



# *Josephine County Republican Women*

## *July - August, 2025 Newsletter*

The room was packed. We'd finished lunch, had a chance to visit with each other—which is one of the benefits of coming to a meeting—and waited for the main event of our morning: Alex Skarlatos, Representative for Oregon's 4th District. He had a lot to share—his year in Salem has been hard work, but work he does eagerly.

He holds firm, conservative values, and one thing is certain—he's a fighter for all of us. He also understands that being in the "Super Minority" is a constant uphill battle. He has a clear view of the issues in Salem and had much more to say.

We were all eager to hear Alex's perspective on what's possible, and we hope he can come another time. You won't want to miss the chance to hear him.



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for our website



## *A Message From Your President*



With Labor Day on the horizon, we are fast approaching the traditional end of summer. Some kids will be going back to school next week and locally many have already started. Football season is gearing up and you will begin to notice the reduction in daylight...if you haven't already! The temperature in Josephine County is rising, and I'm not talking about the thermometer!! With two recalls filed, arguments being lobbed back and forth, suits and counter-suits, it's almost impossible to know where to turn and what to think.

One thing you can be sure of is that the Josephine County Republican Women will remain neutral in all of these scuffles. According to our Bylaws, we **MUST** remain neutral **AS A CLUB**. As an individual, each of you is free to support either side. Just be sure that in all you do, you make sure it is done as a private citizen and **NOT** as a member of the Josephine County Republican Women.

Recap: Josephine County Fair. After some consideration and **LOTS OF SLEEP**, your executive board decided we will **NOT** be doing a booth at the fair again. Lots of work and very little return.

Now, let's move on to some more interesting topics, like what are we doing for the rest of the year??? We have several different and interesting speakers lined up, like Scott Hyde. He is the director of Josephine County Community Corrections, where he is responsible for daily operation of the department's various divisions.

In November, we will once again invite many veterans for lunch and to hear some of their great stories! And in December, our Scholarship winner will be in attendance to read her essay to us and give us a bit of insight into college life.

So enjoy the cooler temperatures...when they actually arrive, have a Pumpkin something and one of my favorites, get back into wearing boots again!!

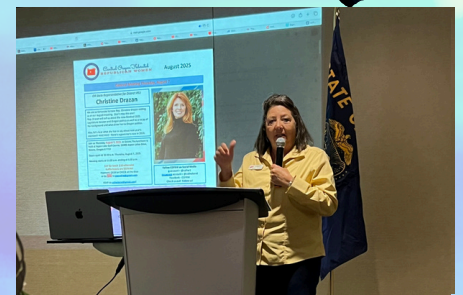




# S.W DIRECTOR'S MEETING JULY 31, 2025 SEVEN FEATHERS



- July wrapped up with a great gathering at Seven Feathers for the Southwest Directors meeting. Dordie Lamphier has served as our District Director for four years, setting the bar high for those who will follow in her footsteps. It was a chance for members and club leaders of Jackson, Josephine and Douglas counties to visit old friends and make new ones. Dordie had arranged a day packed with speakers who delivered valuable information about various issues and topics. Aaron Cubic, Grants Pass City Manager, gave an in-depth look at the homeless situation in Grants Pass. Margie Crawford, OFRW Newsletter Chair, gave tips on creating a newsletter in PowerPoint. Tom Freeman, Douglas County Commissioner and President of the AOCC - an association that works on behalf of 18 Oregon counties to ensure that these Federal lands are managed and that timber is harvested effectively, benefiting these 18 counties. The day wrapped up with Alek Skarlatos, Representative for District 4, sharing insights into his work in Salem. Linda Hellenthal of Umpqua Republican Women, was chosen as the new SW District Director.





## Meet Your New Board Members

If you get a card when you're under the weather, that was from

**Susie Wheaton,**  
our new  
**Corresponding Secretary.**



Hi there Republican Women.

My name is Susie Wheaton; I have been married to my wonderful husband for 41 years. We live on 12 acres and have a herd of Scottish Highland cows and a bull named McGregor. We also have a rescue mustang named Ford (Ford Mustang, LOL). We have chickens, two dogs and an African Grey parrot. Needless to say, our house is pretty busy. I currently have 3 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, ranging in age from 18 to 1 year.

I was born and raised in San Jose, California. I went to San Jose State to continue my music interests until

I foolishly ran away and got married to avoid the prospect of being Rodeo Queen. Big mistake! I worked for the Federal Government for over 11 years (Division of Judges for the NLRB, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (both in the Criminal and Regulatory Divisions)). We moved to Grants Pass in 1986 and have never looked back. After moving here with my mother in tow, we took on two of my granddaughters at infancy and raised them to adulthood. That was a real roll coaster ride during the teenage years. WOW!

I joined the Josephine County Republican Women's Club at the invitation of Dordie. I wanted to be around people who felt the same way I did about the direction the country was heading. It has been a great experience. I have enjoyed getting to know so many strong women with vastly different backgrounds. I'm looking forward to my next adventure when I go to the OFRW Convention.

When you click on our Face Book page and read the latest on issues going on in Josephine County, you've found the creative work done by our new **Communications' and Public Relations Chair, Ginny Stegemiller.**



Do you remember the Sears store in the Parkway Village? Ginny and her husband, Terry, took over that Sears Dealer Store from 1995 to

2010. She's helped administer contracts for construction companies, built and opened a shopping center on the corner of F Street and the GP Parkway, acting as their own general contractors. She opened a women's clothing store in that shopping center that was very special to her. It's named after her grandmother; it was called Emelia's Closet. Her grandmother was a big influence in her life. She says she's a good cook because of Emelia.

Ginny considers herself a wife, mother, a homemaker, but also a businesswoman. She never went to college, but has gained enormous knowledge and training on the job. She can visualize an idea and make it a reality, her husband Terry says. She's never asked an employee to do something she wouldn't do herself. She believes in leading by example. They sold the shopping center, Parkway Village three years ago, and now manage their residential properties.

Be sure and say hello to Ginny, a woman who believes you have to work hard for what you want, but in the end you can be successful.



## *Josephine County Republican Women*

August 19, 2025

Dear Commissioners Barnett, Blech and Smith,

The Josephine County Republican Women held their monthly meeting on August 19, 2025, where a motion was made and unanimously voted in favor of, for the following:

“The Josephine County Republican Woman’s Club strongly endorse the approval of the Library Lease as presented at the Josephine County’s Commissioners weekly meeting held on August 14, 2025.”

Respectfully,

Jennifer Green  
President  
Josephine County Republican Women

CC:

[comments@co.josephine.or.us](mailto:comments@co.josephine.or.us)

*I don't often write a piece about my thoughts on things, but this time I felt I had something to say. We're bombarded with the lack of true transparency on several fronts. I don't know about you, but I wonder why it's so hard for people in government to just be clear and up front with things. That's what brought me to write the following.*

## ***Why Local Government Needs to Be Transparent Trust, Community, and Getting Things Done***

Transparency isn't just a buzzword—it's what makes local government work for everyone.

When our city leaders are open about what they're doing, it's easier for people to get involved, ask questions, and feel like their voices actually matter. These days, people want to know what's going on behind the scenes with schools, parks, budgets, and all those decisions that shape our neighborhoods. The truth? Local government sometimes misses the mark, leaving residents annoyed or tuned out. I have some ideas why transparency matters that I want to share with you.

Being transparent means sharing information, showing how things work, and letting people see how decisions are made. When this happens, trust grows, shady decisions are less likely to happen, and people get more interested in what's going on. If you know where your tax money is going—like whether it's fixing potholes or improving schools—you're more likely to speak up for what you care about. When city government groups, like city council and county commissioners, post meeting schedules or share plans, people have a chance to ask questions about the reasoning behind changes. So, transparency isn't just “nice to have”—it's what keeps democracy alive and well.

Hiding stuff just causes problems. People lose trust, and rumors start spreading. They suspect favoritism, corruption, or bad money management. When people feel left out or confused, it hurts community spirit and makes everyone less likely to get involved. We've all heard stories about misused funds or sneaky deals—those things happen more when decisions are made behind closed doors.

At the end of the day, transparency in local government is about building trust, making better decisions, and bringing people together. When leaders are open, communities thrive. When things are kept secret, democracy suffers. We need to demand it, support it, and make it part of how we live and work together.

Linda Smith,  
Newsletter Editor



Happy  
birthday



Looking  
**AHEAD**



September 21, 2025

**Scott Hyde,**  
**Director of Josephine County**  
**Community Corrections**

Lunch:  
Taco Salad

New Member -  
  
Christine  
McGlothlin



Dordie, Linda, Jennifer, Colene, and Ginny

We had a booth at the Josephine County Fair. We had club information, jewelry, a spinning wheel for the kids, and gobs of candy.



## Josephine County Republican Women

### Membership & Renewal Application

(Please print clearly)



Club meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Wild River Pub, 533 NE F St Lunch is served at 11:15 am, \$20 at the door.(cash, check, or credit card; RSVP is required – see email address below). If you don't wish to eat lunch, we ask for \$5 to help pay for the room.

Just to let you know, as our Bylaws state, we allow two visits before we ask you to join.

Annual club dues are \$40 for new members & renewal; new associate member & renewal dues are \$20. Associate members are non-voting positions and are men or women, and women with membership in another Federated Republican Women club.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (our preferred communication): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I am a registered Republican \*\* required for both full and associate members \*\*

☐ I am a biological female. (required for full members)

(check all that apply):

☐ applying for new membership ☐ renewing full membership (\$40)

☐ applying for associate membership ☐ renewing associate membership (\$20)

☐ I need to update contact information. Please make the following changes: \_\_\_\_\_

Optional: Name badges are \$12.50 (pin) or \$14.00 (magnet). Please write how you want your name to appear: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in helping to promote JoCRW values as a volunteer for (mark all that apply)

☐ Awards ☐ Bylaws ☐ Community Outreach ☐ Education. ☐ Executive Board

☐ Fundraising ☐ Membership ☐ Phone tree. ☐ PR/FB/Website

Please include payment with your application. Make checks payable to Josephine County Republican Women or JoCRW. Bring your completed application to the next meeting or mail it to: JoCRW PO Box 2461 Grants Pass, OR 97528. Cash or checks are preferred, but we do take credit cards with Square at the meetings. **Membership will be final in 30 days.**

**Required: Your signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Falsifying any information may result in termination of your membership.

For more information about the club or an RSVP for lunch, email

[josephinecountyrepublicanwomen@gmail.com](mailto:josephinecountyrepublicanwomen@gmail.com)

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**For club use only:** Name of person receiving payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount. received: \_\_\_\_\_

Paid by: \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Square / Dues amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Badge amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership notified: \_\_\_\_\_ Funds passed to Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_

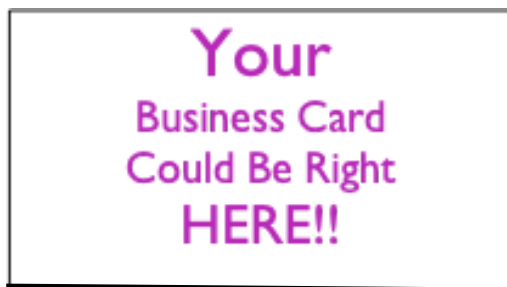
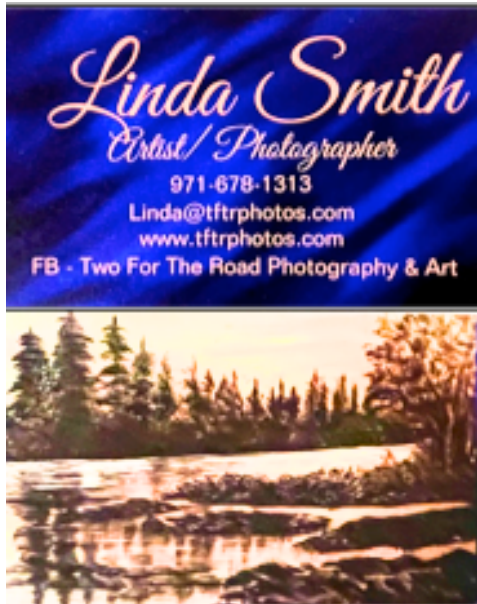
Republican voter registration confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of person submitting confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_



## Advertise in our Newsletter!

Rates are really reasonable!

Space is \$60 for the entire year. I will reproduce your business card, your photo or insert any information you'd like. Just send it to:  
Linda Smith at photolinda58@gmail.com.



It's the best advertising deal in town !  
All year for \$60.  
And all the money goes to help pay for  
the website.

