

**LAKE HIGHLANDS/WHITE ROCK DEMOCRATS
GENERAL MEETING VIA ZOOM
FEBRUARY 20, 2021**

Meeting convened at 10:00 a.m. by President Brian Hasenbauer with 30 participants.

Pledge of allegiance led by Treasurer Tim Sexton

PROGRAM: The topic of program was "What's Going On In Austin" Vice-President Terri Hodge introduced program presenters State Representatives Victoria Neave (District 107), Ana-Maria Ramos (District 102), and Jasmine Crockett (District 100) and thanked them and their staffs for their cooperation and participation.

Information provided by the legislators included:

- Republicans' responsibility for current weather disaster and lack of appropriate utility inspections.
- History of profits over people.
- Price gauging.
- Government responsibility to protect general welfare.
- Domestic violence increase during Covid pandemic.
- Need for funding/donations for family crisis shelters.
- Amnesty for domestic violence victims.
- Police reform bills.
- Notification of public of upcoming weather crises.
- Resuming straight party voting.
- Failing infrastructure.

Drafts of bills must be completed/submitted by next week.

Members were urged to make phone calls and write letters/emails urging that bill resuming straight party voting go to a vote.

Questions from the membership were accepted. Topics/responses included:

- The expense of mandatory disclosure in family law cases VS the benefits of discovery in getting justice.
- Legislators are most responsive to and impressed by communication from their constituents. State-wide organization of bill tracking beneficial. A mini-class on tracking bills could be made available.
- Census numbers are not expected to be available until September which will delay redistricting.

BUSINESS MEETING:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Brian Hasenbauer):

Brian thanked Terri for the great program presented today and for providing the very informative Guide to the Capital to members. He reported that 2020 Vice-President Scott

Hadden will be presented with a LH/WR Dems coffee mug and coffee shop gift card in appreciation for his excellent performance in providing programs last year. Brian announced the initiation of an award to be presented annually at the Chili Supper by the club president to a member for performing outstanding work on behalf of the club. The award will be named the Sally White President's Award as a memorial to longtime club member Sally White who passed away in January.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Terri Hodge):

Terri thanked Representatives Neave, Ramos, and Crockett for their informative program presentation. The March program topic will be an update on the Covid vaccination progress and will be presented by County Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel and Dr. Philip Huang, Director and Health Authority for the Dallas County Health and Human Services Department. The April program will be presented by Dallas County Tax Assessor John Ames and Cheryl Jordan, Director of Community Relations at Dallas Central Appraisal District. The topic will be information on how to pay taxes, benefits available for taxpayers, and the process for protesting property appraisals.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Tim Sexton):

Tim reported the club's bank balance as of 01/31/2021 was \$3738.45. Income for January was about \$850.00 with expenses totaling \$25.00. Members who have paid 2021 dues were thanked. Contributions to the memorial for Vernie Crabtree and Sally White are being received. Tim will send the amounts donated to the charities requested by Vernie and Sally the end of March.

PAC TREASURER (Dale McEowen):

The monthly report was filed on 02/05/2021.

SECRETARY (Rhonda Green):

Minutes of 02/16/2021 General Meeting were posted on chat. Upon motion made by Tim Sexton and seconded by Dale McEowen the minutes were approved as submitted.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (Judy Garrett):

Membership dues for 2021 are due by 03/31/2021. Judy is in possession of pens and t-shirts bearing the club's logo. There are currently 220 club members.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resignation of Vice-President Terri Hodge effective today. Terri announced that she has accepted the position of Criminal Justice Coordinator for State Representative Senfronia Thompson (District 141). The position will require her to travel frequently throughout the state and she will no longer be able to serve as Vice-President of the Club. Brian thanked Terri for

the outstanding programs she has provided and her planning for future programs as well as her contributions at both general and executive committee meetings.

Brian announced that the February Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for 02/22/2021 5:00 p.m. via zoom.

Upon approval of motion made by Dale McEowen and seconded by Susie Hess, the meeting was adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Green, Secretary