



BOD Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2014; 1:30-3:00
Lago Vista

CHECK-IN then

Treasurer's report \$364.57

A. Endorsement policy – Diane Owens

B. May 3 general meeting

Suggested topic:

McCutcheon and Citizens United decisions – What do they mean and how we move forward?

We need your help to develop a tactical plan for the upcoming legislative session to address the influence of corruption in politics. Because there will always be money in politics, we must change our emphasis from “Is there too much money in politics?” to the influence that money has in our political system – corruption on the part of the funders and extortion on the part of candidates (especially the incumbent).

Host a forum

Ask Craig McDonald to set the stage by giving an overview of McCutcheon and Citizens United and include any doors left open by the Supreme Court. Develop a handout that states the problem using Lesterland and Represent.Us as the main sources.

Round table participants:

Some from the CG4TX board

Arthur Bianca (L) arthur.dibianca@gmail.com; 512-707-2809

Pat Dixon (L) Chair@lptexas.org

Nick Tanner (R) ntanner001@austin.rr.com

Vik Vad (R) vadfortexas@gmail.com

Jim Wick (D) mastrwik@yahoo.com

Lily Vela (D)

What questions should we be asking candidates at public forums.

What role does disclosure (and transparency) have?

What role does the FCC Section 317 have?

Tabled for September or October meeting – focus group for ThinkVoting ap and how best to engage voters especially young people and people of color in November election.

C. Potential outreach opportunities:

The Board supported these outreach efforts especially with Links in conjunction with the Fair Courts Network.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (African American)

They are “dedicated collectively to public service with emphasis on the African American community.” They have a social action committee.

The Links in Action (two chapters in Austin) (African American)

Austin Chapter Chair is District Judge Brenda Kennedy! Judicial Selection could be

interesting! There is also a Town Lake Chapter; Geraldine Tucker, J.D. is President. They “are committed to improving the quality of lives of those most in need in our respective communities.”

Long discussion about whether we should support a booth at **the R and D state conventions**. Here are the questions that we considered both at the meeting and via email afterward.

- If we go to the D state convention but not the R convention then would we be viewed as partisan?
Because we are a member of TUTA and Mike (from TUTA Houston) is applying for a TUTA booth, we could justify supporting the use of the umbrella TUTA and CG4TX name in support of TUTA-Houston's efforts if and only if cTUTA and CG4TX are given an opportunity to approve all handout materials to be certain that the information supports our message.
- We are changing the emphasis of our message from "Is there too much money in Politics?" to the focus more on the corrupting influence of the funders – using Lawrence Lessig's (Represent.US) and Brian Robert's arguments. Our approach at the D state Convention would be to provide activists who are sympathetic with the tools to go back to their cities and counties to ask their local governments to pass a resolution in support of Amendment 28; support the Disclose act that the Governor vetoed. We would share a booth and workshop with at least one other group (decrease the cost).
- If we support both the TUTA Houston effort at the R convention and a joint effort at the D convention, we could send a request for funding for both efforts to our email list.

Cost of **one workshop and display booth** at Texas **Democratic** Convention is \$500
Cost of **one display booth** at the Texas **Republican** Convention is \$1500.

	DO	DE	SN	DR	TT
Can we get our message in shape in time?	??			No	
Do we want to take this on?	??			No	
Do we want to concentrate our efforts locally?	Yes			Yes	
Do we support TUTA at the R convention?		No		No	
Do we go to the D convention?		No		No	
Do we go to either state conventions?		No		No	

?= may fall mostly on Joanne and Stewart

- D. “white papers”** progress reports
 Dan- Voting Systems
 Joanne- Disclosure and expenditures
 Stewart- Methods of drawing districts without gerrymandering.

- E. Other topics:**
 Move the civility pledge to side bar

April blog post assignments:

Week of April 7		
Week of April 14		
Week of April 21		Joanne
Week of April 28		

Announcements