

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

The March meeting of the Lake Highlands/White Rock Democrats was held on March 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:

- Brian Hasenbauer, former Vice President of the Club, candidate for Dallas City Council May 6. Brian was community affairs aide for Adam McGough, who is stepping down due to term limits. Brian supports Democratic values, LGBTQ+, reducing gun violence, helping the homeless, affordable housing, and inclusive community.
- Tracie Shelby ran for 162<sup>nd</sup> Civil District Court Judge in 2022, lost, and is running again in 2024 since Maricela Moore is running for another seat. She has joined our club and wants to get to know us.
- Francine Ly, candidate for Texas House 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, running against Beth Van Duyne in 2024. She has a full campaign team now. See her website [francinelyforcongress.com](http://francinelyforcongress.com).

Charlie reminded us of his goal of connecting with sister organizations in the area.

- John Combs, President of the Garland Area Democrats, challenged us to be active all the time, not just the 6 months prior to an election. He gave an example of Republican Angie Chen Button, House District 112. She was unopposed until 2016 when her opponent got 43% of the vote. In 2018, her opponent lost by only 1100 votes, in 2020 by only 222, but then in 2022 due to legislative redistricting, her opponent Elva Curl lost by 7000 votes. His club encourages events with other clubs. He encouraged us to begin a 10 x 10 program to keep membership engaged.
- Carol Donovan, former President of our club and Democratic County Party Chair, spoke about the Dallas Founder Lions Club. They were the first Lions Club in North Texas and has sponsored more than 30 of the 70 Lions Clubs in the North Texas Area. They are recruiting new members and sponsor community projects countywide, including children's libraries and free eye clinics at elementary schools.
- Susie Hess, President of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, asked us to beware of misinformation, and asked for our help in not accepting any limitations on rights, including health care rights. She asked us to contact our legislators and the House Committee on Public Health Care.
- Dr. Theresa Daniel, Dallas County Commissioner District 1, has been a member of this club since 1992 and the Stonewall Democrats since 1998. She declared discrimination against anyone for any reason is wrong. She referred to an article in today's Dallas Morning News regarding wage disparity between men and women. She reminded us that the county works to build affordable housing, provide mental health in jails, trails, roads, and bridges. She has 2 rules: 1) we do nothing by ourselves and 2) we're not done yet! She invited all to attend Dallas County Commissioner Court Tuesday at 9 am to witness the resolution in support of LGBTQ+. She also reported that the Texas Justice Tour is next Saturday, March 25 at Sky Blu Rooftop Bar at 1949 N. Stemmons.

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** (Charlie Gearing)

Charlie reported that Kardal Coleman, Rising Together Coordinated Campaign Director for the Dallas County Democratic Party, could not attend today, but reminded us to watch their webpage for news on local elections. He said that the position of Executive Director is currently open. Interested parties should contact him.

Charlie announced that the Dallas Democrats will have a Burger Bash on Saturday, April 1, and our Vice President Bruce Anton has purchased a table. Charlie also mentioned that our club will support the JJ dinner to be held in August or September. On March 30, at 9332 Mercer, Charlie and his wife Rachel will host a meet and greet for candidate Jesse Moreno.

### **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT** (Bruce Anton)

Bruce listed several future meeting topics:

- April 15      LHWR Democrats meeting. A candidate forum with 10 of the 11 candidates. He will send candidates 2 questions for which they can prepare answers, then have 1 ad hoc question.
- May 20      LHWR Democrats picnic, Flag Pole Hill, 11-1
- June 17      LHWR Democrats meeting, speaker Nathan Johnson

### **VICE PRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP'S REPORT** (Caren Cool for Judy Garrett who is sick)

Caren reported that we have 200 members, including one new member Brad Boshear.

### **VICE PRESIDENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES REPORT** (Caren Cool)

Caren announced that she has signup sheets for the picnic at the back table. The next happy hour will be **Tuesday, March 21, 5-7 pm at Olivella's**, Mockingbird at Abrams. Buy 1 get 2 pizza until 6 and wine ½ price all night. We've invited all precinct chairs that night.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT** (Tim Sexton)

Tim distributed copies of the proposed budget and responded to a few questions. The budget was approved by membership. Tim has filed the monthly Texas Ethics Commission Reports for February.

For February, Income\$	227.00
Expenses	271.12
Balance	\$ 7,130.92

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT** (Debbie Overby)

The minutes for February were approved as corrected and seconded. Debbie reported 3 volunteers at the March White Rock Lake Cleanup. The April cleanup will be Saturday, April 8 at 10 am, south of the Bath House Cultural Center.

### **PHONE COMMITTEE** (Rhonda Green)

Rhonda requested that any member who is not getting the monthly meeting reminder calls (and wants one!) to let her know.

## **PROGRAM**

Charlie introduced the speakers then acted as moderator for

- **Shelly Skeen**, attorney for Lambda Legal  
Shelly noted that there were about 140 bills submitted in the legislature that seek to restrict the rights of LGBTQ+ persons. Lambda works with Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Nebraska, and Arkansas on these issues. There are 8 states that prohibit health care for trans youth.
- **Rachel Gonzalez**, neighbor and friend of the Gearings, and mother to a transgender daughter, Libby.

Shelly listed the “bucket” legislative items that are their focus:

1. bills that ban health care for transgender individuals
2. “Don’t Say Gay” bills that promote censorship on books, reporting of a child coming out
3. bills for deeply-held religious beliefs that allow refusal of health care
4. bills which allow refusal of goods and services to any one for any reason
5. “Drag Show” bills which limit or criminalize artistic expression

Rachel spoke out against the mis- and dis-information intentionally spread by the extreme right. There is no surgery (labeled “gender mutilation” on the Republican primary ballot) for youth under 18. Health care for a transgender kid includes mental health care and therapy, exploration of hair length and color, and options for puberty blocking 100% reversible medication (also used with children with cancer).

Calls to action from Shelly and Rachel:

- listen to someone’s lived experience, respect humanity and dignity, be kind
- signup for [equalitytexas.org](http://equalitytexas.org) newsletters to be aware of pending legislation, submit your testimony or opposition (be sure to give the specific bill numbers)
- if you know a transgender kid or family, encourage them to join PFLAG to be part of the injunction that prevents Child Protective Services from coming in
- Monday, March 20, join the “All in for Equality” rally on the steps of the capital in Austin.  
12-1:30 pm

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

From 12 – 1:30 pm, Hayley Moseley, Education Director of CC Young, led a Family and Friends class for 6 of our members that included hands-only CPR, using an AED, Heimlich maneuver for adults and children, signs of a stroke, and practice with dummies and training AED machine.

Respectively submitted,

Debbie Overby, Secretary