

Asotin County Democrats Executive Board Minutes

Saturday, January 12, 9:00 a.m., Café La-Tay's, 15th and Fleshman, Clarkston

1. Call to Order (9 a.m.)

We began the meeting at 9:00 a.m. In attendance were Treasurer Emily Ashby; John Flerchinger; Janet Marugg, PCO Heights 6; and Chair Dan Ransom, PE, PCO Heights 5.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Chair Ransom gave the minutes of the December 1, 2018 re-organization meeting.

3. Exec-Board Reports

a. Dan Ransom, PE, Chair

Chair Ransom said that he is looking forward to a good year. He gave a three-part report. Recruiting members, especially young people (40 years and younger); education, and outreach. The board members discussed Facebook outreach, but Ms. Ashby suggested Instagram and Twitter was a place to find younger people. Board members discussed reaching out to independent voters.

Chair Ransom presented the place of the next meeting, Jawbone Flats Café in downtown Clarkston, on Saturday, Jan. 26, and 9:00 a.m. These meetings emphasize community education about national and local issues.

One local issue discussed was the state of the Asotin County Jail, and support of a possible, future bond levy. Ms. Marugg spoke in favor of a drug court and mental-health court in our county. Ms. Ashby spoke about a need to restore funds for after-school programs like the program recently cut at Grantham Elementary School. As the party that supports education, this should be a priority. Another outreach is to unions, to emphasize support of working people.

Mr. Flerchinger commented that the general membership meetings should be advertised as educational programs, "hosted by the Asotin County Democrats." Business, treasurer's report, bylaws discussion should be conducted at the executive-board meetings (of course, open to the public).

Presentation for the future:

- Human rights/civil rights
- Impact of budget cuts
- Jail
- Education/Teachers
- Unions

Ms. Ashby suggested that we take a donation for ice cream for the Veterans' Home at our fourth-Saturday meetings.

- b. , Vice Chair, .The board set filling this position as an important goal.
- c. , State Committee-member
- d. , State Committee-member
- e. Emily Ashby, Treasurer

Treasurer Ashby reported that our bank account had not changed since our last meeting, the balance at approximately \$897. She mentioned that Alive After 5 booth fee increased to \$150, plus \$50 for tchotchkes (give aways). She reminded the Chair that he needs to get on the bank-account signature approval list. She will send a secure-electronic form.

Chair Ransom mentioned that he made a donation to the committee by purchasing the domain name AsotinDemocrats.org. He stated that this .org name is more appropriate than a .com address, which is for corporations, not organizations. He arranged for the website to show "AsotinDemocrats.org" instead of the reference to GoDaddy.

f. , Secretary

4. Committee Reports

All in attendance agreed that these are important committees. Janet Marugg mentioned adding a Caucus Committee. She said that now is the time to begin preparation for the March, 2020 caucus—to secure a meeting place (Clarkston High School or Walla Walla Community College). Chair Ransom mentioned that we will ask for donations at the caucus to defray building-rental costs.

a. Bylaws,

Chair Ransom and Janet Marugg will review the bylaws and bring recommendations for any updates.

b. Budget,

c. Candidate Recruitment and Development,

The members discussed the upcoming non-partisan races in 2019. These include Clarkston and Asotin city councils, and school-district elections. These are good places to recruit candidates to run for partisan races in 2020. As a local party, we can offer a candidate help with voter ID, and shoe leather.

d. Community Involvement,

There are two Facebook accounts for Asotin County Democrats. Chair Ransom will contact the other account admin to make just one group.

PCO Marugg suggested working on the YWCA Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, January 21.

We will emphasize voter registration at our booths this year. The other goal of the booth presence is to promote our educational membership meetings on the fourth Saturday.

e. Fundraising and Event Planning,

f. Legislative Action,

g. Membership,

h. New-Member Recruitment, --The board agreed that this is our number-1 effort

i. Veterans' Activities,

Attendees discussed the local agencies that support veterans. We agreed that one of our meetings will be on veterans' issues.

5. Old Business (if not covered in Reports, above)

a. PCO and Exec-Board recruitment

Chair Ransom reported that he has set a goal to appoint one new Precinct Committee Officer (PCO) per month in 2019. Treasurer Emily Ashby agreed to accept a PCO appointment. State law stipulates that appointed PCOs have the same voting rights as do elected PCOs.

Attendees discussed who could fill the state committee-member positions.

6. New Business

a. Adopt a Highway

Our next highway cleanup (Highway 12 west of Clarkston) is February 16, 9:00 a.m., followed by another highway cleanup on May 18. Treasurer Ashby suggested a meet-up for additional trash pickup, as a community-support event. She mentioned the Chamber of Commerce Spring Clean event.

b. Community awareness events

(i) Alive After 5—no data at this time

(ii) Celebrate Love—there is a tentative date for July 13, 4 p.m.—9 p.m. at Pioneer Park in Lewiston. We will have a booth

(iii) Riverfest—late summer

c. Summer Membership Meeting BBQ/Picnic—tentatively August

d. a. Agenda for next general meeting; **January 26, 2019**

Speaker: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by Dan Ransom, PE

7. Announcements

- a. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. / Human Rights Day, Monday, January 21, 2:00 p.m., Lewiston YWCA
- b. General Membership meeting, Saturday, January 26, 9:00 a.m., at Jawbone Flats Café, 6th and Sycamore, Clarkston
- c. ACD board meeting, Saturday, February 9, 9:00 a.m., at Café La-Tay's in Clarkston
- d. Adopt a Highway Cleanup, February 16, 9:00 a.m.; Evans Pond (Evans Rd and Highway 12)
- e. General membership meeting, Saturday, February 23, 9:00 a.m., Jawbone Flats Café, 6th and Sycamore, Clarkston

8. Good of the order

Janet Marugg discussed getting the Clarkston City Council to adopt a “Welcoming City” resolution, similar to Pullman. She said that this is a way to make our area stronger.

More people need to write letters to the editor. It would give newcomers an idea of the welcoming people in our area.

Board members discussed how to advertise the upcoming General Membership meeting. Chair Ransom will send a MailChimp email. Facebook ads and Instagram ads are a possibility.

The Asotin County Library Board is looking for a new board member.

9. Adjourn

We adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.