



LEWIS & CLARK  
DEMOCRATIC  
CENTRAL COMMITTEE

LCCDCC March 9, 2021 VIA ZOOM

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### **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): **Sheena Wilson, Joe Cohenour, Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell, Rep. Moffie Funk, Kev Hamm, Carole and Mark Mackin, James Reavis, Shani Henry, Quinlan O'Connor, Jacob Torgerson, Kate Dramstad, Thai Nguyen, Chris Stockwell, Guiseppe DiMassa, Hannah Paton, Daniel Pereira (MDP), Bob Filipovich, Catherine Ockey.**

### **Minutes and Financial: Group**

- Secretary **Linda Beischel** submitted February 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.
- Tonia read Treasurer **Shawn Whyte's** report of an unchanged balance of \$1941.69.

### **Speaker: Daniel Pereira, Montana Democratic Party**

- Daniel Pereira introduced himself as the new Communications Director for the MDP (as of mid-February). He most recently worked on Cory Booker's Presidential campaign. Dan is currently working remotely from outside Montana, but very involved with the legislative session. His contact is [Daniel@montanademocrats.org](mailto:Daniel@montanademocrats.org).
- Daniel emphasized that while consistent political messaging is important, it can be "one voice, not necessarily the same words". Each advocate should use their authentic language. He encouraged all to join the **MDP Slack channel for LTE** (letters to the editor) to learn the most effective way to frame issues. Key Dem issues include putting more money in Montanans' pockets, creating more good jobs, expanding rural broadband, protecting healthcare access, and defending public education.
- Daniel emphasized social psychology research that bridging political divides requires framing a message in terms that resonate with the values of the other side. The other side is more likely to listen to messages about Dem priorities if we use language they recognize as consistent with their values.
- **James** asked about the role of central committees in messaging. Dan encouraged use of letters to the editor that can be shared on Facebook and other social media platforms to amplify messages to our own communities. **Tonia** noted that the Slack channel has useful information like "catch phrases" for social media attention and "thumb stopper" memes. Simple, short phrases like "Republicans value wealth over work" are best. **Mark** was frustrated that his letters haven't been printed. Daniel suggested a follow up phone call to the editor if a letter was apparently ignored. MDP is planning a series of LTE trainings on Zoom. Daniel also encouraged us to email letters to him ([Daniel@montanademocrats.org](mailto:Daniel@montanademocrats.org)) so he can help with suggestions, placement, etc.

### **Legislative Update: Rep. Moffie Funk (HD82), Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell (HD84)**

- 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 a bill hearing. Rep. Funk reported that there is online access to a [cumulative](#)

[count of web and phone messages](#) from the public received for each bill (separated by pro and con). **Tonia** noted that the Montana Democratic Party is holding weekly legislative reviews (featuring legislative leaders) each Monday for Central Committee members.

- **Rep. Funk** celebrated the defeat of anti-union bills. She did note that Republican leadership continue to attack the most vulnerable. Moffie suspects they have overplayed their hand. Radical R legislation harms Montanan's national economic reputation and may be responsible for decreased applications to Montana universities. Some R legislators are "nice", but their leaders are not. **Tonia** agreed that R leadership must be labeled as radical.
- **Chris Stockwell** recommended the book "[Evil Geniuses](#)" by Kurt Andersen. "*Beginning in the early 1970s, by means of a long war conceived of and executed by a confederacy of big business CEOs, the superrich, and right-wing zealots, the rules and norms that made the American middle class possible were undermined and dismantled...*"
- **Rep. Dunwell** announced that she plans to run for the open Senate District 42 seat in 2022. She appreciated being "among friends" after the stress of legislative conflict. She thanked Kev for his testimony on 3/9 in House Taxation against [SB51](#), a give-away to big telecoms in the guise of expanded rural broadband. Mary Ann noted that Montana is becoming a playground for the wealthy, who always want to pay less than their fair share. There are a series of bills in Local Government, Human Services, and Taxation to dismantle public health authority in retaliation for life-saving policies implemented during the pandemic. In addition to bad policies from radical R's, their leadership have engaged in misogyny, intimidation, and discrimination against committee testimony that opposes their priorities. For example, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter's [HB424](#) to raise the top marginal income tax rate and add an earned income credit was tabled in committee.

### **Business: (Tonia and group)**

- [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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in May (May 11) at 7 PM via Zoom. According to the [bylaws](#), an election to fill the currently vacant vice-chair position may be held at the current (March) meeting, or be deferred until the Officers' Convention in May. Kev moved to wait and fill all officer positions at the May 11 convention. The group agreed without objection.
- **James** summarized for the group that voters at the 2021 County Convention must be precinct representatives or officers. Those applying to be precinct representatives must have attended two LCCDCC meetings in the past 6 months. Any Democrat who is a voter in Lewis and Clark County may run for central committee officer.
- Volunteers were invited to fill open precinct representative positions. **Thai Nguyen** asked to represent Pct. 16. Rep. Dunwell moved, Sheena seconded, approved.
- **Jacob Torgerson**, previous Democratic primary candidate for SD 40, asked for VAN access for a future campaign. Access was granted by acclamation.
- **Rep. Dunwell** encourages progressive candidates to run for the East Helena school board (and add some balance). She is willing to help.
- **Shani** encourages Moms Demand Action members to run for Helena school board.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8 PM. **Next meeting Tuesday April 13, 2021** at 7 PM via Zoom. Respectfully submitted, Linda S. Beischel, secretary