

**Sanders County Democrats**  
**Minutes from the December 8, 2019 at 2 p.m. Meeting**  
**Held at the Noxon Fire Hall**

**Members Present:** Mindy Ferrell, Karen Sheets, Mark Sheets, Donna Maughlin, Dave Lyman, Debbie Lyman, Paul Morales, and Lynne Kersten.

**In Attendance:** Jerry MacDonald.

**Call to Order:** Chair Mindy Ferrell called the meeting to order and led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Old Business:**

- **Minutes:** The September Minutes were approved as presented (**M/S/C Dave Lyman/Paul Morales.**)

**New Business:**

- **Treasurer's Report:** Karen provided copies of the detailed report as of 12/8/2019; income totaled \$5,685.15, expenses totaled \$3,874.15, and the current balance is \$5,907.74. The report was approved as presented (**M/S/C Donna Maughlin/Mark Sheets.**)
- Karen also provided attendees with the detailed Budget containing the estimates and the actuals for income and expenses for 2019. Mindy noted that membership dues are on a calendar year basis and she will be sending out renewals soon.

**Looking Back, 2019:**

- **Brochure, Business Cards, Website, Facebook Page:** All were tweaked and updated.
- **Central Committee:** Successfully reinstated our Central Committee.
- **By-Laws:** Revised and approved.
- **Interest Groups Formed:** Six groups formed, met, and held events.
- **Improved Outreach to Mineral & Lincoln County Dems:** A special thank you from Mindy to Diane Magone of Mineral County Dems.
- **Meet & Greet for Monica Lindeen:** Good turnout for this event.
- **Parades:** Only had one, but we will need to be in all of them in 2020. Going forward Mindy is going to ask Precinct People to be in charge of their town's parades.
- **Huckleberry Festival:** We have to find a new chair or co-chairs, however, since the HF itself needs new leadership, there may not even be a HF in 2020. Also, the Trout Creek Bridge is scheduled for a six week construction closure and if delayed, it could be a problem for the event.
- **Highway Clean-ups:** Thank you to Mark for coordinating these. Will do these again in May and September 2020.

- **Education Programs:** We held one educational event entitled Citizenship 101 and Weekly Legislative Emails. We held one Town Meeting and we plan to hold more in 2020.
- **Fall Banquet:** We had a fantastic Fall Fling with five inspiring candidates and about 47 in attendance. Thanks to Ernie and Donna and all who helped make it a success.
- **Candidate Meet & Greet:** Three candidates came out to the T Falls Community Center on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 to Noon. It was interesting and well-attended.

### Moving Forward, 2020:

- **Precinct Delegates** - Precinct Training will be held at the end of January or early February 2020. We need 18 people, two each, one male, one female, for the 9 Precincts. Paperwork must be filed by Mar 9, 2020, if necessary. Mark will make sure outsiders won't be able to take these positions by providing Bobbi Christensen with a letter from our Central Committee appointing our precinct persons. Mindy will work to have as full a slate as possible. Ideally, the precinct persons will be the organizers of parades and the point people for knocking on doors.
- **Educational Programs** - Ideas: Mindy will contact the group Families for Climate Change about coming to our area and holding a program. Another idea is to have an educational program about immigration law.
- **Local Candidates** – We need to find someone willing to run as an Independent or “Real” Republican to beat Paul Fielder.
- **DemCast** – Jerry MacDonald showed us a video explaining DemCast: a new information tool that can be used to combat Republican social media/news. This is vetted news/info/stories that we can promote and share through our social media. Jerry will keep us informed so we can learn more about it.

### Discussion:

- **Connectivity – Meeting Schedules and “Zoom”:** Zoom Meetings are a way Board Members, Precinct People, and Interest Group Chairs could meet online. Mindy is willing to purchase this online tool so we can use for meetings. Mindy would like to continue with “Quarterly” all-member meetings: Meet the last Sunday of the month in January, March, June, and September of 2020 (M/S/ C Mark Sheets/Donna Maughlin.)
- **Outreach Based on Interest Groups:**
  - **Public Education:** Ernie’s goal is to try to activate teachers in the political process.
  - **Public Lands:** Nothing new right now.
  - **Health & Human Services:** Erika Jaeger, Deb Achatz and Donna Maughlin are points of contact for this group.
  - **Energy Sustainability:** Brad Stacy of 350.ORG will be attending PSC hearings in Helena.

- **Human Rights:** In 2019, Valentines for Immigrants were made and sent. There was also a Lights for Liberty Event in front of the Sanders County Courthouse. Diane Magone of Mineral County sent warm clothing down to shelters in southern New Mexico. A Lights & Rights event was held in Missoula and sponsored by Montana Human Rights Network. Donna would like to have one here in Sanders County. You get your car tail lights changed while you learn about human rights and/or immigrants and the law.
- **Vets:** Donna Maughlin and Betty Meyer attended the Flag Retirement Ceremony at the VFW in Plains. Dave Lyman will try to find out more about the unfunded mandate to serve veterans—is it being implemented in our county, where, when, and how many people are being served.
- **Budget Proposal:** Mindy and Karen will work together and then Karen will present a budget proposal at our January meeting.
- **Planning Calendar:** Coordinate with Lincoln County Dems' Meet & Greet on April 25, 2020 so we have a good chance of getting candidates to come to our county around that date. MT State Dems have a calendar where candidates can see what events are happening where and when so they can coordinate their schedules and decide which events to attend. We need to consult this calendar when deciding when to hold our events.
- **Other Thoughts:** What should we do about our Sanders County Fair Booth? Jerry MacDonald volunteered to brainstorm some ideas.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m. (M/S/C **Donna Maughlin/Paul Morales.**)

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Kersten, Secretary

Mindy Ferrell, Chair