



Stonewall Democrats of Dallas

Regular Meeting Minutes DRAFT

January 17, 2023

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at Alexandre's with a hybrid ZOOM video conferencing. President Susie Hess called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Secretary Javier Ruiz was present.

Approval of Agenda

A printed meeting agenda was circulated to those present and displayed by video and adopted by vote of those present.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Tuesday, November 15, 2022 Meeting were circulated to those present and displayed by video. The minutes were approved by general consent.

Swearing in of New Executive Board

President Hess announced that the 2023 Executive Board was sworn in at Alexandre's on January 8, 2023. President Hess gave remarks, thanked Judge Dominique Collins who swore in the board members, and past presidents.

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas Officers Reports

- A. President's Report - delivered by Susie Hess.
 - Met or called individually each outgoing and incoming elected board member, committee chairs and discussed 2023 personal and organizational goals: support LGBTQ+ privacy, equality currently under attack.
 - With the 88th Texas Legislature in session, Stonewall Dems have a record number of out LGBTQ+ legislators and allies to working to block discriminatory bills and to promote positive changes to laws and regulations.
 - Involvement in direct action, e.g., Defend Dallas Drag counter-protest opposing anti-LGBTQ+ groups, at BuzzBrews (collaboration with City Council Members D2 Jesse Moreno, D14 Paul Ridley, and others)
- B. Vice President's Report - delivered by Corey Carrasco
 - Thanked elected officials, precinct chairs, and other guests on the call.
 - Highlighted upcoming events and stressed the urgency of our community to learn what is at stake and how to participate.
- C. Treasurer's Report - delivered by Jay Havran, reported that he was working with the outgoing Treasurer Jessica Oeffner to finalize the year-end Texas Ethics Commission report to be completed and submitted today.
Ending Balance on January , 2023 approximately **\$30,000**
- D. Secretary's Report - delivered by Javier Olivarez
 - Step out and show out, encouraging involvement and working across communities to branch out.

Reports of Standing Committees

- Communications - Chair, Natalya Efros - asked members to share their WHY of joining SDD, or coming out stories if comfortable; via natalya@stonewalldemocratsofdallas.org. Social media viewership has declined following record high posts regarding Spirit. Submit pics and videos to share on social media.
- Endorsements - Chair, Brandon Vance (not present). Report given by President Hess: Chair Vance is tracking candidate filings in Dallas County and is preparing to host endorsement screenings with proposed March weekend dates prior to March 21 ratification meeting. Committee membership and volunteers the day of screening will be considered from current members.

- Legislative Affairs - Chair, Jon Vogel (not present) - President Hess reported the link to Equality Texas bill tracker on our website, including a record number of anti-LGBTQ+ bills being filed by people trying to win the next Republican primary, being countered by our allies filing positive legislative priorities.
- Membership - Chair, David Fisher - renewal of membership prior to February 20 date, working to learn website and ready to help new and returning members, outreach drives. More to follow.
- Voter Registration - Chair, Martin Saenz, Vice Chair, Mille Domenech - Chair Saenz working with Dallas County Elections to set up Deputy Voter Registrar training on Feb. 16th. Need at least 20 people registered for training to proceed.
- Volunteers - Chair, Jermaca Brown (no report)
- Meetings - Chair, Ray Jordan - Aug 28, 2023 marks 60th anniversary of Civil Rights March on Washington, DC - envisioning a partnership with the community to take BIG GAY BUS!!!!
- Bylaws - Chair, Elissa Wev (not present/no report)
- Audit - Chair, Jessica Oeffner (not present/no report)
- Events/Fundraising - VACANT, all interested persons contact Susie Hess or Corey Carrasco.
- Program: Sarah Pope (she/they), Director of US Programs, LGBTQ Victory Institute discussed upcoming training in Plano Texas from February 9-12, 2023, encouraging anyone interested in running for office or managing a campaign to attend this intensive, non-partisan and practical training. Subjects include fundraising, setting winnable campaign plans, addressing anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric, and more. Attendees stay in hotel and are assigned teams to collaborate on homework projects, including a realistic campaign exercise.

Announcements

- Stonewall Dallas Board Member of the Month for December 2022 - Corey Carrasco.
- Next General Meeting of Stonewall Dallas is Tuesday, February 21 at 6:30pm CT
- Search for Committee Chair for Events/Fundraising.
- Pronouns are available (optional) in membership renewal, along with self-serve membership cards.
- Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel informs that policies related to community implemented: Respect For All in Dallas County Jail. Affordable Housing opportunities have become available; more to come.
- Callie Butcher spoke on formation of Stonewall Future Leaders Fund underway, with \$5,000 of funds raised at Spirit of Stonewall designated for this new not-for-profit. Application process is being formulated to assist younger and lower income LGBTQ leaders attending recognized trainings (meeting the criteria of the Fund). Members may join the committee. Also, as Chair of the Dallas LGBTQ Bar Association, they are working to arrange buses to various Capitol Lobby events.
- CM Jesse Moreno informs LGBTQIA+ youth homeless housing is a focal point of his district.
- Member Omar Jiminez announced the Texas LGBTQIA+ Hispanic/Latino Democrats caucus is forming.
- Strategic Plan includes canvassing, doors knocked, branching out, reaching Latino and immigrant communities with allied organizations such as 23rd Senatorial Tejano Democrats, working with other endorsing entities.
- John Rieger volunteered locating translation for materials into Vietnamese and other AAPI languages.

Adjourn

The motion to adjourn the meeting was adopted. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm following the announcements.