



**ILLINOIS DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CHAIRS' ASSOCIATION  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
SATURDAY AUGUST 3, 2019  
ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS, 522 S. 5<sup>TH</sup> ST., SPRINGFIELD**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance – Executive Board**

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| President Kristina Zahorik,<br>McHenry   | Vice President Billy<br>Halstead, Peoria | Vice President Terry<br>Redman, DeWitt |
| Vice President Jay Briney,<br>Mason      | Vice President Doris Turner,<br>Sangamon | Vice President Pam<br>Davidson, Knox   |
| At Large Member Snow<br>Herkert, Calhoun |  |  |

**Attendance – General Membership**

|                            |                                      |                           |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dan Sidwell, Bond          | John Gedney, Boone                   | Joyce Brannan, Cass       |
| Paul Wieck, Coles          | Jackie Knackmus, Edwards             | Al McDowell, Fayette      |
| Daryle Coleman, Fulton     | Kory Chapman, Greene                 | Flint Taylor, Hamilton    |
| Kim Weaver, Hancock        | Dani Brzozowski, LaSalle             | Jane Ryan, Logan          |
| Danny Stover, Marion       | Lee Trotter, McDonough               | Brian Short, Menard       |
| Scot Luchtefeld, Monroe    | Tim Singer, Moultrie                 | Christine Ballard, Ogle   |
| Kerry Johnson, Randolph    | Louise Cook, Stephenson              | Brittany Miller, Tazewell |
| Germaine Light, Vermilion  | Fidencio Hooper-Campos,<br>Whiteside | Bill Thoman, Will         |
| Junius Rodriguez, Woodford |                                      |                           |

## Attendance – Alternates

|                       |                         |  |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| David Simpson, DeKalb | Matt Watchinski, McLean |  |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|

- 1) Meeting was called to order by President Kristina Zahoirk at 12:03pm.
- 2) President Zahorik lead the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3) Special Guests
  - a) Steve Booth - presentation on creating a Precinct Program in each county.
  - b) Nate Harris, Senate Democratic Victory Fund was unable to attend. Executive Director Dan Kovats presented on petition passing.
- 4) President's Report
  - a) President Zahorik provided an update for the membership including:
    - i) Reported that she continues to travel throughout the state to meet with Chairs about the County Chairs' Brunch. She invited all the Chairs to the BBQ hosted by Governor JB Pritzker at the Governor's Mansion & the Collar County Chairs' Last Bash Before the Brunch at the Crowne Plaza.
    - ii) President Zahorik reported that the Pritzker Administration will be hosting an event at the Director's Lawn at the State Fair Grounds, but the event will not be political.
    - iii) President Zahorik announced that the Democratic Party of Illinois will be hosting a memorial service for former Menard County Democratic Party Chair & State Central Committeewoman (IL 18<sup>th</sup>) Shirley McCombs the day before the County Chairs' Brunch.
    - iv) President Zahorik reported that in her meetings she is trying to gather more information on additional resources that the IDCCA can provide including more information on our website.
- 5) Secretary's Report
  - a) Minutes from the May 18, 2019 General Membership Meeting are were submitted in the Chairs' Packets at the start of the meeting.
  - b) President Zahorik asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2019 General Membership Meeting. Boone County Chair John Gedney made the motion to approve the minutes. Ogle County Chair Christine Ballard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 6) Treasurer's Report
  - a) President Zahorik provided the following report.
    - i) State PAC – \$231,928.91
    - ii) Federal PAC – \$22,164.08
    - iii) Total – \$254,092.99
  - b) President Zahorik asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Vice President Pam Davidson (Knox) made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. McDonough County Chair Lee Trotter seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

7) Executive Director's Report

- a) Provided a rundown of the County Chairs' Brunch.
  - i) Reported that Governor Pritzker will be hosting a County Chairs' BBQ the night before the Brunch from 7pm – 9pm. All County Chairs' should have received an email regarding this event. The event will be for the County Chairs' plus one individual and RSVP must be done ahead of time.
  - ii) Reported that the Illinois AFL – CIO has invited all the County Chairs' to their reception as friends of labor. The event will be for the County Chairs' plus one individual.
  - iii) Ticket pick up will start the night before. Thanked Vice President Doris Turner (Sangamon) for allowing the IDCCA to use the Sangamon County Democratic Party Headquarters (312 E Monroe, Springfield) for ticket pick up. Ticket pick up will be from 3pm – 6pm. Ticket pick up will be for all individuals who have purchased tickets. Reported that the Fundraising Team needs to get the names of all tickets from each of the County Parties. Tickets will be held under the individual's last name.
  - iv) Reported that seating will be theater style seating to accommodate the expected capacity crowd. Tickets will be assigned a section and not assigned a seat.
  - v) Reported that the timeline for the morning of the Brunch will be:
    - (1) Additional ticket pickup – 7:15am
    - (2) Doors open – 8:00am
    - (3) Speaking program – 9:00am
  - vi) Reported that there will not be County Chairs' gifts this year.
  - vii) Reported the following numbers for the Brunch:
    - (1) Pledged – \$340,520
    - (2) Cash in – \$209,550
    - (3) Tickets – 1,777
  - viii) Reported that staff is planning that all attendees will be in the main ballroom and there will not be an overflow room. Cautioned that we should not compare last year's Brunch to this year's Brunch regarding the total number of tickets. As of the date of the meeting, total number of tickets was higher than previous years (not counting the 2018 Brunch).
  - ix) Reported that total money raised is close to but not at the goal for money raised for us to hit our budget for 2019. Staff is anticipating that we will hit our goal for total raised.
  - x) Announced that all County Chairs' are invited to attend the VIP Reception on the morning of the Brunch. The VIP Reception will be from 8am – 8:45am in the Ruby Ballroom (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor). Asked for the County Chairs' to RSVP so we can have a head count for the venue.

- b) Provided a rundown of the Brunch Ad Book.
  - i) Reported that in 2018 there were 66 pages for the Ad Book. This included a significant number of resources inside the Ad Book. For 2019, most of those resources will be removed.
  - ii) Reported that we will be reducing the number of Ad Books that are being ordered.
  - iii) Reported the following numbers for the Ad Book:
    - (1) Pledged – \$23,775
    - (2) Cash in – \$18,375
- c) Provided a rundown of the Brunch Merchandise.
  - i) Reported that we will have t-shirts available at the Brunch. Asked Communications Director Toby Trimmer to model this year's shirt.
  - ii) Reported that t-shirts are American made, union printed and available for a \$25 donation.
  - iii) Reported that we are also asking for donations for 2 buttons.
- d) Provided a rundown of the Brunch Raffle.
  - i) Reported this year we did not ask the County Chairs' to sell raffle tickets. That over the last couple of years efforts have been made to reduce the total number of tickets (from 500 to 250) and the total number each Chair was asked to sell (from 5 tickets to 2 tickets). In 2019 we only sold 190 tickets. Reported that in the past 4 years, we have not sold out of raffle tickets.
  - ii) The plan was to switch from a longer raffle to doing a 50 / 50 drawing at the Brunch. Reported that the State Board of Elections has fined the IDCCA for reporting error that was made from the 2018 Brunch. The IDCCA contends that the error was made by the State Board of Election and not the IDCCA. We have appealed this fine. Since we have an appeal with the Board of Elections, they have denied our raffle license request for 2019.
  - iii) Reported that the Fundraising Team is looking into other options including a Text to Donate option.
- e) Took questions regarding the Brunch.
  - i) Any Chair that has an individual in need of accessible seating should email Executive Director Kovats. The Fundraising Team will flag that ticket and move it to the appropriate area.
  - ii) Vice President Davidson made a comment that, while they are nice, the County Chairs' don't need gifts for the Brunch.
  - iii) An issue was raised about the number of emails to the Chairs' to get the names of their attendees. Executive Director Kovats explained that the Fundraising Team is doing their job and working to make sure that we get those names. He will follow up with them to ensure that they are working better with the Chairs' moving forward.
  - iv) Explained that each sponsorship / ticket level will determine where the ticket is within the ballroom.

- v) Reported that the Fundraising Team will be making the call on day of ticket sales by the Friday before the Brunch.
- vi) Explained that the ticket individuals received online is good for picking up their credential ticket. It will not be good for admission into the venue.
- f) Thanked all our staff for their efforts on this year's Brunch including Jillian Hawkins, Toby Trimmer, Nancy Kohn, & Christina Nowinski Wurst.
- g) IDCCA Web Store
  - i) Announced that, starting in September 2019, the IDCCA will be launch its own Web Store. The Web Store will have all American made, union printed merchandise available for donations.
- h) Governor's Day Event
  - i) Explained that we have been trying to put together a head count from the County Chairs' on how many tickets that they would need for an event at the Director's Lawn at the Illinois State Fair Grounds. The event will be an "official" event of the Governor's Office and not political.
  - ii) A Governor's Office staffer will be on hand at SCDP Headquarters to hand out tickets the night before the Brunch.
- 8) Endorsement Consideration
  - a) Vice President Terry Redman (DeWitt) announced that this past April the County Chairs' of the Illinois 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District met to discuss the candidacy of Betsy Dirksen Londrigan. Since that meeting, 14 County Chairs' and / or County Parties have endorsed Betsy Dirksen Londrigan.
  - b) As the County Chair of DeWitt County and the State Central Committeeman for the 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, Vice President Redman made a motion for the IDCCA to endorse Betsy Dirksen Londrigan for Congress. Motion was seconded by Vice President Turner (Sangamon) seconded the motion.
  - c) President Zahorik asked if there was any discussion.
    - i) A question was raised whether all County Chairs' or just the County Chairs' in the 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District would be voting on this endorsement. Vice President Redman clarified that he is asking for an endorsement of the IDCCA for Betsy Dirksen Londrigan.
    - ii) Vermilion County Chair Germaine Light raised a concern that an endorsement from the IDCCA would be too early.
    - iii) Coles County Chair Paul Wieck questioned if there were other candidates interested in running. Vice President Redman stated there are no other announced candidates. Vice President Redman also stated that all the other primary candidates from 2018 have either endorsed Betsy or indicated that they do not intend to run.
    - iv) Vice President Turner (Sangamon) spoke on behalf of Betsy.

- v) President Zahorik announced that, historically, the IDCCA has deferred to the recommendation of the County Chairs' within a district in previous endorsement votes.
  - vi) Vermilion County Chair Light reiterated that she doesn't believe that we should endorse at this time. That we should hold our endorsement until after the Primary Election.
  - vii) State Central Committeeman Bill Houlihan (IL 18<sup>th</sup>) announced that Senator Dick Durbin has endorsed Betsy Dirksen Londrigan. He reminded everyone that the organization has endorsed early in 2016 for Hillary Clinton & in 2018 for JB Pritzker. The early endorsement helped both candidates do significantly well throughout Illinois in their primary campaigns. According to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, the Illinois 13<sup>th</sup> is rated as the number #1 race in the Midwest. He stated that by not endorsing Betsy Dirksen Londrigan that it could hurt her in her race for Congress.
  - d) Edwards County Chair Jackie Knackmus called the question. The motion was called and moved to an immediate vote to endorse Betsy Dirksen Londrigan. Motion passed unanimously. Betsy Dirksen Londrigan is endorsed.
- 9) Open Discussion
- a) President Zahorik mentioned that she has spoken with several County Chairs' about issues with the Administration. She stated that the IDCCA is trying to work with the IDCCA to provide them any information they need in whatever form that they need it. She stated that she has shared her views with the Administration to ensure that the County Chairs' are getting a fair shake.
  - b) Will County Chair Bill Thoman thanked the IDCCA for the Resolution passed at the May General Membership Meeting to support Organized Labor and use local Organized Labor for our needs. Recognized his first Vice Chair who also thanked the organization for this. Our Resolution has been presented to the National Democratic County Officials organization for consideration.
  - c) There was a brief discussion regarding whether it was better to go outside of a county to get products printed at a union print shop or was it better to use a local print shop who will contract with another shop to provide union printed materials.
  - d) Stephenson County Chair Louise Cook invited all the Chairs' to attend their "Homerun Derby" fundraiser with Congresswoman Cheri Bustos on August 24<sup>th</sup>.
- 10) Adjourn
- a) President Zahorik asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Boone County Chair Gedney. Motion was seconded by Ogle County Chair Ballard. Motion passed unanimously.
  - b) Meeting was adjourned at 1:59pm.