

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

**Call to Order** - President Carol Derragon brought the meeting to order at 7:01 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 \$14,238 and after donations and expenses ended at \$19,141. All donations are appreciated.

**Attendance Report:** 49 people attended, 2 new members (data gathered after meeting)

**Special Speaker:** Lt. Sean Miguez, Galveston Police Department (GPD)

**Key Topics:**

Safety plays a key role in determining where protests are acceptable. Must avoid private property and dangerous situations like Seawall drop off.

Drones are problematic in that there are many restrictions for use around people, critical infrastructure, and private property. In general, pilot licenses, flight plans, and permits are required. It can be done but the restrictions could take longer than the planning for the event. If the membership intends to use a drone, please let the attending officers know.

Opposition protestors or uninvited overly friendly supporters can be managed by the attending officers. Just let the officers know that someone is interfering or being confrontational and they will help to escort those people to a safe "freedom zone" such that they are separate from the protest but that their rights are also respected. The officers will need the name of a person that will take responsibility for asking for the separation in case questions occur later.

Lowering signs when emergency vehicles pass is appreciated but not necessary or required. If an emergency happens, the officers might ask protestors to lower signs but that often happens without being asked.

If a medical emergency happens, which is the most common event, notify the officers, move back from the area, and call 911. The dispatcher knows that the officers are there and will communicate with the officers to determine if more assistance is needed. If a medical event happens, but isn't an emergency, notify the officers but let the person decide if they need more assistance or will handle the situation themselves.

If gunshots happen, they often can't be heard over 50 feet away. What most will see and hear is people running and screaming. The best thing for the protestors to do is "run the X". Run either to the left or right of the shooter. It makes a person a lesser target than if they are directly in front of the shooter. The shooter will need to reposition to aim. Try to stay low and get cover. If police run by point towards the shooter.

Everyone at the event should leave the area unless asked to stay by an officer. Everyone at the event should consider themselves witnesses until they are certain they did not see anything of value. Those that believe they have information to offer should call the non-emergency number and let GPD know

that they can help. Witnesses should avoid TV and social media until they can be interviewed. The viewing of TV or social media could cloud a person's memory and make their testimony less valuable.

**Committee Reports:** Full reports published at <https://galvisledems.com/>

Book Club – Carol Hollaway: New Book, [Condominium: A Novel](#) by John D. MacDonald, Richard Ferrone, et al. Meeting Mondays in August via Zoom from 7-8:30.

Civic Affairs (Galveston Island) Liaison – Conni Rivers: Wharves Board is hosting an open house August 13 from 4PM to 6PM at Terminal 28 (28<sup>th</sup> Street & Harborside). Board to reveal previously completed expansion plans and discuss 20-year strategic plan.

Community Outreach - Lodie Massey: GID is collecting school supplies for teachers. Any donations are appreciated.

Legislative Affairs (Texas) – Joe Willis: The committee has reviewed, categorized, and analyzed all bills from the Texas House and Senate to date, and now need help contacting our legislators. Work from the committee is in a private space on the GID shared drives but will be moved forward soon for the use of the membership.

Merchandise Sales – Sue Woodson: We have new “We the People” shirts (\$25) in “flo blue” and light grey; and new Carolina blue (matches original t-shirt) ball caps (\$20) with embroidered logo. All will be on sale at the meeting.

Social Events – Hector Arias / Randy Penn:

First Friday Coffee on Friday August 1<sup>st</sup> at Pride Center 9AM-10:30AM. Information available on the website and Facebook.

ETC performance of My Fair Lady on August 7<sup>th</sup> tickets need to be bought by Tuesday/Wednesday July 29 or 30. Either meet for happy hour at Tremont at 6PM or at the theater at 7:30PM.

Happy hour August 19, 4:30PM – 6PM at Spot Tiki Bar on Seawall.

Other

Potential candidate Al Smith is here. Al is running for County Judge and would like all those in Galveston County to sign his petition.

Precinct Chairs – Kenneth MacPherson: We have 6 vacant positions for precinct chairs. Please contact Kenneth for more details.

Tom Hall, husband of GID member, Susan Syler, was killed by a motorist while riding bicycle on SH 3005.

Tom Schwenk passed. Tom is known for funding the Galveston mural, “Absolute Equality” and supporting numerous local charities.

**Old Business:**

July 17, 7PM at Fort Crocket park on Seawall – Good Trouble protest, see pictures on website.  
About 104 people attended.

**New Business:**

Trying to follow national calendar <https://www.fiftyfifty.one/events>.

Saturday, August 2 @ TBD – Rage against Regime – membership is not inclined to support a protest in August. If more information becomes available about activities in other counties, that information will be posted on website.

Saturday, September 20 @ TBD – Flash mob – Abducted Immigrants – membership will be working on the planning of this event in today’s table activities.

Saturday, October 11 @ TBD – Mock Funeral – Death of Decency; Demise of Democracy - membership will be working on the planning of this event in today’s table activities.

Door prize and prize for donation giveaways were distributed.

Membership divided between tables to help plan:

- Candidate Liaison committee creation
- Flash Mob event planning
- Legislation committee support
- Mock Funeral event planning
- Music events planning
- Postcard and Letter Writing event planning
- Sign Making event planning

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:galvisledems@gmail.com)