FAUQUIER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES: MARCH 21, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

The Chair, Dr. Pendley, made opening comments including a reminder to pay annual dues of $25 and to update your email address if it has changed.

A motion to adopt the February, 2017 meeting minutes was made, seconded, and passed. At that time, the Secretary gave a short report on the data showing the number of people that open our emails. Unfortunately, that number is less than 50%. The emails are important as they provide information about our next meetings, information about VADems and other Democratic party business, such as caucuses and nominations of candidates, and dates of some of our major activities.

The Treasurer reported on financial transactions. A motion to accept the treasurer’s report, subject to audit, was made, seconded, and passed.

The Communications Director gave an update on our Commonwealth Dinner to be held Friday, April 21, 2017, at Alwyngton Manor, Warrenton. Cocktails at an open bar begin at 7 pm, the buffet dinner begins at 7:30. The guest speaker is State Senator Jeremy McPike. Candidates for VA 18th and 31st will also be at the dinner. This is the FCDC major, annual fundraiser and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Six new members were voted into membership.

FCDC is in need of several precinct captains and several magisterial district leaders due to the resignations of some longstanding members holding these important positions. FCDC will provide as much support as needed to help new folks learn what precinct captains do (basically organize the outdoor table at your polling place on election days) and mag district leaders (basically, assist your precinct captains with election day responsibilities and serve as a communication link between the executive committee and your precinct captains.) We also encourage mag district leaders to stay in touch with their precinct captains on a regular basis. These are the volunteer jobs for you if you want to be seriously involved in our official election day responsibilities. Virginia has an election every year so, precinct captains have a job to do at least once a year!! Working outside at the polls is very important.

Report from the Civil and Political Rights Workgroup: Warren Darrell presented on this workgroup’s progress in setting up and providing voter registration training. The training does not take long and once completed, the trainee is certified by the state Registrar. Please contact Mr. Darrell if you are interested in training. Once certified, individuals can set up voter registration activities whenever they want.

Bob Zwick reported on the upcoming Rural Retreat, a nationally recognized gathering to train people to be winning candidates in rural, heavily red districts in Virginia.

Vice-chair Whitney Petrilli is coordinating with StraightouttaWarrenton for buses to the March for Science on April 22.

The next happy hour for local Dems to meet and take some time off to relax over dinner and drinks is April 6, 5:30, at El Agave in Warrenton.

Training April 23: Northern Virginia Democratic committee: How Progressives Win. $10, Fairfax High School. Please see NoVADems fb page for more details.

John McAuliff continues working on building our new web site. Contact John if you would like to help or have ideas to suggest.

Communications Committee: Both our web page and fb page are very active. The fb page, especially, contains pertinent information about upcoming activities, such as the Science March, the Tax March, etc. The fb page is also being used as the central communications site for workgroup report outs, etc.

Latino Outreach committee: Chair David Wiedenfeld is planning voter registration activities to reach the Latino community in Fauquier County. Please contact David if you are bilingual and would like to work with this committee.

Local Community Concerns workgroup: Kim Gibson, chair, announced that this committee plans to meet every other Wednesday. This will be a very active group, covering the Fauquier Board of Supervisors, Warrenton Town Council, and the school board. Members are needed for this group as they also want to reach out to other organizations in the community to hear local concerns, issues, activities of other groups, etc.

Moms Demand Action: A new group forming in Fauquier County, Carolyn Woodard, chair. This is a nonpartisan organization focusing on gun safety. The mentors are the leaders of MDA in Loudoun County.

Fauquier County Women’s Group: Chair Melissa Wiedenfeld. Current focus is on efforts of the Feminist United Group. Contact Melissa if you are interested in joining this group.

Candidates for VA 31st: Elizabeth Guzman and Sara Townsend both gave short presentations. The primary to select the Democratic candidate against incumbent Scott Lingamfelter is June 13.

Important candidate related dates:

April 18, 2017 – Call to caucus, 7:30 pm, Warrant Green Building, Warrenton, VA: to elect 1st and 5th CD reorganization convention delegates

Saturday, May 13: 5th CD convention. Must be an official delegate to attend.

Saturday, May 27, 2017: caucus to select VA 18th candidate. Warrenton Community Center. Doors open 1:15 pm, close at 2:00 pm. This caucus may be cancelled if there is only one announced candidate.

Tuesday, June 13, 2017: primary election day. Vote at your usual polling place. Selection of the Democratic candidate for VA 31st. FCDC needs several precinct captains and a magisterial district leader for the Marshall district.

Tuesday, Nov. 7: election day. Keep Virginia Blue. Vote a straight Democratic ticket.

Other dates:

April 21: Commonwealth Dinner.

April 22: Science March in DC. See fb page for more info.

May 21: Warrenton Spring Festival. Volunteers needed to help at FCDC table

May 29: People’s Climate March, DC. See fb page for more info

First Fridays: contact David Wiedenfeld if you want to help at the FCDC table

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Treusch

Secretary