



Minutes of meeting July 9, 2024

Held at Asotin County Library

Meeting called to order by Chair Becky Eklund. There were 14 members present in the room and one joined the meeting later on zoom for a total of 15 members in attendance. Each member introduced themselves by name.

Minutes of the meetings on May 14, May 15 and June 4 had been emailed out to the membership prior to the meeting. They were approved by the group.

Financial Update was presented by Treasurer Roger Jones in a detailed handout. The report showed a balance of \$1,958.22 in the account as of July 9. Jones explained a \$50 charge for ActBlue saying it is a resource for democrats to make donations and people could set up periodic donations by going to ActBlue and searching for Asotin County Democrats. Eklund said ActBlue is accessible on our website. The financial report was accepted.

Two new Precinct Committee Officers were appointed by the chair – Carrie Kenyon and Roger Jones.

Two candidates for state offices made presentations to the group. Matthew Welde, a candidate for 5th congressional district, presented on Zoom and then answered questions from the group. That was followed by a Zoom presentation from Donovan Rivers who is running for governor. Rivers also answered questions from the group. The chair reported that the staff of from the Sen. Maria Cantwell's campaign had emailed the group asking for an endorsement but hadn't yet provided the information her campaign was asked to provide.

The Washington State Democratic Convention was held in June and attended by a few of the group members. John Rusche and Gary Namie both gave verbal reports about the convention.

Get Out the Vote postcards are scheduled to arrive in the mailboxes of 535 Asotin County voters about July 23, reported Lorraine Nelson, group secretary. She and postcard committee members Linda Bentley, Mary Shannon and Becky Eklund had reviewed three designs offered by Printcraft Printing and selected one. She passed around copies of the design at the meeting. Becky pulled the names of the postcard recipients from Votebuilder and provided them to Printcraft.

Bylaws changes were distributed to the four Precinct Committee Officers present at the meeting – including the two new ones – as any changes to bylaws must be approved by the PCOs, according to the Bylaws. The chair explained the changes to the Endorsements bylaws to remove the decision-making for endorsements out of the hands of the Executive Committee and also allows the group to endorse more than one candidate per race. The PCOs approved the changes. The other changes were to the voting and membership areas of the bylaws to clarify them, but also adds a requirement to be a dues-paying member to vote. Questions arose about the dues and what the amount would be. The chair explained the group will talk about that later and decide. The voting and membership changes also were approved by the four PCOs present. (The Asotin County Democrats have 5 PCOs. One was absent.)

Asotin County Democrats Platform was next on the agenda and was addressed by member Gary Namie, who explained the platform of the Washington State Democrats. A question was asked about whether the Asotin County Democrats will have a platform. That was discussed. No decisions were made.

OTHER TOPICS were brought up at the end of the meeting. Someone asked if we are doing any voter registration other than the postcards. It was explained we just missed being able to attend to the two major events: Asotin County Fair and Art Under the Elms because we were just getting organized as a group. The deadlines for applying to get a booth at both of those events next spring are coming up in the fall. Another person asked about any plans to go door-to-door to talk to people. Another asked about phone banks. Another asked about independent leaning voters, not just those already registered as democrats, and suggested that messaging other than just the Get Out the Vote would be necessary to persuade those voters to vote democratic. Another person asked about Mini-Van and finding voters there. John Rusche explained it is an app that gets information from Votebuilder. It was suggested the group spend 15 minutes discussing some talking points at the next meeting for those who wanted to go door-to-door and/or make phone calls.

NEXT MEETING is August 6, 2024, at 7 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Lorraine Nelson, secretary