

North East Bexar County Democrats  
Membership Meeting Minutes  
Saturday, July 8, 2017  
D.R. Semmes Family YMCA at Tripoint,  
3233 N. St. Mary's Street, San Antonio, Texas 78212

(52 people present)

Exec Board present:

Bob Miller, David Coffman, Bryan Gerard, Madeleine Dewar, Jim Lucas, Mary Angie Garcia, Gail Wise, Zack Lyle, Angie Peters, Dee Villarrubia, Ian Straus, William B. Johnson

Absent: Melissa Stroud, Daliene Hendon

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

II. Agenda was approved

III. Introductions:

Office Holders – John Courage, SA City Councilman, District 9; Peter Sakai, Judge, TX District Court

Candidates – Mary Angie Garcia, District Clerk; Larry Romo, District Clerk; Derrick Crowe, U.S. Rep, Dist. 21; Chris Perri, U.S. Rep, Dist. 21; Veronica Vasquez, Probate Court, Position 2; Rebecca Martinez, Court of Appeals Justice Position 7. Each candidate was given 30 seconds to speak

IV. Speaker: Oscar Kazen, Attorney and former Probate Court Judge

Spoke on “Mental Health and the Probate Courts”, outlining the differences between how the Probate Courts shape Bexar County mental health services today versus when Judge Kazen was in office. Bexar County mental health services have declined in availability and quality since our new Probate Court Judge entered office. He reminded us to think of several entities when/if we or our families are affected by mental health crises. 1) NAMI – National Alliance of Mentally Ill is a great resource and support source for such families. 2) CIT – Crisis Intervention Training is a program conducted by the Bexar County Sheriff's Office through their Department of Mental Health. If you must call law enforcement in any mental health situation, call the Bexar County Sheriff's office and specifically request a CIT trained officer and continue to insist on CIT help once officers arrive on scene. Remember our VA Mental Health Services, and the fact that for far too many veterans, their wars never end.

V. Speaker: Diego Bernal, TX State Representative, District 123

Spoke on “Results of 85<sup>th</sup> Session of the Texas Legislature”

Representative Bernal outlined (and provided handout) of several bills that passed and failed to pass this Legislature. He also spoke briefly of what we might expect to see in the upcoming Special Session. However, his most important takeaways were that this 85<sup>th</sup> session was perhaps the “worst session ever” in TX history; that the session, from a Democratic standpoint, was largely, “Limit Damage” and “Get What You Can”. It seems that today's TX Republican Party is bent on “Limiting/ Stripping Local Control” and targeting “Who Do We Hate” which can include LGBT persons, persons of color, women, people of any and all “stripes”, it sometimes seems. He emphasized the need for all Democrats to stay focused, realizing that the resistance requires stamina and to remain engaged for what may be a long haul through a “dark time”, remembering that we have been through dark periods before and have always come out on top!

VI. Minutes of the June 3 meeting were approved

VII. Treasurer Bryan Gerard reported a balance of \$15,456.13 at the end of June; full report available on NEBCD website

VIII. Chair's Report – None

IX. Committee Reports

A. Campaign and Candidate Recruitment – None

B. Communications – None

- C. Events and Fundraising - Co chair Mary Angie Garcia highlighted some of our fundraising items, such as our yard signs and tee shirts; she also asked for additional volunteers for the Labor Day Picnic; she recognized Bob Comeaux who gave a brief bio on our female labor honoree, SAFD Captain Rayne Dempsey and our male labor honoree, Jaime Martinez (*deceased July 16, 2017*).  
Co-chair Gail Wise announced the firm date for our spring fundraiser which is Feb 22, 2018. Date for mailing out fliers for the LDP is July 23, 2:00 pm, at Betty and Fred Vance's home at 224 Sunway
  - D. Government Action and Monitoring Committee – Co-Chair William Johnson announced that he was deferring to Co-Chair Dee Villarrubia in making future announcements to club. Dee announced that a number of boards and city entities are looking for members. She encouraged NEBCD members to apply. She also requested a detailed description of her duties as relates to this committee.
  - E. Membership – Angie Peters gave current membership as 230
  - F. Precinct Organization – Zack Lyke announced that a Precinct Chair training course will go online in August. Reminded us that the President's Commission on Voter Fraud and its call for detailed voter information is nothing more than an intimidation tactic designed to frighten and discourage voters; that all information asked for is already publicly available.
- X. Unfinished Business
- A. Bob Miller, NEBCD Chair, announced that signed petitions “Endorsement of Texas Drought Project” by NEBCD and TDP were forwarded to SDEC members and BCDP Chair.
  - B. Name and purpose of NEBCD. David Coffman stated that efforts were ongoing and that standing committees really needed more members to be successful.
  - C. Fiesta Medals. Zack Lyle presented 2 designs for consideration and encourages members to provide feedback as soon as possible. (*Cartoon image of President Trump garnered the most votes.*)
  - D. NEBCD Meeting Venue for Dec 2017 and beyond. It was moved, seconded and passed that Bob Miller (or his designee) contact the appropriate City office as early as possible on Oct 1 to reserve the City of San Antonio Northeast Service Center (the "Toolyard") meeting room for NEBCD meetings on the second Saturday of each month, December 2017 through June 2018. A friendly amendment was moved, seconded and passed that gave Bob the flexibility to consider other Saturdays if the second Saturday is taken before he can make the reservations.
- XI. New Business
- A. Speaker for August 12 meeting will be Joseph Nazaroff, presenting a brief “Civics Course”. It was moved, seconded, and accepted that we limit this meeting to the single speaker.
  - B. Posting of NEBCD monthly meeting minutes will continue. Everyone was encouraged to explore our webpage for lots of “useful info”.
- XII. Announcements
- A. Tuesday, July 11, 2017, 10:00 am and 6:00 pm Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training; Pre-registration required. Call 210.335.6625 to register.
  - B. Tuesday, July 18, 2017, 6:30 pm, Bexar County Democratic Party Executive Committee Meeting, Luby's Cafeteria, 911, N Main Av, San Antonio.
  - C. Thursday, July 20, 2017, 6:30 pm, NEBCD Executive Board Meeting, Vance home.

Meeting adjourned at 12:08 pm.  
Minutes submitted by Gail Wise