



North East Bexar County Democrats
Membership Meeting Minutes
Saturday, May 13, 2017
D.R. Semmes Family YMCA at Tripoint,
3233 N. St. Mary's Street, San Antonio, Texas 78212

(45 people present)

Exec Board present: Bob Miller, David Coffman, Bryan Gerard, Jackie Christenson, Madeleine Dewar, Jim Lucas, Mary Angie Garcia, Melissa Stroud, Zack Lyke, Daliene Hendon, Angie Peters, Dee Villarrubia

Absent: Ian Straus, William B. Johnson

I. Chairman Bob Miller called meeting to order at 10 a.m.

II. Agenda was approved

III. Introductions: Larry Romo, candidate for District Clerk, and John Courage, candidate for SA City Council district 9, were introduced and each spoke briefly.

IV. Speaker: Mike Villarreal, former TX state representative, spoke about 1) his work as a legislator; 2) his new perspective on some issues since he is no longer a legislator; 3) his analysis of educational statistics to measure investment and returns; 4) property valuations and taxes. He will provide Bob with a spreadsheet that is useful to look up taxes on comparable structures and land. If the income generated by taxes on residential and commercial properties is decreased, then the income from other sources needs to be increased or the state budget needs to be lower; 5) Redistricting of congressional districts is in the courts, possibly to be decided this summer. The next round of state redistricting will be 2021.

V. Speaker: Jere Locke, representing the Texas Drought Project, explained that the Project seeks organizations that will work toward promoting policies that will prevent climate change. He quoted a researcher, McKibben, who says that the world must have 100% renewable energy by 2033. After that it will be too late. The danger of higher temperatures at the poles is that methane will escape as the ice melts. The Democratic Party should be a leader in this regard and completely disassociate itself from providers of energy from fossil fuels. No branch of the Party nor candidate should accept contributions from the fossil fuel industry. Moved, seconded, and passed that NEBCD sign on to the Project's resolution and support it when it is presented at a CEC meeting, along with resolve to pass it on to the State DEC.

VI. Minutes of the April 8 meeting were approved

VII. Treasurer Bryan Gerard reported a balance of \$17,286.69 at the end of April

VIII. Chair's Report -no report

IX. Committee Reports

- A. Campaign and Candidate Recruitment - Moved, seconded, and passed to donate \$500 each to John Courage and Ezra Johnson for their run-off campaigns in SA City Council districts 9 and 10.
- B. Communications - no report
- C. Events and Fundraising - Co chair Mary Angie spoke of the various ideas being considered by the committee related to the Labor Day Picnic and the 2018 fundraising event(s). She invited all to a committee meeting on Thursday May 25th at 6:30.
- D. Government Action and Monitoring - no report
- E. Membership - Chair Angie Peters reported that the Club now has grown to 209 members.
- F. Precinct Organization - Chair Zack reported that he and Colt Osborn are developing online training for precinct chairs.

G. Fiesta Medals (Ad Hoc Committee) - Co chair Zack reported that he and Betty Vance are collecting ideas from members about what they would like to see on a NEBCD Fiesta medal. They will create three medal designs from which the Club can select one to take to a manufacturer for production.

X. **Unfinished Business** - Vice Chair David, facilitator of the NEBCD Five-Year Strategic Plan group, made a presentation, including a handout, outlining some accomplishments of the four Strategic Objectives that had been developed and adopted four years ago: Targeting winnable elections, Working with allied organizations, Recruiting younger members, Framing a clear message. He summarized by urging everyone to participate in the training offered online by the Texas Democratic Party at TXDemocrats.org

XI. New Business

A. Moved, seconded and passed to name Gail Wise as a third co-chair for the Events and Fundraising Committee.

B. Since Tripoint will be available to only 501.c.3 faith based organizations, the Club needs to find a different meeting space for December 2017 and all of 2018. Suggestions included the Teamsters, Plumbers Union and locations that Melissa may find in her search for fundraising venues. Bob Miller briefly reviewed the history of locations where NEBCD has met over the years and requested that all members be on the lookout for an appropriate venue.

C. Suggestions for speakers at future meetings: Michael Amezcua, Bexar Appraisal; Commissioner Tommy Calvert, International Peace Group and Oscar Kazen.

D. Moved, seconded, and passed to change meeting date from 1st to 2nd Saturday for all future NEBCD membership meetings.

E. Moved, seconded, and passed to make a one-time contribution of \$500 to the Bexar County Democratic Party with the provision that NEBCD be represented on the Fundraising Committee.

F. Voted, seconded, and passed to donate \$100 to the Center for the Intrepid in honor of the late Valerie Grace, long time NEBCD member.

XII. Announcements

A. Tuesday, May 16, Tuesday May 23, and Saturday June 3 9am to 5pm Election Judge Training, Pre-registration required. Contact Mandisa Parker, training Coordinator, Bexar Elections, 210-335-0370 MParker@Bexar.org

B. Thursday, May 18, 6:30 P.M., NEBCD Executive Board Meeting, Vance Residence, 224 Sunway

C. Thursday, May 25, 6:30 pm, NEBCD Fundraising Committee, 224 Sunway

D. Thursday, May 25, 6:30 pm, John Courage fundraiser, Tilo's Mexican Restaurant, West Avenue

E. Tuesday, May 30, to Tuesday, June 6, early voting for municipal runoff elections

F. Saturday, June 3, 2017, 10:00 A.M., NEBCD Meeting, TriPoint (45 min will be phone campaigning)

G. Saturday, June 10, municipal runoff elections

H. Tuesday, June 13, 2017, 10:00 A.M and 6:00 P.M. Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training, Pre-registration required. Call 210 335 6625 to pre-register.

I. Wednesday, June 14, 2017, 6:30 P.M., Bexar County Democratic Party Executive Committee Meeting, Luby's Cafeteria, 911 North Main Ave., San Antonio.

J. Saturday, June 24, 2017, Leadership Training sponsored by Battleground Texas, contact Kristian Thompson, Kristian Thompson <kthompson@battlegroundtexas.com>

K. Bob Comeaux announced that several groups are collaborating to plan an event sometime before June 10 runoffs as a Get Out the Vote activity and also commemorate the birthday of JFK. More details TBD.