

**LAKE HIGHLANDS/WHITE ROCK DEMOCRATS
GENERAL MEETING
February 18, 2023**

The February meeting of the Lake Highlands/White Rock Democrats was held on February 18, 2023 at CC Young. President Charlie Gearing called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. He welcomed all participants and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Charlie recognized candidates/office-holders present:

- Dan Barrios, candidate for Richardson City Council at large #3, spoke of his goals. A LHHS business teacher, Dan ran in 2019. Of the 129,000 in Richardson, 49% are minority. He is active in the Cottonwood Park and lake cleanup and asked for our endorsement.

Charlie announced a new club goal of connecting with sister organizations in the area.

- Chanda P. Arboo, founder of SAAVETX (South Asian American Voter Empowerment of Texas) told us that the South Asian American community includes those from India, Nepal, Pakistan, and is the fastest growing community in Collin and Travis counties.

BUSINESS MEETING

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Charlie Gearing)

Charlie announced the following:

- April 1 Burger Bash, information at DallasDemocrats.org.
- March 18 March meeting. Speaker will be Shelly Skeen of Lambda Legal.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Bruce Anton)

Bruce listed several future meeting topics:

- April 15 meeting
- May 20 picnic, Flag Pole Hill
- June 17 meeting, speaker Nathan Johnson

VICE PRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP'S REPORT (Judy Garrett)

Judy recalled that Karla Zemler took a bus to Austin for women's rights a few years ago. She reported 2 new members, John and Jeanette Hughes from CC Young.

VICE PRESIDENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES REPORT (Caren Cool)

Caren apologized to everyone for the canceling/rescheduling of the January happy hours due to weather. The next happy hour will be **Tuesday, February 21**, 5-7 pm at District 9, Buckner/Northcliff.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Tim Sexton)

Tim reported that Suzy Wills had developed the accounting system that we use. Al Ortiz, who is familiar with that system, will conduct the annual audit for the club.

For January, Income\$ 893.00
 Expenses 559.00
 Balance \$ 6,961.04

Tim also prepares the monthly Texas Ethics Commission Reports and has filed for January.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Debbie Overby)

The minutes for January were approved and seconded. Debbie reported 4 volunteers at the February White Rock Lake Cleanup. The March cleanup will be Saturday, March 11, 10 am, south of the Bath House Cultural Center. CC Young is willing to provide a free CPR class for up to 15 members as a community service. Debbie circulated a sign up sheet (which filled up!) Charlie asked any one interested in child care during our meetings to contact him.

PHONE COMMITTEE (Rhonda Green)

Rhonda announced a new volunteer, Judy Hollis.

Charlie introduced the speaker, Ramiro Luna Hinojosa, founder of Somos Tejas. Ramiro has worked on campaigns for 20 years, most recently for Victoria Neave Criado. While working on campaigns, he learned that building neighborhood relationships first before talking about voting is more successful. He and volunteers did this by having conversations, providing Covid kits and vaccine awareness, and informing residents of available \$30 internet subsidies. Latinos make up one of the largest population groups but have the lowest voting percentages. He suggested that ways to help include volunteering, donating, and following on social media.

Treasurer Tim recommended that the \$15 in the meeting donation jar be donated to Somos Tejas. Secretary Debbie suggested we “pass the hat” to make a matching donation to SAAVETX. A total of \$167 was collected, but Chanda said it should all go to Somos Tejas.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectively submitted,

Debbie Overby, Secretary