



**Democratic Party of Valencia County (DPVC)**  
**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes 11 July 2023**

1. The meeting started at 6:04 p.m.. Committee members present: Summer Ludwig, George Colombo, Kathy McCord, Lorraine Spradling, Michael Melendez, Michelle Tafoya, Torres Leybe, Jim Renshaw, Marcos Balido and Dave Fletcher. Absent: Jeffrey Anderson.
  
2. Minutes from 7/4/2023 were approved as was the agenda for this meeting.
  
3. Report from VCFDW (Lorraine Espinosa):
  - a. The women's group hosted a state-wide Spring meeting luncheon that was well-attended. Rep Pamela Herndon and Senator Antoinette Sedillo Lopez provided a legislative roundup to the group.
  
  - b. The VCFDW will also have a booth at the America Night Out in Belen on August the 1st. They will pass out school supplies. Ms. Espinosa said she sent out an email to all the women, but will also send one out to the officers in the DPVC for their information and possible assistance.
    - i. America's night out is an event held by local law enforcement that gives families a chance to meet local law enforcement and is typically attended by every law enforcement agency in the county. It is a community event right before school starts, so we

have, in the past worked together to purchase and distribute school supplies. Ms. Espinosa stated that she would let us know further details and Mr. Melendez indicated that he was in receipt of some items that could be used as well.

- ii. We may locate a Los Lunas site to also hand out candy/water and will work with the women's group as the date gets closer to see how to best coordinate this event.

4. Young Dems of VC: Summer read a note from Isiah Baca who said they are looking to expand and welcome new members.

5. Financial Report - Michelle Tafoya reported that we have \$3,639.23 in our account, in large part due to a generous \$2000 we received from Joan Baker on behalf of the U.A. Local 412 at the end of June.

- a. Training: Michelle received training from RayEllen in June. It was revealed that it is not the county party's role to give any money to candidates, just support in the form of volunteers or people willing to help knock doors, etc.

- b. Michelle reports that every candidate last year received \$1000 and that is a reason why we are so low on funds.

- c. The bank we are using (US Bank) is not serving us well, both Michelle and Summer have had difficulty getting access, service, and support. Discussion was had about credit unions vs banks. A motion was made by Ms. McCord to research alternatives. The motion passed and Michelle will report back by next week which institution she thinks she'd like to work with.

6. County Fair Float and Booth: Lorraine Spradling is the lead and reports that she has

secured a truck from Leroy Baca and everyone will be meeting at 8:30 am at Paul Baca's vacant lot on August 26th in Belen.

- a. The cost for the float for the parade is \$100. No vote was taken as to which entity will pay this fee.
- b. Lorraine has all the decorations, but needs a donation of candy and volunteers to decorate and people to walk along or ride their bikes, etc.
- c. Lorraine will notify candidates of the fact that we have a float so they have an opportunity to donate candy, provide their signs, or donate their time at the booth.
- d. Details for volunteers for the booth have yet to be determined, Lorraine will fill in some details as the time gets closer.
- e. Ms. Espinosa stated to be sure there's a schedule drawn up so the booth is continuously manned.
- f. Motion was made by Lorraine Spradling to encourage participation in the country fair and was seconded by Kathy McCord. Ms. Espinosa reiterated that we need to work together.

## 7. Committee Reports

- a. Fundraising & Events - Linda Guenley is the lead. The October event venue has not been secured, but Summer is working on it for the Tierra del Sol venue. Linda asked that we vote on the theme of it sometime in the near future.
- b. Communications - Bill Ludwig is the lead. Bill had a meeting on the 8th explaining various platforms. We are looking for someone to run the facebook page.

- c. Rules - Dave Fletcher and Jim Renshaw will be holding a meeting with Kathy McCord to get started on county rules.
  - i. Discussion about a previous administration's attempts and efforts to find something already started either by Jeffrey Cooper or Pedro Rael. The additional folks who expressed an interest to be on this committee back in January were Lydia Rael and Theresa de Cherif so someone needs to reach out to them to see if they are still interested.
  - ii. Motion was made by Michelle Tafoya to have the Rules Committee address behaviors unbecoming of an officer, including internet harassment and gaslighting. Kathy McCord reworded the motion to "placing this on the docket for the Rules Committee members." Discussion was held and the motion did not pass.
  - iii. Although it didn't pass, the Chair did address the recent events regarding this unbecoming conduct and nobody had any questions after she was done reiterating her position about that nonsense.
- d. Candidate Recruitment – Torres Leyba/George Colombo.
- e. Exciting news!! The group "Contest every Race" that had reached out to Kathy, Marcos and Isiah got back with George and provided 130 names of people who would be willing to run for office in Valencia County! George called this "an embarrassment of riches"!
- f. Kathy asked for the list of names so we can all see if anyone in our ward is on it!

8. Committee Leadership - The following committees still need Chairs:

- a. Election Day Workers - Summer attended an Election Worker's protection training where someone said he had training materials, but then didn't provide

them. Torres volunteered to help in whatever capacity he can.

- b. Voter Registration: Lorraine Spradling mentioned that school will be starting soon and that we should have someone at the booth for the county fair.

9. Ward community meetings -

- a. Dave Fletcher is well on the way to having his first one planned, probably in the fall. He has three goals: For Dems to meet each other, to identify concerns they have, and to begin to identify worthy CCC members. All other ward chairs can attend to provide support and get a good feel for other ward's needs.
- b. Set plans and dates as soon as we can, the Party leadership should attend if possible

10. Upcoming general meeting. Tuesday, July 18th at 6pm.

- a. Guest Speakers - Professor Timothy Krebs, Mayor Griego, and Danny Bernal, Jr.
- b. DPVC Survey - Create and Disperse there and online.

11. National Night Out - VCFDW is doing their tabling in Belen, so the DPVC needs a location agreement about what we will provide at our table. August 1.

12. General Meeting Spreadsheet – Go over the spreadsheet so we can work together to get General Meetings scheduled in advance.

13. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.