daughter of a dad who ran a family restaurant and a mom who dedicated her life to federal service, working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other agencies. I've seen the micro and macro effects of governance, up close and firsthand. I have seen government work in a way nothing else can and I've seen it flail, harming the people it's supposed to serve. That's why I hold tight to this guiding principle: **"People over Politics."** It's a basic moral code, something too many have forgotten when we talk about politics. It's simple: It takes all of us."*
- In 2017, **Penny** ran for and won a 4-year term on the Billings City Council in a "very Republican" ward. She noted that the race was "non-partisan", so candidates did not campaign on party affiliation. She got elected by not "backing off" her liberal values.
- Penny is a tenacious advocate for victims of human trafficking, cofounded the Yellowstone County Area Human Trafficking Task Force, secured funding from the Montana Legislature, co-authored bills, and participated in national committees developing policy.
- Penny is passionate about the need for Dems to stand together and take control of the narrative. She emphasized that central committees need to organize and work together.
- Penny noted that she talks to folks who are more concerned about economic issues than guns and reproductive rights. Rural populations are hurting. Montanans need to come together to discuss complex issues.
- It is incredibly important to defeat Matt Rosendale. Dems need to "show up" at school boards and elsewhere to defend Dem values and "stand your ground". Penny learned the language that would help her fellow council members listen and understand.
- **UPDATE: Mark Sweeney**, another Democratic candidate for MT-2, who spoke at the LCCDCC March meeting, passed away suddenly on March 6.

Introductions and Reports:

- The nearly final draft of **Mark's** Precinct Rep handbook is at <http://www.lccdems.com/policies-and-rules> and should be final by June. Email suggestions to markmackin@juno.com.
- **Kev** continues to moderate and record "Candid Candidate Convos" which allow recording and archiving streamed conversations with candidates. The conversations can be accessed via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/LewisandClarkDemocrats/videos>), Youtube, and Twitter, and viewers can submit questions in real time via integrated chat.
- Treasurer **Jacob Torgerson** reported an essentially unchanged balance.

New/ Old Business: Group

- The group discussed candidate forums and interviews and whether/ when/ where LCCDCC should organize. **UPDATE:** LCCDCC joined organizer Marshall Mayer of the Helena Solidarity Network, Helena Progressive Action Network, and Helena Service for Peace and Justice in co-sponsoring a local Montana Legislative candidate forum on Thursday May 12 at the Library. Candidates in contested races for HD81, HD82, and HD84 participated.
- **Kev Hamm** provided an update on his PSC region 5 campaign. Since there is no free market in a monopoly, Kev believes even Republicans don't trust Republican commissioners to set fair utility rates.
- Rep. **Mary Ann Dunwell** provided an update on her campaign for SD42 ("I'm living on the doors"). She is trying to contact every registered voter (and occasionally facing hostility). She has raised over \$18,000. She gave her wholehearted support to **Dan Guzynski** in his contested non-partisan race for Lewis and Clark County Attorney. Dan has been Bureau Chief of the Prosecution Services Bureau the Montana Attorney General since 2018. He has extensive prosecutorial experience, and experience working with numerous law enforcement agencies.
- Rep. **Moffie Funk**, of [Montanans Organize for Education](#)) urged contributing to and voting for the actual public education advocates in the May 3 Helena School Board election. (UPDATE: MFPE endorsed candidates Kay Satre, Siobhan Hathhorn and Lois Fitzpatrick won election).
- **Kevin Downs**, who is also running for County Attorney, described his qualifications. He is currently Deputy County Attorney. Kevin notes that this position requires not just prosecutorial experience in dealing with the worst offenders, but also broad experience working with vulnerable populations and collaborating with diverse groups of people.
- LCCDCC does not endorse candidates in partisan primaries.

Precinct Appointments and March minutes:

- Secretary **Linda Beischel** submitted March minutes to the chair, and shared them on Zoom and the website. It was not clear if copies were available in the meeting room.
- There were no precinct representative appointments.

The meeting was adjourned with the Chair's thanks at approximately 8:00 PM. **Next meeting THIRD Tuesday May 17, 2022 via Zoom AND IN PERSON at the Helena Main Library at 6:30 PM.** Respectfully submitted, Linda Beischel, secretary.