



LEWIS & CLARK
DEMOCRATIC
CENTRAL COMMITTEE

LCCDCC March 15, 2022 VIA ZOOM

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Call to Order and Introductions: Tonia Bossell, Chair

- **Tonia** called the meeting to order at **7:00 PM** in person at Top Floor Co-Working and via Zoom, and welcomed all. In attendance (by sign in sheet and Zoom identification): **Vice Chair Shawn Whyte, Kev Hamm, Laura Smith (for HD 79), Benjamin Kuiper, Jake Troyer (for HD 81), Treasurer Jacob Torgerson (also for HD 81), Katy Wright, Monica and Bob Abbott, Sheena Wilson, John Igenfritz, Mark and Carole Mackin, Jan Clinard, Thai Nguyen, Kev Hamm, Leonard Bates, Shani Henry, Deb Blossom, Jim Edwards and Jamie (with Sweeney campaign), Mike D, Jeremiah Dawson (for HD 70), Carmella DeMartino-Ryden, Jacob Linfesty, Mike Dyr Dahl, Bob Schmitt.**
- Tonia postponed introductions until after the featured speaker.

Featured Speaker: [Mark Sweeney](#) (State Senator and Democratic candidate for Montana's 2nd Congressional District, including Lewis and Clark County), in person.

- **Mark** entered the race just before the deadline, with the goal to seize the opportunity of a 2nd Congressional district in Montana. Incumbent Rep. Rosendale is an extremist who opposed the bipartisan infrastructure bill so important for rural Montana, while supporting violent insurrection. Rosendale even voted against honoring law enforcement officers who fought to protect the Capitol on January 6.
- Mark provided campaign fliers that echo his website information. His slogan "People over politics, common sense policy over extreme partisanship". Mark worked for the State of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department for 28 years in fisheries, is currently a small business owner and serves in SD 39 (Anaconda, Deer Lodge).
- Even though he currently lives in the 1st Congressional District, he grew up in Miles City. He is passionate about eastern Montana, and expects to be on the road there for the next two weeks. His long term goal is increased renewable energy and phase out of coal. "My focus in this election will be energy, agriculture, and infrastructure".
- Jamie (with Mark's campaign) announced a Helena fundraiser on March 22, and urged contributions. Rosendale already has \$1.5 million in PAC funding. Jim Edwards said Mark is a close friend, and he will fundraise and do whatever it takes to elect him.
- In response to **Monica's** question, Mark said he too is shocked that a state with so many veterans and descendants of eastern European immigrants would tolerate Rosendale's failure to support Ukraine. As **Mark Mackin** asked, he plans to work with Sen. Tester on country of origin labeling, local meatpacking, and other value added agriculture. **Tonia** and **Jacob** urged an end to fossil fuel addiction.

Introductions and Reports:

- **Tonia** reported that the in-person Mansfield-Metcalf Dinner was welcome, and the turnout good. Senator Warner's speech was well-received.
- The nearly final draft of **Mark's** Precinct Rep handbook is at <http://www.lccdemsocrats.com/policies-and-rules> and should be final by June. Email suggestions to markmackin@juno.com.
- Fifteen Democrats filed as precinct representatives prior to the deadline, with no contested primaries. (For R's, 25 filed, 1 write-in, two contested).

New/ Old Business: Group

- The group discussed candidate forums and interviews. Kev described the initial “Candid Candidate Convo” which allowed recording and archiving streamed conversations with candidates. The conversations can be accessed via Facebook (including <https://www.facebook.com/LewisandClarkDemocrats/videos>), Youtube, and Twitter, and viewers can submit questions via integrated chat. **Kev, Rep. Dunwell, and Sen. Cohenour** conducted the initial Convo on March 14, and plan to produce new ones each Monday, along with exploring new features. Kev passionately expressed the need for Dem primary candidates to focus on why they are the best and save
- **Tonia** said meetings will be back to the THIRD Tuesdays, in person and virtual for now. This evening’s venue, which Shawn kindly arranged, seemed small, had an associated cost, and necessitated building staff staying late. Other venues will be explored prior to the April meeting, preferably the Library when it re-opens their conference room.
- The group discussed whether subcommittees should meet before monthly meetings (yes) rather than on another day. Thai volunteered to work on Outreach, and Fundraising will need focus.

Brief Candidate Introductions (Tonia requested 2 minutes each):

- **Laura Smith** (sole Democrat for HD 79). Follow her on Twitter @LauraForMT. Former Lt. Governor Mike Cooney is her treasurer, she is endorsed by MFPE and Rob Farris-Olsen (current HD79 Rep) . Laura said the recent Union rally at the Capitol was incredible. Voters are ready to engage, and fundraising going well.
- **Jacob Troyer** (for HD 81), @Troyer4MT, emphasized that he is a long-time Democratic activist, small business owner, and former communications director for Gov. Bullock.
- **Jacob Torgerson** (for HD 81), @TorgersonForMT, raised three times as much this quarter as in any other, and is holding a fundraiser on April 15. Jacob endorsed **Candice Payne**, candidate for County Commission.
- **Kev Hamm**, candidate for Public Service Commission District 5, noted that the courts did the legislature’s job in drawing new district boundaries (to equalize population). Kev emphasized that the PSC needs someone who understands how regulations impact business. Since there is no free market in a monopoly, Kev believes even Republicans don’t trust Republican commissioners to set fair utility rates.
- **Jeremiah Dawson** (for HD 70) is running against incumbent (and previously unopposed) Rep. Julie Dooling. He will speak at the April meeting.
- As always, LCCDCC does not endorse candidates in partisan primaries.
- **Jan** asked if LCCDCC would organize the booth at the county fair (with financial support from the Action Club). The topic was postponed to the April meeting.

Minutes and Financial:

- Secretary **Linda Beischel** submitted January minutes to the chair, and shared them in the room and in Zoom chat for participants to access.
- Treasurer **Jacob Torgerson** reported a balance of \$17283.77 (and \$105 in savings). Expenses included annual Post Office Box rental and \$250 sponsorship at the Mansfield-Metcalf dinner.

The meeting was adjourned with the Chair’s thanks at approximately 8:12 PM. **Next meeting THIRD Tuesday April 19, 2022 via Zoom AND IN PERSON at the Helena Main Library at 6:30 PM.** Respectfully submitted, Linda Beischel, secretary.