

LAKE HIGHLANDS/WHITE ROCK DEMOCRATS
GENERAL MEETING
June 17, 2023

The June meeting of the Lake Highlands/White Rock Democrats was held on June 17, 2023 at CC Young. Vice President Bruce Anton called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. He welcomed all participants and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bruce recognized candidates/office-holders present:

- Elizabeth Ginsberg, former candidate for State Representative District 108, thanked us for all our support in the last election. She said we had reasons to be hopeful, that Democrats over-performed and lifted candidates up and down the ballot. We made a difference in the Commissioner's Court and need to hold on to Congressional District 32 (Colin Allred).

Bruce introduced our speaker, Julie Johnson, State Representative District 115 (Addison, Farmers Branch, Coppell, Irving, Valley Ranch), who will give us an update on the latest legislative session. Julie was proud to have beaten Matt Rinaldi by double digits. She plans to announce Tuesday her plans to run to fill Colin Allred's seat.

- The DEI (anti Diversity, Exclusion, Inclusion) bill was passed.
- The budget included no additional funds for education (Julie was one of 20 who voted against the budget).
- Texas is behind on workforce development and falling further and further behind.
- She got to vote to impeach Attorney General Ken Paxton, the 3rd highest state official. She was proud of the serious attitude of the House and its move to hold him accountable.
- There was no solution to property taxes. The House voted to approve caps at 5% for rate compression. The Senate version wanted the first \$100,000 of home value exempt from property tax. This favors the homeowner, but de-incentivises moving. The governor wants rate compression only.
- 6 of Julie's bills were signed.
- The LGBTQ caucus is under attack. At the last session, 77 anti-LGBTQ bills were introduced, but 76 were killed. This session, 144 were introduced and 141 killed.
- A supplemental payment for retired teachers was passed, but a COLA boost was delayed until another special session.

During the Q/A session,

- The governor is using emergency Covid money still in place to transport immigrants.
- A bill to raise the minimum age to purchase a gun to 21 passed the House, but Republicans will not pass any gun legislation.
- Democrats need to work on their messaging to get the vote out. Julie encouraged us to follow her and share posts.
- Julie encouraged us not to stress about book bannings, since people can access banned materials online.
- She estimates it will take 2-4 years for the Roe v. Wade "bump" to have a political affect.
- A bill giving physicians and pharmacists immunity from prosecution in the case of ectopic pregnancies passed.

BUSINESS MEETING

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (none in Charlie Gearing's absence)

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Bruce Anton)

Bruce announced the following:

July 15	LHWR Democrats meeting. Speaker from the local teachers' union.
Oct 15	LHWR Democrats Chili Supper fundraiser. Keynote speaker Eddie Bernice Johnson.

VICE PRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP'S REPORT (Rhonda Green in Judy Garrett's absence)

Rhonda reported our membership is over 200 members..

VICE PRESIDENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES REPORT (Rhonda Green in Caren Cool's absence)

Rhonda shared Caren's thanks to all who participated in the picnic by bringing sides and desserts. She thanked Grillmaster Tim who cooked delicious hot dogs, including some really black ones!

The next happy hour will be **Tuesday, June 27, 5-7 pm at Olivella's**, Mockingbird at Abrams. Buy 1 get 1 pizza until 6 and wine bottles ½ price all night.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Tim Sexton)

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

For May,	Income	\$ 1,405.00 (including picnic sponsor donations of \$875)
	Expenses	459.60
	Balance	\$ 7,719.58

The audit committee of Karla Zimmerler, Bruce Parrott, and Al Ortiz audited the club's books.

Tim has made 2024 reservations as follows:

- picnic May 18 Flagpole Hill
- chili supper October 19 Winfrey Point

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Debbie Overby)

The minutes for March and April were approved.

Debbie thanked faithful White Rock Lake cleanup volunteers Caren Cool and Camille Morgan. The June cleanup will be Saturday, July 10 at 10 am, at our spot south of the Bath House Cultural Center.

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