



**ILLINOIS DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CHAIRS' ASSOCIATION  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2019  
ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS, 522 S. 5<sup>TH</sup> ST., SPRINGFIELD**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance – Executive Board**

President Kristina Zahorik, McHenry	Vice President Billy Halstead, Peoria	Vice President Jack Mazzotti, Christian
Vice President Terry Redman, DeWitt	Vice President Jay Briney, Mason	Vice President Charlie Laskonis, Winnebago
Vice President John Willard, Kankakee	Vice President Doris Turner, Sangamon (via proxy)	Vice President Pam Davidson, Knox (via proxy)
Secretary Mark Von Nida, Madison	At Large Member Paul (Snow) Herkert, Calhoun	At Large Member Toni Preckwinkle, Cook (via proxy)
At Large Member Teresa Vincent, Union	At Large Member Erik Rankin, McLean (via proxy)	

**Attendance – General Membership**

Keith Niewohner, Adams (via proxy)	Dan Sidwell, Bond	John Gedney, Boone
Rick Wilkin, Bureau	Joyce Brannan, Cass	Maryam Ar-Raheem, Champaign (via proxy)
John Spencer, Clay	Paul Wieck, Coles	Jim Luebke, DeKalb (via proxy)
Cynthia Borbas, DuPage	Jackie Knackmus, Edwards	Dan Niebrugge, Effingham

Al McDowell, Fayette	Daryle Coleman, Fulton	Kory Chapman, Greene
Richard Joyce, Grundy (via proxy)	Kim Weaver, Hancock (via proxy)	Dennis Austin, Hardin
Richard Bigger Jr, Henderson	Mark Pohlman, Jersey	Julie Gondar, Kendall (via proxy)
John Reis Jr, Livingston	Laura Zimmerman, Macon	Lee Trotter, McDonough
Brian Short, Menard	Jan Occhi, Mercer	Scot Luchtefeld, Monroe
Dana Ryan, Morgan (via proxy)	Sheila Maloney, Piatt	Roger Kerley, Pulaski
Bob Oglesby, Saline	John Warner, Shelby	Brittany Miller, Tazewell
Germaine Light, Vermilion	Steve Buban, Warren (via proxy)	Fidencio Hooper-Campos, Whiteside
Bill Thoman, Will	Junius Rodriguez, Woodford (via proxy)	

**Attendance – General Membership – Alternate**

James Riley, Grundy	Matt Watchinski, McLean	JJ Wett, DeKalb
Wayne Williams, Champaign		

- 1) Meeting was called to order at 12:07pm by President Kristina Zahorik.
- 2) President Zahorik asked At Large Member & Veteran Snow Herkert to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. President Zahorik thanked all veterans for their service.
- 3) Guest Speakers
  - a. Sylvia Allen – Hoover, United States Postal Service
    - i. Mrs. Allen – Hoover presented on the benefits of mail and using the United States Postal Service for political mailings. A copy of her presentation was provided to the Chairs.
  - b. Sean Denney, Illinois Education Association
    - i. Mr. Denney presented on the Fair Tax Amendment and support for the Amendment. A copy of his presentation was provided to the Chairs.

#### 4) Roll Call

- a. President Zahorik asked for a roll call to establish quorum of the Chairs present and the Chairs that have submitted proxy votes.
- b. Executive Director Dan Kovats conducted the roll call (names above). The following individuals submitted proxy votes for the meeting.
  - i. Keith Niewohner, Adams – Kristina Zahorik is proxy
  - ii. Maryam Ar-Raheem, Champaign – Wayne Williams is proxy
  - iii. Toni Preckwinkle, Cook – Kristina Zahorik is proxy
  - iv. Jim Luebke, DeKalb – JJ Wett is proxy
  - v. Richard Joyce, Grundy – James Riley is proxy
  - vi. Kim Weaver, Hancock – Lee Trotter is proxy
  - vii. Julie Gondar, Kendall – Kristina Zahorik is proxy
  - viii. Pam Davidson, Knox – Jan Occhi is proxy
  - ix. Erik Rankin, McLean – Matt Watchinski is proxy
  - x. Dana Ryan, Morgan – Kristina Zahorik is proxy
  - xi. Doris Turner, Sangamon – Kory Chapman is proxy
  - xii. Steve Buban, Warren – Kristina Zahorik is proxy
  - xiii. Junius Rodriguez, Woodford – Kristina Zahorik is proxy
- c. With 52 Chairs either in attendance or voting via proxy, quorum has been established.

#### 5) President's Report

- a. President Zahorik reported that she is feeling optimistic after the recent electoral victories in Kentucky & Virginia.
- b. Reminded our Chairs of the challenges that lie ahead including passing the Fair Tax Amendment, re-electing US Senator Dick Durbin, re-electing our Democratic Congressional delegation including Sean Casten & Lauren Underwood, and increasing our Democratic House Majority by elected Betsy Dirksen Londrigan.
- c. Spoke about the challenges with County Parties filling ballot spots. Even if it is a heavily Republican area, a Democratic candidate can help with keeping Republicans from interfering in other races.
- d. Spoke about the expansion of our Leadership Circle. New members will be a “brain trust” for various issues who will be a resource for our Chairs.
- e. Spoke about the updates to our website to provide different resources including a speaker's list, training videos, and forms.
- f. Spoke about the concerns being raised about employment with the State of Illinois. President Zahorik reported that she is continuing to carry those concerns to members of the Administration.

6) Executive Session

- a. Vice President Billy Halstead made a motion to move into Executive Session. Motion was seconded by McDonough County Chair Lee Trotter. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Executive Session was called to order at 12:58pm.
- c. The following individual were permitted to participate in Executive Session but do not have voting privileges:
  - i. Executive Director Dan Kovats
  - ii. Assistant Executive Director Jillian Hawkins
  - iii. Legal Counsel Lauren Myerscough – Mueller
- d. President Zahorik thanked outgoing Treasurer Dennis Fisher for his service to the IDCCA, the Shelby County Democratic Party, & the Democratic Party. Treasurer Fisher has submitted his resignation effective Saturday November 9, 2019.
- e. President Zahorik asked for nominations to fill the vacant position of Treasurer.
  - i. Vice President Halstead nominated Tazewell County Chair Brittany Miller for Treasurer. Vice President Jay Briney seconded the nomination.
  - ii. Vice President Halstead spoke on behalf of Tazewell County Chair Miller.
- f. Vice President Jack Mazzotti made a motion to close nominations for Treasurer. Vice President Terry Redman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- g. President Zahorik asked Tazewell County Chair Miller to come up to introduce herself and answer any questions.
- h. Tazewell County Chair Miller thanked everyone for this opportunity. She explained a little bit about her background and why she feels confident taking on this responsibility.
- i. Vice President Jack Mazzotti made a motion to vote for Tazewell County Chair Miller for Treasurer by acclamation. Vice President Terry Redman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Brittany Miller is elected Treasurer of the IDCCA.
- j. Vice President Halstead made a motion to remove Dennis Fisher from all IDCCA bank accounts and filings (Board of Elections & Federal Elections Commission). Vice President Mazzotti seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- k. Vice President Halstead made a motion to add Brittany Miller to all IDCCA bank accounts and filings (Board of Elections & Federal Elections Commission). Vice President Mazzotti seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- l. President Zahorik instructed staff to work with Treasurer Miller to update all bank accounts and filings.
- m. Vice President Halstead made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session and move back to Regular Business. Vice President Mazzotti seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- n. Executive Session adjourned at 1:07pm.

- 7) Financial Report (in lieu of Treasurer's Report)
  - a. State PAC – \$264,016.06
  - b. Federal PAC – \$19,423.73
  - c. Cash on Hand – \$283,439.79
- 8) Secretary's Report
  - a. Secretary Mark Von Nida submitted the minutes for the August 3, 2019 General Membership Meeting. Minutes were distributed to the Chairs prior to the meeting and were available for review during the meeting.
  - b. Secretary Von Nida made a motion to accept the minutes for the August 3, 2019 General Membership Meeting. Vice President Halstead seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 9) Executive Director's Report
  - a. Executive Director Kovats thanked everyone for their support after the birth of his daughter.
  - b. Submitted for review a County Chairs' Brunch report that breakdowns the contributions, disbursements, and net money raised. Gave a report on some of the highlights from the Brunch, some areas that need improvement, and the overall direction for the event.
    - i. Reported that we are attempting to scaling back our expenses but that expenses continue to go up depending on the number of attendees to the event.
    - ii. Asked for feedback from the Chairs regarding any complaints or issues from the Brunch.
  - c. Thanked all the members of the IDCCA staff for their work on the Brunch.
  - d. Reported that over 2,200 people attended this year's Brunch.
  - e. In a continuing effort to improve the Brunch, Executive Director Kovats reported the following changes are being considered:
    - i. Ticket pick up – extending ticket pick up the night before the Brunch.
    - ii. Bulk reserved seating (i.e. reserving 10 seats at a time the morning of the Brunch) will not be allowed moving forward.
    - iii. Changing the location of the VIP Reception & Photo Line to limit the individuals who have access to one room but not both rooms.
  - f. Reported that the amount raised from the Ad Book went up and the amount paid went down. This is because of an increase in ads and a decrease in the number of Ad Books printed.
  - g. Reported the merchandise donations went well. The total amount donated was down for this fundraiser, compared to last year, but the total money disbursed for this fundraiser was down.
  - h. Reported that the Text to Donate program did not go as well as was planned. Reported that 300 individuals signed up to receive text message updates from the

IDCCA but only 2 individuals donated. Reported that a texting program could be a long-term strategy for the Association but won't be used for the Brunch.

- i. Reported that fine from the Board of Elections has been lifted after our office appealed their initial decision. Unfortunately, the fine was lifted a week after the Brunch and because of that, we were not able to conduct a raffle for this year's event. Reported that we are planning on conducting the raffle next year.
- j. Reported that the Political Staff contact list has been updated. An updated list has been provided to the Chairs in their packets.
- k. Reported that the IDCCA Web Store is live as of this past September. Encouraged the Chairs to go online to view the different pieces of merchandise. Reported that the Web Store is based on the designs we come up with and the traffic we push to the store. Asked for any design ideas from the Chairs to be incorporated into the Web Store.
- l. Reported our last fundraising event this year will be our Springfield Young Professionals Reception on Monday November 11, 2019. Reported that Dan Lewis and Craig Colbrook approached the IDCCA to host this event. Reported that the event is on track to raise over \$14,000. Thanked Assistant Executive Director Jillian Hawkins for leading the planning and execution of this event.
- m. Reported that the Chairs are invited to our first ever Holiday Party on December 3<sup>rd</sup> in Chicago. Chairs (plus one) are invited.
- n. Reported that staff has started the budget process for 2020 in line with the priorities of the organization.
- o. Reported the following dates for General Membership Meetings for 2020:
  - i. Saturday February 15, 2020
  - ii. Saturday May 16, 2020
  - iii. Saturday August 1, 2020
- p. Reported the following dates for IDCCA events for 2020:
  - i. Candidate Boot Camp – Saturday May 16, 2020
  - ii. County Chairs' Brunch – Wednesday August 19, 2020
- q. Reported that Precinct Committeeperson & Votebuilder training will start after the 2020 County Conventions. Asked for input from Chairs as to where they would like training.
- r. Reported that staff is working on putting a County Chairs Tool Kit as a resource. The Tool Kit will be a month by month breakdown on duties starting from the day after the County Convention.

#### 10) Resolution for consideration

- a. President Zahorik presented Resolution 2019 – 002 (posted to IDCCA website) which endorses the passage of the Fair Tax Amendment.
- b. Vice President John Willard made a motion to pass Resolution 2019 – 002. Treasurer Miller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

## 11) Open Discussion

- a. Vice President Halstead introduced Mark Haasis who is running for Congress in the 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.
- b. Vice President Halstead asked all the County Chairs in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Supreme Court District to stay after the meeting to briefly discuss the 2020 Election.
- c. President Zahorik asked all the County Chairs in the 16<sup>th</sup> Congressional District to stay after the meeting to briefly discuss the endorsement process.
- d. Vermilion County Chair Germaine Light asked if any Chairs in the 15<sup>th</sup> Congressional District would be willing to sign some petitions for candidates.
- e. Edwards County Chair Jackie Knackmus raised an issue that he has attempted to contact numerous individuals in the Governor's Office regarding having the Governor make a stop in Edwards County. Would like to know who he needs to contact to make an ask of the Governor to visit an employer within his county.
- f. Hardin County Chair Dennis Austin raised a concern that his County Clerk might be disenfranchising voters who have recently had their addresses changed to a 9-1-1 address. His County Clerk is not automatically reregistering these individuals. President Zahorik recommended that Legal Counsel assist with this effort.
- g. Monroe County Chair Scot Luchtefled announced that Judy Cates will be running for the Supreme Court in the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. Her petitions would be available for any Chair that would like one.
- h. Will County Chair Bill Thoman raised a concern about the Illinois Department of Transportation hosting an informational meeting at a Do Not Patronize location. Asked who we could contact to discuss not hosting these meetings at locations that are on the Do Not Patronize list.
- i. Vermilion County Chair Light asked if the County Party should sponsor an Impeachment Rally at the County Courthouse.
- j. Shelby County Chair John Warner provided a brief update on former Treasurer Dennis Fisher.
- k. Assistant Executive Director Hawkins announced that signed Nancy Pelosi Brunch posters are available for purchase.

## 12) Adjourn

- a. Vice President Halstead made a motion to adjourn. Vice President Mazzotti seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Meeting was adjourned at 2:07pm.