



Minutes of meeting Aug. 6, 2024

At Clarkston United Methodist Church

Meeting called to order by Acting Chair John Rusche. There were 21 members attending in person, four guests, and Chair Becky Eklund attending via Zoom. Each person introduced themselves by name.

Guests made presentations first before any other business so they could make the return trip to their homes. Attending from Palouse, Wash., and representing the Bob Ferguson for Governor campaign were Katherine Keener, Steve McGehee and Al Goddard. They brought signs, buttons and literature for the group and said they would like to have help at the Lentil Festival in Pullman on Aug. 17. They need people to walk in the parade.

Dr. Pam Kohlmeier, candidate for the 9th Legislative District, presented next. She is running against Joe Schmick, Republican. She also had signs and literature. The chair deferred questions for the candidate until the end of the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting on July 9, 2024, were approved.

Financial update was made available by Treasurer Roger Jones. Jones had paid for the postcard printing and mailing at Printcraft Printing in Lewiston (\$481.39 to print and mail 535 postcards) and picked up 10 extra postcards for the group. He encouraged members to go to ActBlue and make a donation. Rusche explained more about using ActBlue. The ending balance of the group's account on July 9 was \$1,1551.83.

Candidate endorsements were requested by Kohlmeier and Matthew Welde, who presented at the previous meeting and who was in the race for 5th Congressional District. The group voted to endorse Kohlmeier but decided to wait to see if Welde made it through the primary being held that day. (It was learned the following day that Welde did not advance to the general election.)

Changes in the Democrat's campaign for president were discussed next. Several in the group shared their views about President Biden's decision to step out of the race for re-election and endorse his vice president, Kamala Harris.

Membership dues, which were established by the change in the bylaws at the July meeting, were discussed and the group voted the cost of membership would be \$10 per year. Membership is not required to attend meetings, but it is required to vote on matters that come before the group. Rusche asked if there is a pathway to exempt a member who has a hardship and cannot pay the dues and Precinct Committee Officer Helen LeBoeuf said there is.

Get Out the Vote for the general election was next on the agenda and subtopics were: talking points, letters to editors, phone calls, door knocking, yard signs, hosting an event, and newspaper advertisements. Secretary Lorraine Nelson listed the talking points about what Democrats stand for and the group added six more to the list. Rusche encouraged people to write letters to the editor and put a reminder on their calendar to do so regularly. Topics could include particular candidates and why they are good, or the value of particular issues supported by the democrats such as schools. Rusche noted that the activities of making phone calls to prospective voters and/or knocking on their doors need to be organized and people need to have a script. He said he would be willing to explain to organizers how he has done it in his past campaigns for the legislature but that he will not volunteer to be one of the organizers. No one raised their hand to volunteer. Event hosting, Rusche explained, is usually done for a particular candidate and people who attend generally give money to that person's campaign. As for newspaper advertisements, Rusche said radio is less expensive. Treasurer Roger Jones said because of the change in presidential politics the world has changed to favor the democrats and it might be timely to advertise the group's meetings because people are excited now and may want to join. Rusche suggested advertising an event would draw more people than advertising a meeting. Jones said he would check on the details of doing some advertising. As an additional to the GOTV discussion, LeBoeuf said if she could get a list from Votebuilder of the voters in her precinct she would send them postcards and pay for the postage. Chair Becky Eklund said she would help her get the list.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024. The group considered moving it because that is the day after Labor Day weekend but decided against it because there is a conflict with the Kamala Harris debate set for that evening.

Candidate Kohlmeier took questions at the end of the meeting.

Minutes submitted by
Lorraine Nelson, secretary
Asotin County Democrats