

Attending: Joanne Richards, Stewart Snider, Dave Rawlins, Mike Ignatowski, Tanya Tussing, Teresa Taylor

**Year in Review – Accomplishments:**

- 1) Incorporated as Coffee Party Austin, Inc.
- 2) Elected a Board of Directors and selected Officers
- 3) Hosted a very successful Lawrence Lessig event at UT
- 4) Grew email list on Constant Contact to 430 addresses
- 5) Grew attendance at meetings to 25 at past several meetings
- 6) Have robust website for blogs and responses
- 7) Showed **'9500 Liberty'** movie twice to interested audiences
- 8)** Initiated quarterly Book Discussions with **'Republic, Lost'**
- 9) Joined Latino groups on Day of the Fallen rally and SB9 protests
- 10) Participated in 'Save Our Schools' rally at State Capitol

**Year in Review – Lessons Learned:**

- 1) 'Enough is Enough' Rally at State Capitol not well attended needed more time to organize and better coordination and communication with other organizations.
- 2) 'Media Workshop' not well organized
- 3) **'9500 Liberty'** screening and panel needed more thought.  
 Be clear on the budget and the financial obligation of each of the players.  
 What was the moderator's role and support the moderator?  
 What was the role of each of the panelists?
  - Respond to audience Q;
  - React to the film
 There were too many panelists for the 30 minute time allotment. We should have arranged for a translator.
- 4) Diversity of attendance is limited to elderly white adults  
 Suggest more interaction with Third Coast Activist calendar  
 Provide "poster" to Carver Library

**Year in Review – Strengths and Weaknesses:**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
Passionate	Diversity – age, race and politically
Good follow through	Turnout could be greater
Symbiotic team	Not as well known as we should be
Can organize a significant event	Name is an impediment.
Content control makes for success	Need to identify future leaders
Research facts are accurate	Need to develop future leaders
Web site easy to use	

**Coffee Party Austin issue focus**

Current focus: Money in Politics and Comprehensive Immigration Reform

1. Should we expand the Money in Politics issue to Comprehensive Election Reform? This would include:

- redistricting
  - follow Sen. Wentworth's efforts to change redistricting in Texas
  - instigate a citizens intervention along the lines of SOPA
  - review Steve Bickerstaff's citizens redistricting commission proposal for drawing Austin City Council districts.
- primary election system
- skewed media coverage
- campaign finance reform
- lobbying
- ballot access
- Selective photo ID bill
- Dream Act

Conclusion: keep Money in Politics because

- Money in Politics is easier to brand than Comprehensive Election Reform
  - Many other progressive groups have Money in Politics as their focus – Common Cause, Public Citizens, etc.
2. Comprehensive Immigration Reform – keep as is.
  3. Promote civil discourse and positive solutions. Conclusion – this should become more prominent in all that we do. Match rhetoric with solutions that benefit all. *Tabled for further discussion.*

**What can we do to increase our visibility and improve our impact in this campaign year?**

*Dave and Mike volunteered to do 1 and 2:*

1. Design a Coffee Party Austin principles template that we can use to "score" candidates. Explore web sites and use VoteSmart to find out how candidates stand on these issues. Here is a start from the list above. How did or will they vote on
  - Selective photo ID Bill
  - Dream Act
  - Fair Elections Now Act
  - Sen. Wentworth's bill to create a Redistricting Commission
2. Write two questions that we can ask every candidate.

**What can we do to increase visibility – collaboration, messaging and set 2 to 3 realistic goals for 2012.**

How do we get people to

- engage and stay engaged with their time and/or money
- understand the issues – fact-based education mission
- make it worth their time

How do we get organizations *Tabled for further discussion. Need a strategy*

- working together
- coordinate legislative action
- get bills passed

1. Move to Amend resolution – some Coffee Party Austin people are involved in the Move to Amend effort to get a Move to Amend resolution passed the Austin City Council.
2. Hold an organization forum with ~5 organizations – ask each to bring their (legislative) prioritize. Goal – how can we help each other reach our goals. *Tabled until after the Fair Elections Festival (see #4).*
3. Community Conversations – Common Cause Texas and Coffee Party Austin will be seeking funding for this project beginning in March and hold conversations in September 2012. *On-going activity*
4. Fair Elections (Democracy) Festival – March 31, 2012 *On-going activity*
  - we agreed to be the organization of record for reserving the Capital Steps.
  - What organizations are on board and what role has each agreed to play?
  - we agreed to actively participate in organizing the event
    - increases our visibility
    - allows us to cooperate and coordinate with many like minded organizations
5. Design multi-meeting “replicable” programs. *Tabled for further discussion.*
6. Screen and discuss Pricele\$\$ to as many groups as possible. *On-going activity*
  - handout has been written
  - current dates scheduled:
    - January 29 at FUUC Public Forum
    - February 26 at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church*Mike volunteered to speak with his church group.*
7. Establish a Bill Moyers discussion group to discuss his Bill Moyers & Company interviews – hold on Thursday meetings at Jorge’s and some Saturday meetings.
  - recap what actions people took the previous week
  - show one or two 15 minute clips
  - discuss
  - share the actions people will take*Teresa* agreed to draft wording for an announcement  
**Approved funding for a Bill Moyers Discussion Group Meetup!**
8. Create and make available a template for a candidate report card (see above)  
 Template due by Labor Day: *Mike and Dave volunteered.*
9. Post over events on FUUC events calendar, Third Coast calendar –*Joanne volunteered*
10. Sunset Review of the Texas Ethics Commission *Stewart will keep us informed*

### Communications:

- Teresa* has agreed to proofread Constant Contact messages. *Dave* will distribute  
*Ham* has agreed to proofread messages posted on calendars.  
*Joanne* will distribute the same message to:
- Coffee Party Austin google calendar.
  - Coffee Party USA calendar – ask *Diane*
  - FUUC Public Forum email list
  - Women for Good Government listserv
  - Third Coast through Bob Jensen

- Join Coffee Party Austin
- Coffee Party Texas
- Coffee Party USA

[Tanya](#) agreed to post to the various Facebook groups and Twitter once per day  
[Mike](#) will repost to his email list

**Messaging strategy:**

- civil discourse
- positive solutions
- fact-based
- action-oriented
- Incite civility & reason
- engaged public
- trans-partisan
- effective government

**Budget:**

Recurring expenses:

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| • Constant Contact (\$13.80/month) paid until 10/22/12 | \$124.20 |
| • PO Box (6 month fee) paid until 7/2012               | \$26.00  |
| • monthly refreshments ~ \$5.00/month = 10 months      | \$50.00  |

**Other ideas:**

1. Newsletter sent through Constant Contact once/month with bullet points
  - highlights of last month with links to blog posts
  - highlights of things to come.
2. Offer Occupy Austin an opportunity to screen Pricele\$\$
3. Interview on KOOP community radio:
  - Alan Campbell program People United [Fridays 1:00-2:00] to promote Fair Elections Festival
  - David Kobierowski's program A Neighborly Conversation ended May 2011
4. [Dave](#) has a project we can use at Jorges to show Bill Moyers clips  
[Mike](#) has computers speakers we can use at Jorges.  
[Diane](#) also has projector and speakers