



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Mar. 4, 2017, 4:30-6:00 PM
at Char's house

Attendees:

Joanne Richards (president)
Dan Eckam (secretary)
Char Dison (board member)
Saundra Ragona (board member)
Naiman Rigby (board member)
plus Friends of the Board:
Mike, Tanya, and Dave

Discussion items:

1. Minutes approved. We confirmed approving, by email, the minutes of our last board meeting on Feb. 4.

2. Treasurer's report. Our treasurer was not in attendance, but Joanne handed out her report. Our current balance is \$1106.96.

3. Reporting on and prioritizing our legislative efforts.

We talked about the bills we are following at the Texas legislature and how much emphasis to give each one:

- **HB 496 (NPVIC bill):** we're planning to email our list about the new committee referral (Select Committee on State & Federal Power & Responsibility). We agreed this bill is our highest priority for the lege. ACTION: Joanne & Dan will visit committee members' offices to share our perspective with them.
- **HB 958 (studying judicial selection methods):** Joanne will testify in support before the Judiciary & Jurisprudence Committee; Progress Texas will share their white paper so we can update it on why we need a study of judicial selection.
- **HB 143 (online voter registration):** LWV is fully supportive; we'll put it on the back-burner and follow their lead.
- **HJR 32 (Howard)/74 (Anchia) (creating a bipartisan redistricting commission):** We decided to let Clean Elections Texas take the lead; we'll be willing to help through Integrity Texas.
- **HCR 34 (amendment to overturn Citizens United):** Referred to State & Federal Power & Responsibility.
- ACTION: We'll ask our audience and our allies' audiences to make calls about HB 496 and HCR 34 if they live in the district of a member of the committee considering both bills. We can make this request in one email, but ask citizens to make two separate calls to their rep, if

convenient. As a member of the Fair Courts Network we will ask those allies' audiences to call on behalf of HB 958.

4. Deciding on bookmark (or rack card) format.

Joanne presented the costs to print 1000 copies of our updated rack card, in three different sizes. Naiman and Char are updating the text and Stewart will help with layout. We voted 4-0, with 1 abstention, for the bookmark size 2.75 x 8 inches (cost: \$166.50). If Stewart doesn't have enough room in his layout we will go to the next bigger size.

5. Programming for upcoming meetings.

- April 1 meeting will be on redistricting: "Should Politicians Choose their Voters, or the Other Way Around?" -- with panelists Frances McIntyre (LWV), Harriett Harrow (Independent Austin Redistricting Committee), Stefan Haag (ACC).
- Programming idea brainstorming: Sandra suggested looking at the valuable role played by bureaucracies and agencies such as the EPA. Mike suggested a new effort to threaten/promise to vote in primaries en masse (since many districts are decided in the primary) -- either in support of moderate stances or opposed to extreme ones. We also considered something like "Citizenship 101" -- how to be engaged, how to most effectively contact your representatives, etc.
- For May, we decided to look at the balance of power between federal, state, local, and individual citizens (possible titles: "What is the Right Balance of Power?"; "Balancing Power Between the Feds, State, and Local: Where Do We Belong?").
- For June, we plan tentatively (unless we think of something better) to have a wrap-up of the legislative session.

