

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LINCOLN COUNTY MINUTES
GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING, JUNE 3, 2021
Hybrid Zoom and In-Person Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by DPLC Chair, Richard Cintron.

Richard began by introducing Will Ponder, owner of Sacred Grounds. Will announced he and Rebecca have found a Democratic buyer for Sacred Grounds. They have entered into a management agreement for 16 months. The new managers are Art Goldstein and Josh and Chanel Gibson.

The Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the Flag of New Mexico were recited. The agenda for tonight's meeting and the May 2021 meeting minutes were approved.

Richard introduced our Treasurer, Alicia Lopez, who gave the following report:

TREASURERS REPORT for JUNE 2, 2021

BEGINNING BALANCE **\$2,332.37**

DEPOSITS:

DONATIONS	<u>140.40</u>
TOTAL DEPOSITS	140.40

DISBURSEMENTS

FLAGS	-175.93
ACT BLUE	-7.53
CONSTANT CONTACT (1-yr subscription)	174.57
DPLC HQS RENT, Vordermann	-110.00
ZOOM	<u>-13.81</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	-481.84

ENDING BALANCE 6/3/2021 **\$1,990.93**

Richard next introduced tonight's speaker, Mona Trempe, newly elected Vice Chair of CD2. Mona has had a lifelong commitment to increasing diversity in science and technology and currently serves on the advisory board at NMSU. Her goal is to support County parties and help strengthen Democratic communities throughout the district. Mona reported she is one of two Vice Chairs for CD2, the other being Stephen Jones. Mona said one of her highest goals is that we, as County parties and County party leaders, should get to know each other better than we know them. She said we are the ones on the ground who are doing the work and we all know how important it is to take back the US Representative seat for CD2. Mona brought up the candidate recruitment strategy that was put together by Jack Pickle and said it is incredibly good and timely. Mona has learned, in conversations with Jessica Velasquez, DPNM Chair, that one of her top priorities is that we never have a race that does not have a Democrat running in it. Part of the candidate recruitment strategy is just gathering information about upcoming elections. What offices are open? What are the filing dates? What are the election dates? What are the duties and responsibilities of each office? What are the jurisdictions? Also, part of the strategy is

developing a checklist of shared values, beliefs and characteristics desired in the candidates. She suggested using the Democratic Party Platform in this effort and also talking about what the Democratic Party can do for the candidates. She recommended we really work at building out our Precinct and Ward structures. Neighborhood workshops on planning and organizing campaigns are also really important. There is a huge number of resources put together by the Democratic National Committee at TrainDemocrats.org. Every County should have access to and someone who knows how to get data in and out of VoteBuilder. Mona feels that County party people are the experts on their communities and voters and they know who to talk to and what messaging will work. Mona pointed out we are fortunate to have an office, that most Counties don't, and we can offer candidates space in our offices for their meetings and that's especially important in some of the smaller races. Mona feels that the Democratic party can do some things that campaigns cannot and the most important is voter protection. She stressed the importance of beginning work on this now rather than right before an election. She suggested we all keep a notebook containing names of people we meet who we feel might be interested in running for office someday. Mona recommended we share resources with other County Democrats so everyone doesn't have to reinvent plans.

Richard invited the audience to ask Mona questions. Charmaine O'Rourke asked if any candidates for US Rep. from CD2 have emerged. Mona mentioned several groups have been formed to explore this but she doesn't know of any current candidate. Tony Davis brought up that he feels it is important for people to get involved with getting with SPARC to help revise the platform. Delfina Diem brought up the fact that candidate, Xochitl Torres-Small, had no or very few signs in Otero County and wondered why. Mona explained that each campaign makes decisions about signs and there is really no way to control who gets them.

Richard went on to New Business. There is a new DPLC banner at our headquarters office and it looks great!

Claudia Armendariz, 1st Vice Chair, gave a report on the June County Chairs Meeting, saying Jessica Velasquez held a great meeting. She was well-prepared, organized and kept the meeting on track. She's working on a new "channel" so all districts can communicate all upcoming events. Also, DPNM is working on additional training for Precinct and Ward Captains as well as first and second chairs. Rayellen Smith shared her phone number with us, so we can call her for direction regarding all donations. Heidi Bird also volunteered to help us with fundraising ideas. Margo spoke about our fundraising plans, the yard sale, the silent auction. She also mentioned the work on turning Lincoln County blue and recruiting Precinct chairs and registering people to vote at the Saturday Farmers' Market. And lastly, Margo mentioned our efforts to conduct our first hybrid meeting, which is today.

Also under New Business, Charmaine O'Rourke asked for volunteers to march to support USPS on the next two Thursdays from 11am to 1pm.

The next item on the agenda is Old Business and Margo McKee gave a report on the silent auction to be held in October. The location hasn't been decided yet and several people have committed to donations.

Margo reported that the voter registration efforts at the Farmers' Market are pretty dismal. We need more voter registrars to sign up to work a shift on Saturday mornings or afternoons.

The last item in Old Business is that Capitan will be hosting the 66th Annual Smokey Bear Parade on Saturday, June 3rd and this year's theme is "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness". Dick Mastin and Tony Davis have volunteered to build the trailer and pull it with his vehicle, Charmaine has volunteered to be the theme leader and Millie Mastin has volunteered to help decorate the float. Dick and Tony urged people to attend the Parade and also meet early the morning of to help decorate.

Announcements:

- ❖ New Date for Multi-Family Yard sale – Saturday, July 10 - 9am-5pm
- ❖ DPLC Strategy Committee Zoom Meeting – Tuesday, July 13 - 1PM
- ❖ DPNM County Chairs Zoom Meeting – Wednesday, August 4 - 12:30PM or 5:30PM
- ❖ DPLC Monthly In-person and Zoom Meeting – Thursday, August 5 - 5PM – 7PM

To close the meeting, Charmaine announced that this segment of our meeting is new because we wanted to end our meetings by sharing a piece of good news brought about by Democrats, determined to spread our values and message of tolerance and love.

Good News Item: "It is remarkable that President Joe Biden is the first president to go to Tulsa to commemorate the 1921 massacre of Black people and destruction of the city's prosperous Black commercial district, Greenwood. Then again, considering that virtually no adult in America learned about Tulsa in public schools, it is not so shocking that the pogrom that killed approximately 300 people and wiped out a community's accumulated wealth would have been largely ignored for 100 years.

President Biden is insisting our nation address the consequences of racism. He is offering a raft of policies intended to bolster homeownership and help minority small businesses and entrepreneurs.

I hope you all agree with me that this is "good news" and a giant step in our never-ending march toward justice and equality for all."

Also:

DPNM Chair Jessica Velasquez released the following statement on Democratic Representative Melanie Stansbury's victory over Republican Senator Mark Moores in the race to represent New Mexico's first congressional district:

"Democrats sent a clear message during this election that we're not taking anything for granted when it comes to electing leaders who truly represent our values. While the GOP relied on fear mongering and lies, Democrats were building an expansive field program and working to get out the vote. We know the importance of electing strong Democrats like Melanie Stansbury, and we will continue to build on that momentum as we look toward 2022."

Will Ponder announced that Sacred Grounds is going on a new schedule being open more days and more hours. It is also going to have a great line-up of musicians to perform. He also thanked DPLC members for their continued support of Sacred Grounds.

No one having further questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned.