

Galveston Island Democrats
Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes
ILA Local 20 Union Hall
Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Call to Order - President Carol Derragon brought the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Recitation of the U. S. Constitution's preamble

Minutes: Minutes from the previous meeting accepted with provision that the attendance be added.

Financial Report: Loretta Davis, Treasurer, reported that Galveston Island Democrats (GID) started the month with \$14,250 and after donations and expenses ended at \$14,238. All donations are appreciated.

Attendance Report: 74 people attended, 8 new members

Special Speaker: Matt Molitor, Owner & Founder, Pride Center Galveston (1502 39th Street)

Background:

Born and raised in shelters of Chicago, married and embraced Midwestern values
Mom was a librarian; dad was in construction.
Joined the Navy and served six years as a mechanic on the USS Enterprise.
Taught third grade for a few years then switched to construction.
Lived in the Boston area for about 20 years.
Visited Galveston Island and fell in love with the buildings and history.

Key Topics:

Pride center took about two years to renovate 10,000 plus square feet of this building
Our mission is to provide a safe and welcoming space to our community, to connect,
learn and grow

Open about a year, working on financial stability, and growing our membership

This building has been community based with after-school program programs, AA
programs and in 1924, when it originated, housed a pharmacy.

The building now houses a gym run by Mitch, a catering service run by Chef Mary Bass,
an art gallery to support local artists, a coffee shop, a Speak Easy with drinks, a private
residence upstairs, a shared common space and a special events room.

The center operates a Pay It Forward program that encourages community members to
donate five to \$10 to buy a cup of coffee or a meal for people in need.

We need volunteers, organization leaders and partnerships on the island.

Our first program in the summer was the Galveston gay choir.

Special Performance: Galveston Gay Choir - Pride Center Galveston

Door prize and prize for donation give aways were distributed.

Volunteers requested by show of hands for Activism Committee.

Committee Reports: Published at <https://galvisledems.com/>

Old Business:

June 1, 6PM – Scholarship Gala at Old Central Cultural Center

June 14, 1-8PM – Juneteenth Festival and Celebration at McGuire Dent

June 19, 3PM – Juneteenth Parade and Picnic. Assemble on the 26th and Ball at 1PM to decorate and organize.

New Business:

July 4, 6-8 PM – Celebration hosted by Shelia & Adolfo Salinas

July 15, 4:40 - 6PM – Happy Hour at Katie's Seafood

July 17, TBD – Good Trouble protest, details to be posted on website.

July 29, 7PM – Monthly meeting

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, July 29th at 7 PM.

Shelia Salinas
Secretary

Follow GID on its website and Facebook page:

<https://galvisledems.com/>

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

Questions: email us at galvisledems@gmail.com