



**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 30, 2015, 2:00-4:00 PM
at Joanne's house**

Attendees

Board members present: Joanne, Diane, Mary, Dan, Teresa.

Treasurer's report

No change since last meeting; our balance is still \$1175.83.

LWV study on money in politics

The League of Women Voters will be forming a group to study money in politics. Joanne will chair this group. Details are TBD; Joanne will keep us updated, especially of potential opportunities for Common Ground to help out.

Audit Austin

Common Ground was invited by Ed English to help with an initiative to bring external auditing to Austin. Diane attended a meeting of the group and reported on it to the board. We decided it doesn't have enough of an intersection with our goals & priorities for us to get involved at this point.

Meeting plans -- September

We have three community members for the panel Sept. 12 on electoral college reform:

- Jan Soifer - TCDP
- Kurt Hildebrand - TLP
- Brian Roberts - UT

Plus Mike Ignatowski as moderator, and Dan Eckam as background presenter. We discussed questions to be sent to the panel in advance of the meeting.

Meeting plans -- October & November

For subsequent months, we would like to examine the connections between money in politics and other issues such as immigration and the private prison system. We don't know exactly what the meetings will consist of, but Joanne will email people such as Barbara Hines (UT-retired), Bob Libal (Grassroots Leadership), Alejandro Caceres (AIRC), and Cristina Tzintzún (Workers Defense Project) to see who would be willing to participate in a panel conversation.

Meeting plans -- December & early next year

We'll have our annual board retreat on December 5. We talked about possibly have a forum for candidates for the Travis County Sheriff race in February 2016. We decided we'd invite all candidates instead of just those who face a primary contest. The filing deadline for the race is Dec. 14 (according to Mary).

Coalitions update

Texas Fair Courts Network -- Joanne representing us. No big news.

Texas Anti-Corruption Campaign -- Joanne representing us. Some people (spearheaded by Liz Wally of Dallas) are working to build a "values" coalition starting from some of the same groups that compose TACC, and adding others. Joanne will attend the initial meeting.

Fair Campaign contract coalition? -- we heard interest from Brigid Shea and Fred Lewis on the idea to update Austin's Fair Campaign contract to work better with the new 10-1 council structure. Dan Buda also expressed a willingness to help. Joanne asked for a board point-person to work on this, but there were no volunteers. Joanne will email Buda to see if he can help.

Texans United to Amend -- no news. On the agenda is to get the Travis County Commissioners Court to sign a resolution supporting an amendment to overturn Citizens United.

Board recruiting update

Joanne and Mary met with Michelle Willoughby, who had hoped to attend the board meeting but couldn't. Joanne also spoke to Nick Savelli of the Texas Freedom Network and Kurt Hildebrand of the Libertarian Party about increasing our board membership. We will all keep an eye out for potential recruits.