

**Roanoke City Democratic Committee  
Minutes for Thursday, July 18, 2018 Regular Meeting**

**Chair Stephen Niamke called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.** Officers Stephen Niamke (Chair), Chris Fury (Secretary), Ryan LaFountain (Treasurer), and sixteen (16) Committee members were present, providing the quorum necessary to proceed.

We welcomed guests Deb Carter, Lily Franklin, Colleen Burns, Mike Jenkins, Deborah Shealy and Chelsea Johnson.

**The June 21, 2018 minutes were approved as amended.**

**Treasurer Ryan LaFountain reported a balance on hand of \$823.** He noted the need for committee members to help him perform an audit of the books. Please contact [treasurer@roanokedems.com](mailto:treasurer@roanokedems.com) to help.

**Ryan presented the Finance and Fundraising Report, attached.**

**Chair Stephen Niamke presented the Executive Committee Report, attached.** He emphasized that subcommittees have a monthly advertised meeting, and reminded the group the Executive Committee has a regular meeting at the Grandin Co-lab, 6:30pm, the Wednesday before our general meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Stephen encouraged the subcommittees coordinate and work together and discussed a forthcoming "blueprint" for the committee.

**Chair of Nominations and Elections, Mark Lazar, reported on recommended changes to our bylaws to account for redistricting. See attached documents.** These by-law changes were accepted by the committee to be voted on at the next general meeting.

Mr. Lazar also noted there will be a Training Event for Precinct Captains and Assistant Precinct Captains on Saturday, August 25th.

**Chair of Membership, Anne Piedmont, gave her committee's report.** Her committee is working to find ways to build on the diverse members of our committee and build visibility for our committee. Build events that folks can fly our colors and engage the candidates and support those who don't like phone banking. Working on the Love SE Fest and considering adopting a part of the greenway.

**6th District Committee Members Mark Lazar informed the Committee that Kym Crump of Warren County is now Chair of the 6th District,** [and Matt Wade of Harrisonburg is Vice Chair.] Committee Member Monica Thomas was elected Outreach Chair.

**Chair of Platform and Policy, Freeda Cathcart gave her report, attached.** She submitted a resolution to the committee that is attached to be voted on in the next general meeting.

**President of CWA Local 2204 and Committee Member Chuck Simpson provided an update on Labor Caucus activities.** He reminded the committee that the Labor Day Parade is happening on September 1st. He also informed the committee that Labor will be interviewing our Congressional Nominees and Senator Tim Kaine on the 27th or the 30th of July.

**DisAbility Caucus Liaison Debra Carter reported on the upcoming DisAbility Anniversary Dinner** and mentioned the availability of twenty (20) tickets for disabled members who would like to attend.

**Coordinated Campaign Field Organizer for Roanoke City, Chelsea Johnson, spoke to their efforts.** They are actively coordinating with the Tim Kaine, Jennifer Lewis and Anthony Flaccavento campaigns, and need volunteers to canvass, phone bank and manage the office. Contact [chelsea.johnson@virginivictory.org](mailto:chelsea.johnson@virginivictory.org) to help out.

**Jennifer Lewis South Regional Field Director, Monica Thomas and Roanoke City Field Organizer Katherine Ransom spoke on behalf of their campaign.** They are organizing with the Coordinated Campaign, who are doing mostly Strong Democratic outreach, and the Lewis campaign is currently organizing persuasion canvassing. Contact Monica at [sunnydalebetty@gmail.com](mailto:sunnydalebetty@gmail.com) to help out.

**Katherine Ransom, Vice Chair of Roanoke Young Democrats** informed the committee they will be suspending their Thirsty Thursday event this month and supporting Students Demand action on August 2nd instead. Katherine invited the committee and candidates to support the Loudon Christian Church's Back to School Party on August 4.

**Legislative Director Lily Franklin spoke on behalf of Delegate Sam Rasoul.** They have a new office across from Parker's Seafood, their address is 1417 Peters Creek Rd, Roanoke, VA 24017. They are working on a new website to allow citizens to submit bills to put before the House of Delegates. Star City Sweetness is being sponsored by Sam, on September 29th.

**Committee member Luke Priddy, is now employed by State Senator John Edwards and spoke on behalf of him.** Their new office location is at the 707 Jefferson Building, suite 210, across from the downtown public library. The Senator is interested in supporting us at Moonshine and Democrats, and will also be at Acres of Democrats on August 26.

**Treasurer Ryan LaFountain and 6th District Outreach Chair Monica Thomas presented information about the Moonshine and Democrats event.** It will be a fundraiser for the Committee and CD 9 and CD 6 candidates, to be held September 1st at the Virginia Transportation Museum. Tickets to be sold at \$30. The committee needs to pay \$550 to commit to the museum idea. The assembled supported the plan with a unanimous vote.

**Treasurer Ryan LaFountain and District Leader Robert Jeffrey, Jr presented a report about the Blue Gala Festival.** A larger fundraiser, to be held Friday, October 19th, with a VIP reception at the Shenandoah Club. Will be held in conjunction with Roanoke Democratic Women, Roanoke County and Salem City Democratic Committees. Tickets will be \$50. The committee voted to support this fundraiser based on the report.

**Having been properly nominated last month, Garland Gravely and Nashia Dunnaville were adopted as Full Committee members.**

**Committee Member Monica Thomas moved that the Roanoke City Democratic Committee provide an Oscillating Misting Fan for the price of about \$150 for the I Love SE Festival on July 28th.** It was properly seconded. The vote was supported by all of the members present, with Treasurer Ryan LaFountain abstaining.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chair called for announcements.

- Next month's subcommittee reports should be submitted electronically via email by August 7th.
- Girls in Politics is having an event in September, for girls aged 10-15.



- Plowshare has silent vigil every Third Saturday at noon in the city market. All are welcome to attend.
- The City of Roanoke is begun developing a plan for the next 20 years.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36pm.