



Business Meeting Minutes **February 4, 2025**

At Clarkston United Methodist Church

Meeting called to order 7:06 PM by Becky Eklund, President

Approval of January 7, 2025 Meeting Minutes

- Motioned / Seconded / No Discussion / Unanimous Approval

Summary of Friday, January 24, Vote Builder Training

- Several ACD members attended the training at the Clarkston Library Annex building. All attendees were provided access to the system and basic overview of how to use the system.
- VoteBuilder database has contact information for all democratic voters. Access is provided to ACD to assist volunteers in contacting and communicating with registered voters.
- It is also a repository of demographic (qualitative) data from door knocking and calling with regard to personal preferences, their issues, their opposition positions, strong or moderate stance.
- It is important for those using VoteBuilder to capture and update contact information in VoteBuilder as calls or door knocks are made. The updated data ensures more accurate targeted outreach. Garbage in – Garbage out data rules apply.

Precinct Committee Officers

- PCO's should be calling their precinct contacts to connect and inform those in their precinct about ACD.
- John Rusche asked to coordinate VoteBuilder lists for calling for memberships to ensure accuracy and to include contacts who are strong democrats, by precinct, who voted in recent history

ACTION ITEM: Linn Wheeling and Mary Nell Holden will develop phone scripts and coordinate with John Rusche for disseminating to ACD volunteers calling.

- The scripts will encourage participation in ACD, share information on upcoming events and meetings, and ask engaging questions to ensure recipients' voices are heard by their local party.
- Cody shared opportunities to engage younger demographic voters is to meet them where they are. For example, offer to provide child care during ACD meetings.

NOTE: There are 4000 registered democrats. Of all of the donations raised in Asotin County 40% have come from Democrats with 50% from Republicans

ACD Community Engagement and Activities Update

- Art Under the Elms is not an opportunity. Tables are reserved only for paid sponsors.
- Asotin County Fair April 25 -27, 2025 “A Barn Good Time”
 - Applications for tables are available online
 - Table opportunities would need volunteers to man the tables from 9AM – 9PM Saturday and Sunday.
 - ACD will apply, even though there is a waiting list.
 - Any volunteers interested in participating please contact Becky Eklund at asotincountymocrats2023@gmail.com
 - Linn Wheeling and Mary Nell Holden to pursue parade reservations

Monitoring WA State Legislation

- Becky Eklund and Clyde Nisely reviewed the Washington State Legislature website to review pending bills
- There are 400 bills in the Senate and 800 proposed in the House. Becky and Clyde identified a number of bills that are problematic for ACD principles. A more comprehensive report will be provided in upcoming meetings.

Clarkston School Board Update

- Washington School Board top priorities are securing funding for staff, transportation, materials and supplies and facilities.
- SB5263 increases special education funding cap. If the number of a school's special needs students exceed the cap, they do not receive additional funds to cover the excess.

- Legislation is proposed in the Senate to reduce the approval threshold needed to pass school bond measures and fund construction projects from 60% to 50%.
- SB5020 to provide property tax exemptions for senior citizens, those over 75 – to help address the school bond issue. Capital Gains tax with a portion of that tax going to education development and the remaining percentage to facilities
- Locally, Clarkston is exploring a SBI grant to address HVAC upgrades and updates. Written to the Senate Ways and Means Committee / writing a feasibility study to build a technical skills center in Clarkston.

Call to Action: ACD members are requested to write in favor of the two bills listed above.

- New Board member Ty Aiken. The School Board will host an open forum meeting in April. Request any members of the ACD attend to ask questions.
- The School Board meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 6:00 PM.

State Democratic Party Update

John Rusche provided a State Democratic Party update. Asotin County is part of a larger district of five counties. The central committee is made up of two classes of membership, the legislative representatives (2 from each district) and the county representatives (2 from each county).

Clarkston City Council

Joanne Gregory reported that the Clarkston City Council (CCC) business meeting focused on committee assignments and basic budget approvals for payroll. CCC has appointed Robin Albers, as Mayor pro-tem for 2025.

5Calls

Linn Wheeling provided an overview of 5Calls - a phone app that allows users to identify initiatives and bills and make calls to state legislators within the app. It is a simple and easy way to make ACD voices heard.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned 8:07 PM

Minutes submitted by
Linn J. Wheeling, MBA, CAE, ACD Secretary