

Galveston Island Democrats
Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes
ILA Local 20 Union Hall
[6501 Harborside Dr, Galveston, TX 77554-2825](https://www.galvestonisdemocrats.org/6501-Harborside-Dr,-Galveston,-TX-77554-2825)
Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Pre-meeting activity: none

Call to Order: President Lynda Harvey brought the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Recitation of the Preamble to the U. S. Constitution

Minutes: Minutes from the previous meeting accepted. Motion to accept by Dean Paulson with second by Sharon Goodwin.

Financial Report: Treasurer Loretta Davis, reported that Galveston Island Democrats (GID) has \$26,167 in bank. Match amount is \$2381 for the \$5,000.00 challenge.

Attendance Report: thirty-eight people attended, four new members.

1.Approvals & Formal Motions (other than minutes)

none

2.Announcements and Discussions

A. Report from the convention

Convention Report – Maryanne Welford

- Mary Ann attended her first Texas Democratic Party convention and advised delegates to rest beforehand because the days are long and full.
- She attended several issue caucuses, including Education, Rural, Black, Gun Violence, and “No Dem Left Behind”/progressive-type caucuses.
- She heard from candidates such as Tiffany Perkins and Sharon Jane Dyson, helping her understand candidates’ positions before voting.
- She explained that delegates spend days in caucuses and candidate sessions, then attend evening general sessions with statewide candidates and party leaders.
- She valued seeing how the convention works and enjoyed the social and networking opportunities, including caucus happy hours.
- Overall, she described the convention as long but worthwhile, informative, fun, and especially meaningful with fellow Galveston Democrats.

Convention Report – Carol Hollaway

- Carol attended the 2024 Texas Democratic Party convention in El Paso and the 2026 convention in Corpus Christi.
- The 2024 convention drew about 1,300 delegates in extreme heat; the 2026 convention drew about 2,800 delegates.

- By 2026, every statewide office had a Democratic candidate, a major change from 2024.
- She described the 2024 convention as contentious, especially over progressive platform inclusion. The 2024 state chair ended the convention without a final general vote after quorum was lost.
- She found the 2026 convention more hopeful and enjoyable, with a new slate of state party officers.
- Kendall Scudder was elected State Party Chair on the first ballot with about two-thirds of the vote.
- The 2026 convention emphasized giving candidates at all levels maximum exposure through caucus and general-session speaking slots.
- Congressional District 14 delegates were seated together, helping CD-14 Democrats connect and coordinate.
- Highlights included major state and guest speakers, local wins for Tierr'ishia Bell and Connie Rivers, and the announcement that the 2028 state convention will be in Fort Worth.

B. Galveston County Convention Elections

Three Galveston County Democratic Party (GCDP) members were elected to higher offices within the State party.

Tierr'ishia Bell, Galveston County Democratic Party (GCDP) Chair was elected as President of the Texas Democratic County Chairs Association (TDCCA). The [Texas Democratic County Chairs Association](#) (TDCCA) acts as a support and advocacy network for local Democratic Party leaders across the state. They equip county chairs with the necessary training, resources, and strategic alignment to manage elections, recruit candidates, and mobilize voters effectively.

Conni Rivers, GCDP Liaison and former GID President, was elected as Co-Chair to the Congressional District 14 representative to the State Democratic Executive Committee (SDEC).

Cameron Rollwitz, former candidate for Texas Senate District 11, was elected as Co-Chair to the Congressional District 14 representative to the State Democratic Executive Committee (SDEC).

The [State Democratic Executive Committee \(SDEC\)](#) serves as the governing board of the Texas Democratic Party. It manages the party's operations between statewide conventions, directs statewide fundraising, supports local candidates via the Texas Democratic Party, and helps administer primary elections and official party rules. Cameron and Conni intend to visit clubs and counties in District 14 to keep members informed about state party activities

C. Committee Spotlight

Community Outreach Committee – Report (Lodi Massey)

Shared that the Community Outreach Committee coordinates a wide range of service and visibility projects that connect Galveston Island Democrats with the broader community.

Explained that the committee's work includes:

Hands-on service events (e.g., building picnic tables at Lukey Mansion, serving lunch at ACCT, delivering for Meals on Wheels).

Donation and drive projects (e.g., Share Your School Supplies, Share Your Holidays, Blue Santa, food drives for the Humane Society, items for the UTMB Care Closet, and support for the Ada Women's Center "Journey to Recovery").

Special projects and partnerships (e.g., Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed builds, Ronald McDonald House meals, Rosenberg Library book sale assistance, and support for parades via coordination with the parade chair).

Emphasized that there are many different ways to participate:

One-time events, ongoing routes (like Meals on Wheels), behind-the-scenes help, and more visible roles.

Clarified her role:

She will serve as the contact point,

Maintain a list of interested volunteers, and

Connect members directly to the appropriate coordinator for each project, rather than personally coordinating every activity.

Invited anyone interested in any outreach or service opportunity to speak with her so she can add them to her list or connect them with the right organizer.

D. Candidate Introductions

Al Smith – Democratic candidate for Galveston County Judge

While no longer a candidate, Sharon Lewis – Galveston City Councilperson and Mayor Pro Tem was present to greet the crowd.

D. Announcements from the Floor

Civic Affairs Committee – (Maryanne Welford)

Asked for volunteers to attend or watch local public meetings and report back, including:

City Council, School Board, Park Board, Vision Galveston, Other city boards and commissions

Many meetings are televised or recorded; good option for those with mobility issues.

City boards/commissions: televised meetings (City Council, Park Board, Planning Commission, Wharfs Board) plus audio recordings online via the city website.

School district: meetings are on Channel 17, live streamed, and archived on gisd.org (Board of Trustees section), including board, special board, and finance committee meetings.

Volunteers will sign up, attend or watch meetings, and submit brief reports so the club can stay informed.

Training on Voter Outreach – Powered by People

Announced a virtual training on July 7 hosted by Powered by People (led by Beto O'Rourke).

Topic: how to get people out to vote; open to anyone interested in new ideas for voter outreach/GOTV.

Health Care Town Hall – Shannon Dicely

Announced that Shannon Dicely, candidate for Texas Senate District 11, is hosting a health care town hall:

Date/Time: Next evening at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Texas Democratic Women (TDW) meeting at Hometown Heroes (on the mainland).

Featured speakers include:

Senator Molly Cook

Rep. Vikki Goodwin

Purpose: discuss health care issues and support Shannon's campaign.

Concern About Statewide Campaign Outreach – James Talarico (Member comment)

A member raised concern that James Talarico's gubernatorial campaign missed a major opportunity by not having Talarico present at Galveston County Juneteenth events, especially given the importance of visible presence in Black and Brown communities.

Noted that other candidates (e.g., Sarah Eckhardt, John Rosenthal, Vikki Goodwin) appeared at Juneteenth events or related activities.

Members were asked, as individuals, to contact the Talarico campaign and urge stronger Galveston County outreach, especially at Black and Brown community events, to help drive turnout.

Request for Financial and Visibility Support for Al Smith

A member asked whether Al has an ActBlue link or website so members can donate to his campaign. The member also urged support for more yard signs and countywide visibility beyond areas where Al is already known. They emphasized that Republican signs are widespread and that donating to Al is critical to help show voters there is a real alternative.

Social and Activism Events:

Events can be seen at: <https://galvisledems.com/events/>

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM. Members stayed to stuff bags for Cinco de Mayo parade.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, July 28th, at 6:30 PM for social and 7 PM for meeting.

Shelia Salinas - Secretary

Follow GID on its website and Facebook page:

Website: <https://galvisledems.com/>

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

Bylaws, Minutes and Newsletters: <https://galvisledems.com/bylaws-minutes-newsletters/>

Questions: email us at galvisledems@gmail.com