



BOD Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2013; 12:30-1:30
Yarborough Library

Present: Dan Eckam, Diane Owen, Dave Rawlins, Joanne Richards, Stewart Snider

Absent: Teresa Taylor (working), Mike Ignatowski

A. FINAL wording of questions for LWV voter guide:

Stewart shared that Q1 & Q4 in a similar form were accepted for the voter guide.

1. Do you support campaign financial disclosure as a means to ensure an *honest, fair and transparent* electoral and legislative system? If so, what kind?
2. Would you support any election reforms to give voters more candidate choices? If so, what election reforms?
3. Texas is 51st in voter turnout. What have you done or are going to do to inform, engage and improve voter turnout?
4. Should anything be done to raise the tone of *political discourse* by and between candidates? If so, what?

B. other questions for candidates at forums???

1. Do people or groups have to give money to be listened to or are there alternatives?
2. Do you support any measures to reduce the *influence of money* from corporations, unions and non-profit organizations on our elections. What measures do you support?

C. Potential topics for general meetings.

January 4: Let's celebrate the NEW YEAR. Help us formulate Common Ground for Texans' 2014 New Year's resolutions. **Stewart** suggested a list of resolutions to catch the reader's eye but I unfortunately didn't capture them. **Stewart**- can you email me a few "fun" resolutions and some more serious ones to get peoples thoughts flowing?

February 1: Travis County Commissioners Court judge and Place 2 primary election candidate forum. **Stewart** volunteered to write an introduction that explains the nonpartisan nature of this event. We wanted to focus on candidates for Travis County Commissioners Court - the Democratic Party is the only "party" with more than one candidate running for either Judge or Commissioner.

March 1:

By this time the Interim Committee on Judicial Reform Committee members should be announced. Is Justice for sale in Texas? Discuss information presented at Texans for Fair Courts Network Money & Justice Forum held on November 21, 2013.

- Speaker – Craig McDonald?
- Panel: one person who supports the status quo; one who is a proponent for reform?
- Hold our own community conversation looking for the way forward? Compare our responses with the responses of the four breakout sessions at the Forum.
- invite committee staff and committee members.

April 6: How to talk with people who disagree with you without backing them into a corner.

Joanne will talk with Texas Freedom Network for a speaker on this topic. Self reflect on how you try to communicate with people who do not share your point of view on an issue.

Other program suggestions:

- speaker to address the influences pressuring the Texas Congressional delegation to prevent or impose another government shutdown. Jim Henson would be a good speaker.
- Discussion of dark money and social welfare organizations. Speakers?

D. Stewart recommended that we develop guidelines for joining a network or coalition or signing on to a letter of support. *Diane will share LWV guidelines.*

Blog post assignments:

Week of Jan 6		
Week of Jan 13		
Week of Jan 20		Joanne
Week of Jan 27		

New business:

- Because **Dave** will be doing so much travelling between Texas and Wisconsin, he suggested that we find another treasurer. Dave still plans to be an active member of the board. **Dan Eckam** will be considering.
- **Diane** mentioned that her bank is changing its policy on business accounts. She suggested that we look into moving our account from Frost Bank to another local bank or a credit union. **Joanne** will look into the University Federal Credit Union.