



**ILLINOIS DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CHAIRS' ASSOCIATION  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2019  
ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS, 525 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 John Willard, Kankakee
Vice President Pam Davidson, Knox	Treasurer Dennis Fisher, Shelby	At Large Member Paul (Snow) Herkert, Calhoun
At Large Member Cody Moake, Williamson	At Large Member Erik Rankin, McLean	

**Attendance – General Membership**

Dan Sidwell, Bond	Joyce Brannan, Cass	Jackie Knackmus, Edwards
Dan Niebrugge, Effingham	Al McDowell, Fayette	Daryle Coleman, Fulton
Kim Weaver, Hancock	Dennis Austin, Hardin	Julie Gondar, Kendall
John Reis, Livingston	Jane Ryan, Logan	Danny Stover, Marion
Polly Radosh, McDonough	Brian Short, Menard	Scot Luchtefeld, Monroe
Dana Ryan, Morgan	Shelia Maloney, Piatt	Roger Kerley, Pulaski
Derek Jones, Rock Island	Ed Hoover, Scott	Steve Buban, Warren

Fidencio Hooper-Campos, Whiteside	Bill Thoman, Will	
--------------------------------------	-------------------	--

**Attendance – Staff**

Dan Kovats, Executive Director	Jillian Hawkins, Assistant Executive Director	Toby Trimmer, Communications Director
Declan Binninger, Legal Counsel		

1. Meeting was called to order at 12:17pm.
2. President Kristina Zahorik asked for a moment of silence to honor the victims of the tragic shooting in Aurora, IL.
3. President Zahorik congratulated Secretary Mark Von Nida on getting married and excused him from the meeting.
4. President Zahorik recognized Vice President Jay Briney to speak about Henderson County Chair Dick Bigger.
5. Vice President Briney announced that County Chair Bigger’s granddaughter had recently passed away and he asked if everyone would sign a card for his family.
6. Guest Speaker – Scott Kennedy
  - a. President Zahorik recognized guest speaker Scott Kennedy to discuss the data and analysis of the 2018 Election. Scott Kennedy is a former campaign staffer who has compiled election data from 2002 – 2018.
  - b. Mr. Kennedy gave a breakdown by region (Chicago, Collars, Northern / Central / Southern Illinois) and by media market. Mr. Kennedy also gave a district breakdown for several congressional districts, State Senate districts, and State House districts. All the information that was covered during the meeting is available through Executive Director Dan Kovats
  - c. Mr. Kennedy took questions from the audience.
7. President’s Report
  - a. President Zahorik reported that the IDCCA will continue with our regularly scheduled events like the Chicago Reception, Springfield Reception, Candidate Boot Camp, & the County Chairs’ Brunch.
  - b. President Zahorik reported that the IDCCA will be expanding our role with training, outreach, & best practices.
  - c. President Zahorik reported that she will be traveling throughout the state to meet with County Chairs. Anyone who is interested in setting up meetings are asked to contact her.

- d. President Zahorik reported that the Democratic Party of Illinois has started sharing messaging guidelines from the DNC. The messaging guidelines, while helpful, do not fully address issues that impact our counties. President Zahorik plans to meet with the Democratic Party of Illinois to discuss messaging, especially for central & southern Illinois.
- e. President Zahorik reported that she has started planning videos called “Tailgate Talk” to talk about issues impacting our counties. She will be recording the first video and focusing on the impact of tariffs.
- f. President Zahorik reported that the 2018 Annual Report has been published. The 2018 Annual Report highlights all our activity from the previous year.
- g. President Zahorik asked for the County Chairs to submit their Blue Wave audits to Executive Director Kovats as soon as possible.
- h. President Zahorik thanked DuPage County Chair Bob Peickert for his service and congratulated him on his recent retirement as County Chair. She reported the following changes on the Executive Board.
  - i. 7<sup>th</sup> Vice President Jay Briney moves to 6<sup>th</sup> Vice President
  - ii. 8<sup>th</sup> Vice President Charlie Laskonis moves to 7<sup>th</sup> Vice President
  - iii. 9<sup>th</sup> Vice President John Willard moves to 8<sup>th</sup> Vice President
  - iv. 10<sup>th</sup> Vice President Doris Turner moves to 9<sup>th</sup> Vice President
  - v. At Large Member Pam Davidson moves to 10<sup>th</sup> Vice President
  - vi. Special Assistant Mike Barone moves to At Large Member
- i. President Zahorik requested that all County Parties submit their bylaws to the IDCCA so the IDCCA can serve as resource for other counties looking for information. President Zahorik also announced that she is considering reviewing the IDCCA bylaws to make sure that they are current and useful for the organization. She asked if anyone who is interested in serving on a committee to review the bylaws to contact her.
- j. President Zahorik announced that March 4, 2019 will be our Chicago Reception and Party Builder Awards. She announced this year’s award recipients as Ron Powell (UFCW Local 881), Desiree Tate (honored in memorium), & Lucy Moog (43<sup>rd</sup> Ward Committeeperson).
- k. President Zahorik asked all County Parties and Chairs to hold off doing an endorsement for President. If the IDCCA were to make an endorsement, having all the County Chairs speak as one voice will be a stronger endorsement for the candidate.
- l. President Zahorik reported that all our current contracts are being reviewed including staff contracts.
- m. President Zahorik reported that discussions are already taking place about collaboration and coordination between the IDCCA, the Democratic Party of Illinois, and Think Big Illinois.

- n. President Zahorik reported that the IDCCA partnered with US Senator Dick Durbin and the Illinois Women’s Institute for Leadership Training Academy to host a discussion “Women in Politics: 2018 – 2020”. The event was well attended with over 300 people. The IDCCA used this partnership to encourage individuals to sign up for our Candidate Boot Camp.
  - o. President Zahorik reported that she will be passing along the concerns of the County Chairs to the administration regarding various issues.
8. Treasurer’s Report
- a. Treasurer Dennis Fisher submitted the report for consideration.
    - i. State PAC - \$71,227.60
    - ii. Federal PAC - \$39,758.94
9. Executive Director’s Report
- a. Executive Director Kovats recognized the IDCCA staff attending the meeting including Assistant Executive Director Jillian Hawkins, Communications Director Toby Trimmer, Legal Counsel Declan Binninger, and Legal Counsel Patrick Croke. Executive Director Kovats also recognized James Wheeler, who is interning with the IDCCA this semester.
  - b. Executive Director Kovats reported that the 2018 Annual Report has been mailed out. He highlighted several sections of the report.
    - i. Over 1,000 new Precinct Committeepersons were recruited last year by the County Chairs.
    - ii. 125 candidates & County Chairs attended the 2018 Candidate Boot Camp.
    - iii. First statewide organization to put out a sexual harassment policy & pledge.
    - iv. 79 “Blue Wave” candidates were recruited by County Chairs. 75% made the ballot and ran in the November election.
    - v. The IDCCA held 28 trainings covering 21 counties in 2018. Trainings included Precinct Committeeperson, Votebuilder, Volunteer, and Candidate trainings.
    - vi. Largest County Chairs’ Brunch in IDCCA history with over 3,200 individuals attending. Announced that August 14, 2019 will be the date of the 2019 County Chairs’ Brunch.
    - vii. Hosted two Attorney General Candidate Forums with over 600 people registered to attend.
    - viii. Awarded four Democratic Party Builder Awards to Toni Preckwinkle, Debra Shore, William McNary, & Barbara Flynn Currie.
    - ix. Hosted a “Sunday Soapbox” Facebook Live events.
    - x. Fundraising for 2018 broke our single year record and the organization raised just under \$700,000.

- c. Executive Director Kovats announced that the Candidate Boot Camp will be on May 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. Executive Director Kovats announced an advisory committee for the Candidate Boot Camp that will be co-chaired by State Senator Rachelle Crowe & State Representative Joyce Mason. Vice President Briney, Nikita Richards (McLean), and Cynthia Given (Richland) will also serve on the committee.
  - d. Executive Director Kovats asked for assistance in soliciting sponsors for this year's Candidate Boot Camp. Sponsor packets were provided to the County Chairs.
  - e. Executive Director Kovats reminded the County Chairs that if they have events coming up and would like Governor Pritzker to attend, they need to inform Political Director Quentin Fulks at last 2-3 months ahead of the event.
  - f. Executive Director Kovats reported that the Blue Wave audit is not complete. Several counties have not submitted their reports and it is delaying the report being sent to our donors for review.
  - g. Executive Director Kovats took questions from the audience.
10. Announcements
- a. President Zahorik thanked everyone who attended the Pre-Inaugural Reception the night before the Inauguration.
  - b. President Zahorik announced that we are expanding our Leadership Circle and asked for recommendations.
11. Adjournment
- a. Meeting was adjourned at 1:37pm