



LCCDCC February 9, 2021 VIA ZOOM

Follow us on Facebook and the web <http://www.lccdemocrats.com>

Call to Order and Introductions: (Tonia Bossell, Chair)

- **Tonia** called the meeting to order at **7:03 PM** via Zoom. Tonia welcomed all, and asked for introductions. In attendance (by Zoom identification): **Rep. Moffie Funk, Shawn Whyte, James Reavis, Shani Henry, Quinlan O'Connor, Jan Clinard, Kyle Joyner, Kate Dramstad, Sandi Luckey, Paulette Hutcheon, Isaac Nehring, Thai Nguyen, Chris Stockwell.**

Minutes and Financial: Group

- Secretary **Linda Beischel** submitted January minutes to the chair, who posted them in Zoom chat for participants to access. After attendees had time to read the minutes, they were accepted without objection.
- Treasurer **Shawn Whyte** reported a balance of \$1941.69 in checking. The required COPP report is in process. James moved, Kate seconded to approve.

Reports:

- **Jorge Quintana** (DNC) was unable to attend. **Jan Clinard** noted the the Democratic Action Club has not been meeting.

Speaker: Rep. Moffie Funk (HD82) with legislative update

- For updates on the status of bills mentioned, to look up bills by legislator or topic, and to contact legislators/ committees, see <https://leg.mt.gov/> . There is also a link to sign up to testify (via Zoom) to legislative committees. The deadline to sign up is noon the day before.
- **Tonia** noted that the Montana Democratic Party is holding weekly legislative reviews (featuring legislative leaders) each Monday for Central Committee leadership.
- **James** is concerned about bills to eliminate election day voter registration. County clerks were not complaining, even with increased demand in 2020.
- **Moffie** encouraged opposition to [SB140](#), which eliminates the Judicial Nominating Commission. James said he did comment. This nonpartisan process was originally put in place due to corruption in judicial nominations, and did give power to the Governor to select. Now Republicans want control over the actual nominations.
- **Moffie** predicted many Republican bills will get court challenges if passed.
- **Tonia** noted that the MDP can help with letters to the editor (newspaper contacts, talking points, etc). For more information, contact Ciara Maxwell (ciara@montanademocrats.org). Letters to the editor are more likely to be printed by smaller newspapers.

Legislative Update: Shani Henry (Moms Demand Action)

- Shani noted that [HB102](#) sadly passed and was signed. This bill allows individuals without concealed carry permits, and therefore without any training, to carry concealed loaded handguns in Montana cities. Most concerning, it would allow guns on Montana college campuses.
- [HB258](#) prohibits local law enforcement assistance in Federal gun law enforcement. (passed by the House, to be heard in Senate committee).

- Shani encouraged all to defend Rep. Dunwell on social media from threats from “gun nuts”.

Business: Vice Chair Election (Tonia and group)

- An election for the currently vacant position of Vice-chair will be held at the March meeting, as required by the [bylaws](#). Any Democrat can run, if nominated and seconded. Tonia explained briefly that she identifies as “agender”. Therefore, a person of any gender identity which is “different” may run for the position.
- [All officer positions](#) will be up for election at the County Officers Convention held every odd numbered year. The 2021 election will be held on the 2nd Tuesday in May (May 11) at 7 PM via Zoom.

Open discussion: Group

- **Rep. Funk** is grateful for community help.
- The group supported **James**’ suggestion to “fight like hell”. Dems had great candidates, but couldn’t break through the “Trump aberration”. **Shawn** noted the need to prepare at once for the next election. **Kyle** emphasized the need to engage voters in person (when safe), and recommended “Grounded” by Senator Tester. **Kate** said accountability for R’s will be important.
- **Thai** said the MDP needed to switch gears (along with other progressive groups). Jobs and the economy are priorities.
- **Quinlan** said recruitment and training of more precinct reps/ activists is essential. When the vote is tied in our county (like in 2020), Dems will lose state-wide.
- **Chris** put his pct/HD/SD in his Zoom ID, great idea!

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8 PM. **Next meeting Tuesday March 9, 2021** at 7 PM via Zoom. Respectfully submitted, Linda S. Beischel, secretary