

**LAKE HIGHLANDS/WHITE ROCK DEMOCRATS
GENERAL MEETING
August 19, 2023**

Vice-President Bruce Anton called the August 19, 2023 meeting of the Lake Highlands/White Rock Democrats to order at 10:05 am, welcomed all, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bruce recognized candidates/office-holders present:

- Callie Butcher, candidate for District 32. We sang “Happy Birthday” to her.
- Dr. Theresa Daniel, sitting Dallas County Commissioner District 1, who told us Dallas was working on affordable housing. She put in a plug for Wild DFW, a book on trails, waterways, and preserves in Texas (available on Amazon). She announced the death of Shirley Cooper, an active club member for years and we had a moment’s silence.
- Elizabeth Ginsberg, former and future candidate for State Representative District 108. She seeks to replace MAGA Morgan Meyer.
- Jan McDowell, running for Congressional District 32 (Colin Allred).
- Yasmin Simon, also running for House District 108, first-generation American and attorney, spoke of her fund-raising ability.

Bruce then introduced speakers from sibling organizations:

- Susie Hess, Stonewall Democrats. They are hosting a joint fundraiser, a drag show, with Planned Parenthood Friday, October 20. She reminded us that Stonewall endorses candidates.

Vice President Bruce Anton introduced our main speaker, Shelby Bobosky, Executive Director of Texas Humane Legislative Network.

- Shelby, a former attorney with 3 sons in DISD, first clarified that there are 2 organizations: (1) Texas Humane Legislative Network, a non-tax-deductible organization which focuses on Texas legislative issues regarding animals (puppy mills, animal cruelty, etc.), and (2) The 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt Texas Humane Network, focused on humane education.
- Of the more than 8,000 bills filed in the Texas legislature, 3 of 4 fail.
- Before 1997, animal cruelty was a misdemeanor. It is now a felony with a sentence of 2-10 years. Animal abandonment is a misdemeanor and carries a fine.
- In 2011, a puppy mill bill was passed, which requires licensing.
- There is a 97% recidivism rate with animal hoarders. The Uvalde shooter had been abusing animals for 8 months (felony).
- HB 4164, the Service Dog Bill passed. It costs \$25,000 to train a real service animal. Posers face a fine of \$300-1000 and up to 30 hours of community service.
- The Dallas Animal Shelter has to take in all surrendered animals. At any time, there may be over 400 dogs, with 800 fosters.

Sharon Hodgekiss, an attorney and the Vice President of the Texas Humane Network advised:

- There is an animal-friendly license plate, of which \$22 goes to their fund.
- April 11 is National Pet Adoption Day, a bipartisan event.
- They work to train law enforcement.

Amy Hickox, an educator and former principal, works with the Junior Advocate program.

- She has worked with specialists to create a 3rd-grade curriculum to teach students about treating animals humanely. She plans to work with scouts and other organizations.
- The Junior Advocate program teaches young people about community speaking, kindness, and cooperation.

Ziggy Aigen, a Junior Advocate, spoke to us of testifying before the Texas Legislature.

BUSINESS MEETING

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Bruce Anton)

Bruce credited Charlie with getting today's speaker(s) and announced the following:

- Sept 9 White Rock Lake Cleanup 9 am., south of Bath House Cultural Center.
- Sept 16 LHWR Democrats meeting. Speaker on zoning and issues on Garland Road.
- Oct 22 29th LHWR Democrats Chili Supper fundraiser. It will be in Q&A format with speaker Eddie Bernice Johnson and Judge Tonya Parker.
- Nov 18 LHWR Democrats meeting. Bruce took a poll to see whether for the November meeting members wanted a speaker on the banned book issue or on the environment. The vote was split.
- Dec 16 LHWR Democrats meeting. Jingle and Mingle. Members bring treats.

VICE PRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP'S REPORT (Judy Garrett)

Judy reported our membership is about 184 members. We discussed raising annual dues from \$25 single, \$30 household to \$30 single, \$40 household. It was moved to hold a formal vote in September.

VICE PRESIDENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES REPORT (Caren Cool)

Caren announced **Happy Hour, Tuesday, August 22, 5-? pm at El Fenix, Casa Linda.** She mentioned that there were Chili Supper signup sheets at the back.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Tim Sexton)

Tim has filed the monthly Texas Ethics Commission Reports for July.

For July,	Income\$	126.00
	Expenses	406.75
	Balance	\$ 7,397.86

We donated \$1,000 to the JJ (Johnson Jordan) Dinner last year for a ½ table (5 seats). In light of our balance, Tim proposed that we donate \$2,500 for ½ table this year. It was approved.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Debbie Overby)

The minutes for July were approved with corrections.

Debbie thanked faithful White Rock Lake cleanup volunteers Caren Cool and Camille Morgan. We are looking for a new chairman and exploring joining with another Democrat club.

PHONE COMMITTEE (Rhonda Green)

Rhonda thanked her committee and asked anyone interested in serving to let her know.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectively submitted,

Debbie Overby, Secretary