

# Siskiyou Democrats Grassroots News

Issue #1 – January 2020

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It's here! 2020, the most important election year of our lifetimes!

## Fun at the Fort Jones Parade!



*Scenes from the Fort Jones parade on December 14. Over 30 of your fellow Democrats marched in the parade supporting Audrey and Elizabeth! More information and photos on page 6.*



## IN THIS ISSUE

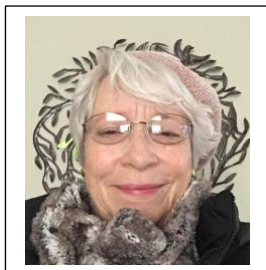
To greet the New Year, the Grassroots News is filling in the picture of what grassroots organizing is all about—what it's like, what it takes in time, energy, money, and commitment, and thumbnail portraits of our fearless leaders and their contributions. We'll also look at the Democratic Central Committee of Siskiyou County (DCCSC): its history, how it interfaces with the state and national Democratic organizations, and its committees, outreach, and fundraising efforts.

And we'll hear from some people who are giving so generously of their time to Paint Siskiyou Blue. While, with your help, we've made tremendous progress in recent years, we still have plenty to do. In 2020 we're aiming for big wins to bring our region and nation back to ethical, bi-partisan, inclusive governance.

So we hope, when you're making New Year resolutions, you'll include increasing your support in donations and time to DCCSC grassroots efforts. We believe the 2020 presidential election is a breaking-point for our country, one we cannot lose, and our goals are: to send Audrey Denney to Congress; to elect Elizabeth Betancourt to CA State Assembly; and to remove Donald J. Trump from office, one way or another.

*Your News Team:*

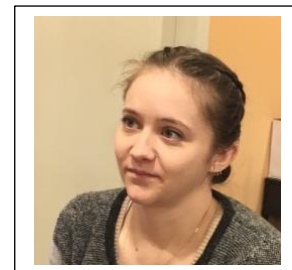
*Abigail Van Alyn*



*Robin Richards*



*Katherine Shelton*



# THE DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE SISKIYOU COUNTY

*By Carolyn Miller, DCCSC Chair*

As a teenager I lived as an exchange student with an Austrian family who'd been very active in the underground, fighting against Hitler and fascist Nazis in World War II. Their stories created a deep desire to live from my values as they had. Inspired by President Kennedy's call to all Americans in 1960, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask instead what you can do for your country," civil rights activism was my response. In 1964, traveling to Mississippi along with 600 other students from northern colleges, we registered African American voters and taught in the freedom schools. Citizen participation and community building have been the focus of my organization development career since then. Today activism against authoritarian fascist policies in our own country is more important than ever for our democracy to survive and thrive. And that's why I'm proud to serve on the DCCSC.

In 2018 and 2019 the Democratic vote in Siskiyou County for congress and state assembly increased to over 46%, up from 36% in 2016. How did that happen? An expanded, energetic DCCSC brought new operating systems and a commitment to county-wide voter engagement, increasing volunteer participation at many levels to several hundred. The Committee has 18 members from around the county, meeting alternately in Mt. Shasta and Yreka each month. DCCSC activities focus on electing Democrats and broadening understanding of current topics to better serve Siskiyou County, in ways that build community and model respectful dialogue. The work is mostly done by three standing committees—Finance, Candidate Development, Grassroots—and in many ad hoc committees, such as voter registration, fundraising dinners, endorsements, and monthly newsletter. All are open to public participation.

Statewide, the DCCSC is part of a network of county committees throughout the state, working together to elect Democrats with support from the California Democratic Party (CDP). Each county has Democratic-registration-based voting representation at the CDP convention. Convention participation can be exhilarating. In June, for instance, the DCCSC delegates helped elect Rusty Hicks as the new CDP Chair, who moved quickly to institute 21st Century policies and procedures. He initiated exemplary Sexual Harassment/ Misconduct training, complaint procedures, and corrective action policies. He established transparent financial systems, guaranteeing fiscal integrity. And he committed to expanding representation of rural California, taking first steps by visiting Siskiyou and other rural counties twice in 2019. It was exciting and gratifying to be a part of that!

Your DCCSC is hard at work "Painting Siskiyou Blue"—with your continued help in 2020, "Yes We Can."



*Carolyn Miller, Chair of the DCCSC, speaks to the crowd at the Fort Jones meet-and-greet for candidates Audrey Denney and Elizabeth Betancourt.*

## What's Happening

### **SISKIYOU DEMOCRATIC GRASSROOTS COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, January 7, 2020: Siskiyou YMCA, Yreka or  
Tuesday, January 14, 2020: Mt. Shasta Library**

Meetings begin at 6:00pm, and everyone is welcome!  
The same agenda is used for both meetings, so attend either. It's fun!

### **SISKIYOU DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, January 8, 2020 - Siskiyou YMCA, Yreka**

Meetings begin at 6pm, and all are welcome to attend.  
(Note: The meetings rotate between Yreka and Mt. Shasta.)

# GRASSROOTS ACTIVISM

By Alice Rogers, DCCSC Vice Chair



Above, Alice Rogers at the “No One Is Above the Law” march in Redding, the night before the House voted on impeachment of Trump. Just look at her now! Below, a great turn-out to mark this historic event.

If I had been asked about knocking on doors or making phone calls for politics before the 2016 election, I would have told you that I had no idea about it, and that I would be uncomfortable participating. Things have changed quite a bit for me since then!

As we began organizing our Grassroots Committee, I learned to canvass so that I could teach others. I also learned that people *want* information about candidates and issues, and many love the opportunity to have someone to talk to. And it’s fun! I enjoy listening to people’s stories and what they are feeling, and it gives me a chance to do something to influence elections.

As with most things, the more you do it, the better you become at it. With new volunteers, we go out and canvass with you until you are comfortable. We work in pairs, and you will always be able to get hold of someone if you need help or have questions. Our volunteers are the reason for the success that we have seen here in Siskiyou County! So whether you want to canvass, make calls or write postcards, you will find like-minded friends, and you’ll be contributing to getting out important information and promoting our great Democratic candidates. I can say from personal experience, it’s really rewarding to be a part of this movement!!



Scenes from the Redding “No One is Above the Law” March on December 17. Above, over 300 people march near Redding City Hall (Yay Shasta County!). Below, from left: the mark of a faithful pup, carrying the “Impeach and Remove” sign all evening; a clever IMPEACH sign led the way; and this sign says it all: “How bad does it have to get?”



# WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

*By Robin Richards, DCCSC Treasurer*

First, thanks to all of you for supporting the efforts of the DCCSC, the Democratic Central Committee of Siskiyou County! You have helped to make significant gains in votes for our Democratic candidates, and to raise morale and voter engagement across the county and even the district. We have a real chance to unseat Doug LaMalfa, and to send a truly democratic representative to the State Assembly. This couldn't be done without YOU!

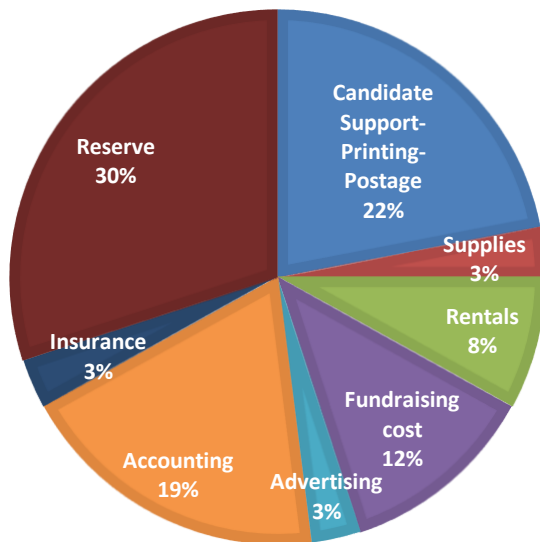
So, you may be wondering exactly how your contributions are spent. First, no one involved is paid—we are all volunteers. Many of us also spend our own funds (often in-kind) in supporting mailings, call banks, events, etc. Those funds, along with your vitally important contributions, go toward our grassroots efforts to elect Democratic candidates.

The chart below provides a breakdown of where we spent DCCSC 2019 funds. As indicated, the key areas are:

- Candidate Support- This includes printing flyers and postcards, and postage for mailing them to voters, as well as some direct support for Democrats running for local office.
- Accounting – The DCCSC is a political organization, with numerous spending and reporting requirements set forth by the CA Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) and the US Federal Elections Commission (FEC). We must keep up-to-date and follow the regulations of both, which requires specific expertise. We hire an accounting firm specializing in this to make the reports.
- Fundraiser Expense – This is the cost for putting on our fundraising dinners (e.g. invitations, food, supplies).
- Rentals – As part of our grassroots efforts, we rent booths at the Mt. Shasta 4<sup>th</sup> of July event and the Siskiyou Golden Fair. And, we are planning to have an office in Fall 2020.
- Reserve – To make certain we are able to operate effectively year to year, the DCCSC has set up a reserve of about 30%.

This level of organization and professionalism is possible only through your support, and the 18 members of the DCCSC deeply appreciate all that you do. And we have one more ask for the all-important election coming up in 2020. If you have time, join our activities, come to our meetings. And if you don't, encourage your friends to give, but above all to VOTE!! For Audrey Denney and Elizabeth Betancourt, our Democratic candidates for Congress and CA State Assembly. If you have questions about any of our activities, please give me a call at 530-598-6537!

**Let's make 2020 a truly HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**



*Robin Richards getting ready to march in the Fort Jones parade.*

## FUNDRAISING REPORTS

*By Steve Robeson and Karen Zeigler. Fundraisers*

One of the DCCSC's most important standing committees organizes our fundraising events. Over the last three years, we've been moved and amazed at the growing commitment of volunteers, and the outpouring of financial support from the community. While many have given time and effort to these events, two have taken primary leadership: Steve Robeson of Scott Valley, and Karen Zeigler of Mt. Shasta.

**Steve Robeson:** *For all three events below, lots of Grassroots and DCCSC volunteers turned out! The enthusiasm was infectious, and people seemed so happy they ignored our imperfections. Since none of us is a pro, we were pleased with all of these successes, and lessons were learned from each. But most of all, we thank you!*

**Fort Jones, March 24, 2018**—A dinner featuring LaMalfa challengers Marty Walters and Audrey Denney. About 110 people attended the dinner in Fort Jones Town Hall. Surprised everyone that the Valley showed up! Dessert auction and dinner had wonderful fundraising results. Many volunteers and donations for our first effort!

**Mt. Shasta, April 21, 2018**—Our Congressional candidates or their representatives made presentations to a crowd of over 150 people at Mt. Shasta City Park. Even better financially than Fort Jones. Dessert auction and dinner were a financial success, and excitement among Democrats is on the rise. Let's see how high we can go in support of our great candidates!

**Montague, March 30, 2019**—Audrey Denney, our endorsed Congressional candidate, was the speaker, and we had a new slogan for the dinners: "Paint Siskiyou Blue". Two hundred people! Again, we exceeded the financial results of the previous two dinners.

**Karen Zeigler:** *Fundraising is about so much more than money. Every activity—a booth, a raffle, or a four-course dinner—provides us with the opportunity to share our goals, values, and dreams with new people. It's a time to make friends, recruit new volunteers, and encourage people to become excited advocates. It's hard work, and it's fun!*

**Weed, October 12, 2019**—Audrey Denney and Elizabeth Betancourt gave rousing speeches at a dinner for 250, at the Sons of Italy Hall. Gorgeous desserts were donated for the auction, and our first silent auction was a hit. Our hard-working team were drawn closer together as we created a wonderful experience for our guests. Donations exceeded all past events, thanks to you! And every event expands the community of volunteers making a difference in our county, state and nation.

## THE PRE-TRUMP YEARS

*by Dolly Verrue, Past Chair, and Larry Marks, Past Treasurer, DCCSC*



*Pre-Trump Gold Rush Days in Yreka with those who kept the DCCSC going through many lean years. Far left, Neldena Anderson, past secretary; at right, Dolly Verrue, past chair, and Rick Greene, past vice chair. With them are Maggie and Steve Robeson, current DCCSC members and dedicated Fundraiser organizers.*

We were a small group, ranging from a low of five members to a high of 12 by November 2016. In the pre-Trump years, we sought to raise our visibility by increasing our presence in the County. We participated in the County Fair, opened offices, published regular monthly editorial columns (The Blue Wave) in the Siskiyou Daily News, and maintained a web and Facebook presence. We also joined in events from Dorris to Dunsuir.

We brought State Government to Siskiyou, hosting visits by several State Constitutional Officers, including Lt. Governor John Garamendi, Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones, Treasurer Fiona Ma, and Controller Betty Yee. And we participated in the California Democratic Party. We sent both Committee and Assembly District delegates to the State convention and the State Executive Board, and had positions in State Standing Committees.

Among regional groups, we have punched well above our weight class. For example, in Keep It California, the primary group opposing the State of Jefferson movement, we held two of the five executive board positions and stopped their forward progress. Now, we're all pleased to continue our commitment, and look forward to big wins in 2020.

## Scenes from the Fort Jones Christmas Parade



### Fort Jones Parade: December 14, 2019

*We had a terrific time at the Fort Jones Parade and the meet-and-greet for Audrey Denney and Elizabeth Betancourt which followed. Pictured above, clockwise from top left corner: Float decorating group – Jim Ayres, Mary Laurent, Tom Laurent and Madeleine Ayres; Elizabeth Betancourt and Audrey Denney get ready for the parade; Region 1E Democratic Director Bill Monroe from Chico, in the holiday spirit; Abigail Van Alyn, Neldena Anderson and Elizabeth Betancourt deep in election strategy discussion; Steve Robeson in his role as Fort Jones Parade Announcer; dedicated Democrats get ready for the parade; and horses lead the way!*

### Your Democratic Central Committee of Siskiyou County (DCCSC):

Officers: Carolyn Miller - Chair, Alice Rogers – Vice Chair, Katherine Shelton – Secretary, Robin Richards – Treasurer; Members: Neldena Anderson, Kate Coggin, Rick Green, Ann Herfindahl, Al Lugo, Larry Marks, Bill McKillop, Karina Pollard, Maggie Robeson, Steve Robeson, Daniel Soltis, Abigail Van Alyn Booraem, Dolly Verrue, and Karen Zeigler. For more information, visit our website: [siskiyoudemocrats.org](http://siskiyoudemocrats.org) or Facebook page: [SiskiyouCountyDemocrats](https://www.facebook.com/SiskiyouCountyDemocrats). Send mail and donations to: DCCSC, Post Office Box 4, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067.