



**ILLINOIS DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CHAIRS' ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SATURDAY MAY 18, 2019
CROWNE PLAZA – SPRINGFIELD, 3000 S DIRKSEN PKWY**

MINUTES

Attendance – Executive Board

Vice President Billy Halstead, Peoria	Vice President Terry Redman, DeWitt	Vice President Jay Briney, Mason
Vice President Doris Turner, Sangamon	Vice President Pam Davidson, Knox	Secretary Mark Von Nida, Madison
At Large Member Erik Rank, McLean		

Attendance – General Membership

Dan Sidwell, Bond	John Gedney, Boone	Joyce Brannan, Cass
John Spencer, Clay	Matt Cain, Clinton	Jim Luebke, DeKalb
Cynthia Borbas, DuPage	Jackie Knackmus, Edwards	Daryle Coleman, Fulton
Kory Chapman, Greene	Richard Joyce, Grundy	Kim Weaver, Hancock
Dennis Austin, Hardin	Julie Gondar, Kendall	Joe Weger, Lawrence
John Reis Jr, Livingston	Danny Stover, Marion	Polly Radosh, McDonough
Jan Occhi, Mercer	Scot Luchtefeld, Monroe	Dana Ryan, Morgan
Christine Ballard, Ogle	Sheila Maloney, Piatt	Kevin Duesterhaus, Pike
Roger Kerley, Pulaski	Charles Clayton, Schuyler	Ed Hoover, Scott

Brittany Miller, Tazewell	Germaine Light, Vermilion	Tim Scates, White
Fidencio Hooper-Campos, Whiteside	Bill Thoman, Will	Junius Rodriguez, Woodford

Attendance – Alternates

David Seiler, Effingham	Bob Sheridan, Lee	Susan Hepp, Perry
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Attendance – Guests

Theresa Sheridan	Jack Sinnott	Glenn Truesdell
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- 1) Meeting was called to order by Vice President Billy Halstead at 12:16pm.
- 2) Vice President Halstead announced that President Zahorik is unable to attend the meeting due to a family commitment.
- 3) Vice President Halstead called for a brief recess at 12:17pm.
- 4) Vice President Halstead called the meeting back to order at 12:33pm.
- 5) Vice President Halstead introduced the guest speakers.
 - a) US Senator Dick Durbin
 - i) Thanked everyone who helped usher in the Blue Wave in 2018 to help elect our statewide ticket.
 - ii) Spoke about new individuals who got involved because of groups like Indivisible.
 - iii) Spoke about our number #1 job in 2020 is to elect a new President. Spoke about the number of outstanding Democratic candidates for President.
 - iv) Called on all attendees to ask their Presidential candidate of choice if they will stand with the Democratic nominee in 2020.
 - v) Spoke about the challenges of being a downstate Democrat and the challenges we face in those counties.
 - vi) Called on the need to have a Precinct Committeeperson in every precinct in every county. Called on the need to have a Democratic candidate running for every office.
 - vii) Spoke about the needs and concerns that voters truly care about. Spoke about the need to focus less on Trump’s twitter rants.
 - b) State Treasurer Mike Frerichs
 - i) Spoke about his experience running for office in a Republican district and running in a Republican county.
 - ii) Spoke about this experience running for State Treasurer and being short on votes on Election Night.

- iii) Spoke about the need for us to deliver a Democratic message to voters and we should not be afraid to share our stories. Spoke about the need to give voters something to vote for.
- c) Mark Rusell, Act Blue
 - i) Introduced Act Blue to the County Chairs' and advantages of using Act Blue for online fundraising.
- d) RJ Jacobs, Liberty Bell Communications
 - i) Introduced Liberty Bell Communications to the County Chairs' and advantages of using Liberty Bell to assist with campaign operations.
- e) Collyn Warner, National Democratic Training Committee
 - i) Introduced the NDTC to the County Chairs' and the advantages of accessing the free online training that they provide to every Democratic candidate.
- 6) Vice President Halstead called for a brief recess at 1:08pm.
- 7) Vice President Halstead called the meeting back to order at 1:19pm.
- 8) Vice President Halstead recognized all the newly elected / appointed County Chairs'.
- 9) Vice President Halstead introduced the guest speakers.
 - a) Nikki Budzinski, Office of Governor JB Pritzker
 - i) Thanked all the Chairs for everything they did to help elect JB Pritzker.
 - ii) Provided a brief update on what has been accomplished and what still needs to be done during the legislative session.
 - (1) Underscored the financial difficulty that Governor Pritzker faced when he took office. Spoke about the difficulty faced by the State Agencies because of Bruce Rauner.
 - (2) Governor Pritzker signed several Executive Orders upon taking office.
 - (3) Governor Pritzker pushed and got passed a raise in the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.
 - (4) Governor Pritzker is trying to pass a Capital Bill, legalization of marijuana, and legalization of sports betting.
 - (5) Governor Pritzker is pushing for adding a Fair Tax constitutional amendment to the 2020 ballot. The Fair Tax would be like Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.
 - b) Mary Morrissey, Democratic Party of Illinois
 - i) Spoke about the priorities of Chairman Madigan and the Democratic Party of Illinois.
 - ii) Reassured that the Democratic Party of Illinois is looking at all parts of the state. Committed to helping with messaging and resources to help counties.
 - iii) Spoke about the need to help recruit candidates to run for Delegate to the Democratic National Convention for every Presidential candidates. Spoke about the Democratic Party of Illinois hosting Delegate Selection Meetings to inform Democrats on the process to run for and be elected Delegate.
 - iv) Spoke about the need for assistance identifying lower represented parts of every community as part of the 2020 Census.

- v) Informed the Chairs that the Democratic Party of Illinois will be conducting a survey with the County Chairs on Votebuilder and would appreciate our participation.

10) Secretary's Report

- a) Minutes were sent via email to all County Chairs' for review.
- b) Motion was made by Vice President Terry Redman to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2018 General Membership Meeting. Motion was seconded by Vice President Jay Briney. Motion passed unanimously.
- c) Motion was made by Vice President Redman to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2019 General Membership Meeting. Motion was seconded by Vice President Briney. Motion passed unanimously.

11) Treasurer's Report

- a) Due to a family emergency, Treasurer Dennis Fisher was unable to attend the meeting. Vice President Halstead presented the Treasurer's Report.
 - i) State PAC - \$70,016.54
 - ii) Federal PAC - \$10,804.08
 - iii) Total Cash on Hand - \$80,820.62
- b) Motion was made by Vice President Redman to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion was seconded by Vice President Briney. Motion passed unanimously.

12) Executive Director's Report

- a) Thanked the IDCCA staff; Assistant Executive Director Jillian Hawkins and Communications Director Toby Trimmer.
- b) The County Chairs' Brunch is scheduled for Wednesday August 14, 2019 at the Crowne Plaza – Springfield. The guest speaker has not been determined. Mentioned that, if we get a national figure as the guest speaker, we will be sitting in theater style seating like the 2018 County Chairs' Brunch.
- c) Provided an update on the Candidate Boot Camp. 193 candidates were accepted into the Boot Camp and 167 attended. Spoke about the addition of a staff training track to the Candidate Boot Camp. Spoke about switching to a one-day training in the future.
- d) Encouraged the County Chairs' to share the Candidate Quick Guide that was provided in the Chairs' Packet.
- e) Announced that close to 7,200 people participated in the online Presidential Poll in late April. Stated that the IDCCA was truly looking for a snapshot of where the Democratic Party is right now with the Presidential campaign. Announced that US Senator Bernie Sanders (VT) won the poll at 27%. Mayor Pete Buttigieg (IN) was second at 23%. The other reason for the poll was a new way for outreach and fundraising.
- f) Announced that he will be taking 2 – 3 weeks off in early October for the birth of his second child. In his absence, Assistant Executive Director Hawkins will be running the day to day operations.

13) Introduction of General Membership Resolution 2019 – 001 (attached)

- a) Motion was made by Boone County Chair John Gedney to approve General Membership Resolution 2019 – 001. Motion was seconded by Vice President Pam Davidson. Motion passed unanimously.
 - b) Vice President Halstead took questions from the floor.
 - c) Vice President Halstead encouraged all County Parties to pass similar resolutions to encourage County Parties and candidates to promote American-made union products.
- 14) Meeting was adjourned at 2:05pm.