Board of Directors Meeting -- Minutes
Sept. 21, 2019, 2:00-4:00 PM
at Joanne’s house

Attendees:
- Joanne Richards (president)
- Dan Eckam (secretary)
- Mike Ignatowski (board member)
- Mary Cullinane (board member)
- Rick Hastie (board member)

Discussion items:
1. **Minutes.** Minutes from our August 3 meeting were previously approved by email.

2. **Treasurer updates.** We collected a few bucks at the Sept. 7 meeting (not yet deposited). Our total bank balance is $1572.39.

3. **Programming: Oct. 5 meeting.**
   - The first hour will concern what's on the ballot. TBD guest will discuss the constitutional amendments. (Dick Lavine from CPPP has canceled.) Jessica Foreman from LWVAA will talk about city propositions.
   - In the 2nd hour, Dana DeBeauvoir will show a video and speak to us about the new voting system.
   - LWVAA has said they will co-host with us; we hope they'll email their members.
   - In email, we'll include some links to explanations of what will be on the ballot.
     - [https://hro.house.texas.gov/pdf/focus/amend86.pdf](https://hro.house.texas.gov/pdf/focus/amend86.pdf)
     - [https://my.lwv.org/texas/election-information](https://my.lwv.org/texas/election-information)

4. **Programming: Nov. 2 meeting.**
   - We had planned another “A House Divided” forum, but other groups are not eager to collaborate, so maybe it’s not worth our effort. (Incidentally, the library is doing an NIFI immigration discussion on Monday 9/23.)
   - Better Angels is thinking of exploring issues such as civics education; Joanne presented info to them on 9/7. At least one of their leaders attended our meeting on 9/7.
   - Joanne & Mike attended a bipartisan Better Angels red/blue workshop of equal numbers of conservatives and progressives -- about 5 of each meet separately, then come together to present their deliberations and then to discuss their impressions.
   - Better Angels would like to help us do a similar 3 hour red/blue workshop from 1:30 to 4:30. Better Angels would moderate.
   - Joanne got board approval to run with this plan for the November meeting.
5. **Other programming notes.**
   - Our annual board retreat will be the afternoon of Saturday, Dec. 7. Mary volunteered to host.
   - We should all think about prospective board members we could invite to the retreat. (On the subject of broadening viewpoint diversity in the group -- we've been invited to a meeting of North Austin Republicans. Mary and Joanne plan to go.)

6. **Activism update.**
   - Texas Fair Courts Network wrote a letter to Nathan Hecht; he recommended Wallace Jefferson and Tom Phillips to the interim Commission on Judicial Selection.
   - The group is about to send another letter to the governor, recommending 3 prominent Texans: Gary Bledsoe (NAACP), Nina Perales (MALDEF), Tracy Westen (Common Cause).
   - Ranked Choice Voting Texas seems to be working effectively on a statewide level; has a good-looking new logo and has been considering slogans. Joanne participates in the group’s phone calls. *Draft* slogan: A nonpartisan champion for greater choice and a stronger voice.

7. **Future programming ideas:**
   We spent some time considering other potential meeting topics for the future.
   - We could find an expert to talk about the impeachment process -- e.g. what counts as high crimes and misdemeanors? We’d want to do this without seeming partisan.
   - Or, ask what is a "constitutional crisis"?
   - Or, ask what is the place of norms & unwritten customs in a democracy -- or republic?
   - Dan suggested maybe something to do with the idea of civility, especially in response to a remarkable recent op-ed by Eve Fairbanks in the *Washington Post*. 