



**Board of Directors Minutes
April 4, 2015, 2:00-4:00 PM
at Joanne's house**

Attendees

Joanne, Diane, Teresa, Mary, Vik, Dan.

Treasurer's report

We made \$848 from "Pay 2 Play" screenings. Our balance is now \$1218.57.

"Pay 2 Play" movie

There will be another showing May 3 at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. There's a chance there will also be a screening at the Capitol, for legislative staff.

Electoral College reform white paper

The board discussed Dan's draft of a new white paper on reforming the Electoral College. The project was begun as part of our proposed "platform" for electoral reforms, with the idea of testing how easy it would be to find "common ground" on an institution that most people agree should be reformed -- but deciding exactly how has been elusive. Board members made suggestions for editing the paper, and Dan will incorporate them in a new revision.

Considering partnership with TexPIRG

Sara Smith of TexPIRG is working on a grant proposal for a non-partisan activist training workshop, and invited Common Ground to join the effort. We are not sure of some details, including what our involvement would be, and resolved to send her questions. We would be willing to lead a training session on judicial selection reform.

Discussion of bills in the Texas legislature

As part of the Texas Anti-Corruption Campaign (TACC), we are interested in several bills currently under consideration. We will support the following bills:

HB 76 - allowing electronic voter registration

HB 587 - encouraging a voter education program for high school seniors

HB 733 - expanding the # of accepted photo IDs to include veteran health ID card and student ID cards

HB 2856 - expanding the # of accepted photo IDs to include student ID cards

HB 1656 - an amendment that includes funding sources; calling for public funding of Supreme Court and Criminal Court of Appeals candidates
HB 2088 - calling for an interim study on judicial selection methods
HCR 49 and SCR 2 -- to reverse Citizens United
HJR 147 - calling for an article V convention [Wolf-PAC supported Bill]
HB 37 and HB 38 [similar to HB 346 that passed both houses last session but vetoed by Gov. Perry]
HB 3543 - involving the Texas Supreme Court Justice
SB 19 - regarding the strengthening of ethical requirements of elected officials
SB 20 - a good contract reform bill

We considered but decided NOT to support:

HB 783 - allowing a person who will be 18 years of age on the date of the general election for state and county officers to vote in the preceding primary elections
HB 3059 - eliminating the photo voter ID
HB 2982 - relating to the renewal of VDRs

We will oppose:

SB 10 - regarding moving the public integrity unit

We are meeting weekly with the TACC and will keep them informed of our positions. Joanne will be out of town for their April 14 and 21 meetings; Dan will attend instead.

Planning upcoming general meetings

- **May 2:** will be our panel discussion, “What Is Corruption?”
Moderator: Mike Ignatowski
Expert to summarize the state of the topic: Sanford Levinson
Round table discussant recommendations??
Kurt Hildebrand (L)
Roger Borgelt (R)
James Dickey (R) David Thomas (D) never responded to email
Jan Soifer (D) Bob Libal never responded to email

For June, we didn’t have much time to discuss, but considered a legislative roundup (though it may be too early) or a discussion about the Electoral College. We’ll decide by email or at the next board meeting.