

Galveston Island Democrats
Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes
ILA Local 20 Union Hall
Tuesday, April 29, 2025

Call to Order - President Carol Derragon brought the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Minutes - March 25, 2025, minutes were accepted as written.

Financial Report - Loretta Davis, Treasurer, reported that Galveston Island Democrats (GID) started April with \$15,356 and after donations and expenses ended at \$15,415. All donations are appreciated.

Activity – Focus Groups: Attendees broke into groups and rotated to tables to provide feedback on the following topics:

- Activism Activities (Denney/Salinas)
- Community Outreach (Tiernan/King)
- Fundraising (Hollaway/Woodson)
- Membership (Luis/Purvis)
- Social Activities (Arias/Penn)
- Voter Engagement (Harvey/Rivers)

Group Facilitators reported back to attendees a summary of notes taken during break-out sessions.

Committee Reports – Advance reports from committees were included with the agenda; updates were provided as noted.

Book Club – Carol Hollaway: The GID Book Club has completed its first book, [The New Climate War](#) by Michael Mann. The conversation concluded with ideas about how we, as the GID book club, can make our activities less stressful on the natural environment. Our next read is [How to Live in a Chaotic Climate: 10 Steps to Reconnect with Ourselves, Our Communities, and Our Planet](#), by Laura Schmidt, et al., Shambhala, August 8, 2023, 344 pp. The book is available as an eBook, audiobook, or paperback from a range of online merchants and can be ordered from Then and Now Bookshop in Galveston. For more information or to join the GID Book Club, contact Carol Hollaway: Precinct223Chair@gmail.com

Civic Affairs (Galveston Island) Liaison – Conni Rivers: no report

Community Outreach - Lodie Massey: no report

Hospitality – Margaret Mehringer: no report

Island Volunteer Deputy Registrars (VDR) – Lynda Harvey: no report

Legislative Affairs (Texas) – Joe Willis: [In person report] School voucher bills (SB 2 and HB 3) passed the senate and house despite our efforts. More bills to watch are SB37 and SB16. SB37 relates to the governance of public institutions of higher education. Bill is considered censorship of colleges and universities by enforcing a curriculum and degree review including penalties for non-compliance. SB16 (referred to as SAVE act) relates to requiring a person to submit proof of citizenship to register to vote. SB16 would apply to already registered voters in Texas, rather than just new applicants. It prescribes new duties for local election officials to continually check the citizenship status of voters on their rolls — with potential felony charges

for violations. The bill could create a new barrier to voting for Texas' more than 18 million registered voters and could diminish the rights of eligible voters who are not able to provide documents proving their U.S. citizenship. There is concern that if a person's current name does not match their birth name, that the person could be removed or restricted from voting. Democratic Chair, Senator Representative Wu, is putting together a Public Education Finance bill, and it will come up in the next couple of days.

Membership – Cas Luis / Janie Marshall: [In person report] 65 in attendance tonight with 11 new people attending.

Merchandise Sales – Sue Woodson: no report

Social Events – Hector Arias / Randy Penn: Several events are scheduled. Please see “Actions & Activities” below.

Technology & Communications – Janet Jordan: no report

Other:

Real ID: The deadline to have a REAL ID compliant driver's license or identification card in Texas to board domestic flights and access certain federal facilities is May 7, 2025. (For more information, <https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/driver-license/federal-real-id-act>.)

Voter Registrar: Become a Deputy Voter Registrar (VDR) and help us register voters for next year. Certification classes are free and are held the third Friday of each month at 10am in the Galveston County Courthouse (Commissioners Courtroom) located at 722 Moody Avenue in Galveston. The class is approximately one hour. For more information or to register for the class: <https://www.galvestoncountytexas.gov/our-county/tax-assessor-collector/voter-registration>

Old Business: The April 19 protest brought approximately 450 people to McGuire Dent with signs, speakers, and music! Great job!! Let's keep it up!

New Business: It was observed we typically refer to our club as Galveston Island Democrats. Conni Rivers made the following motion: I move that the Galveston County Democratic Club (GCDC) be dissolved due to inactivity and a new group be organized called the Galveston Island Democrats.

The motion was seconded by Peggy Purvis.

The motion was approved unanimously by the members present.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 27th at 7 PM.

Shelia Salinas
Secretary

Follow GID on its website and Facebook page:

<http://galvestonislanddemocrats.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/GalvestonIslandDemocrats>

Questions: email us at galvisledems@gmail.com