

**ILLINOIS DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CHAIRS’ ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SATURDAY MAY 16, 2020
CONDUCTED ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance – 2018 – 2020 Executive Board**

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| President Kristina Zahorik, (McHenry) | Vice President Billy Halstead, (Peoria) | Vice President Mark Guethle (Kane) |
| 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) |
| Treasurer Brittany Miller (Tazewell) | At Large Member Paul (Snow) Herkert (Calhoun) | At Large Member Toni Preckwinkle (Cook) via proxy |
| At Large Member Teresa Vincent (Union) | At Large Member Mike Barone (Jackson) |  |

 **Attendance – General Membership**

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| Jessica Muellner (Boone) | Tim Woodward (Brown) | Rick Wilkin (Bureau) |
| Kimberly Hance (Cass) | Carol Ammons (Champaign) | Craig McNary (Clark) |
| Matt Cain (Clinton) | Mac White (Coles) | Don Daugherty (Crawford) |
| Jim Luebke (DeKalb) | Rocky Warner (Douglas) | Cynthia Borbas (DuPage) |
| David Seiler (Effingham) | Daryle Coleman (Fulton) | Chris Fromm (Gallatin) |
| Kory Chapman (Greene) | Richard Joyce (Grundy) | Henry Murphy (Henry) |
| Robert Alexander (Jasper) | Mark Pohlman (Jersey) via proxy | Julie Gondar (Kendall) |
| Dani Brzozowski (LaSalle) | Joe Weger (Lawrence) | John Reis Jr (Livingston) |
| Gary Davis (Logan) | Laura Zimmerman (Macon) | Pam Monetti (Macoupin) |
| Randy Harris (Madison) | Rob Schnicker (Marion) | Henry (Hank) Gauwitz Jr (Marshall) |
| Nikita Richards (McLean) | Brian Short (Menard) | Jan Occhi (Mercer) |
| Scot Luchtefeld (Monroe) | Christine Ballard (Ogle) | Calen Campanella (Perry) |
| Shelia Maloney (Piatt) | Nate Brown (Randolph) | Greg Mullinax (Richland) |
| Derek Jones (Rock Island) | John Warner (Shelby) | Louise Cook (Stephenson) |
| Germaine Light (Vermilion) | Rena Bever (Wabash) | Steven Buban (Warren) |
| Cheryl Holder (Wayne) | Tim Scates (White) | Fidencio Hooper-Campos (Whiteside) |
| Bill Thoman (Will) | Junius Rodriguez (Woodford) |  |

1. Meeting was called to order at 12:02pm by President Kristina Zahorik.
2. McLean County Chair Nikita Richards lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Guest Speakers
	1. *State Treasurer Mike Frerichs*
		1. Gave brief remarks and thanked the IDCCA for all their work.
	2. *Vote Yes for Fairness Senior Advisor Jennifer Lee & Vote Yes for Fairness Communications Director Lara Sisselman*
		1. Gave brief remarks and talked about messaging regarding the Fair Tax Amendment.
	3. *Joe Biden for President Illinois State Director Claudia Chavez*
		1. Gave brief remarks and updated the IDCCA on the Biden for President campaign.
	4. *Democratic Party of Illinois Executive Director Mary Morrissey*
		1. Gave an update on the Democratic National Convention.
4. President’s Report
	1. Asked for a moment of silence for former Tazewell County Chair Shirley Houghton who passed away in February 2020.
	2. Thanked all the outgoing County Chairs who retired, did not run, or were not reelected at the County Conventions held in April 2020.
	3. Congratulated all the newly elected County Chairs who were elected at the County Conventions held in April 2020.
	4. Recognized the three IDCCA Party Builder Award honorees that were honored at the Chicago Reception held in March 2020.
		1. Secretary of State Jesse White
		2. Cook County Board of Review Commissioner Mike Cabonargi
		3. Invest to Elect Illinois
	5. The IDCCA has been actively involved in voter protection planning to make sure that every voter can cast their ballot. This also includes efforts to recruit and appoint Democratic Election Judges before June 30th. Spoke about possible changes to Vote By Mail and Election Judges that will be reviewing returned ballots. Reported that the IDCCA will be putting together information sheets regarding any changes to the Election Code.
	6. Spoke about being an “Active Democrat”. Encouraged County Chairs to sign up their County Parties for the IDCCA REV Project to start outreach into their communities to likely Democrats.
	7. Spoke about the upcoming IDCCA & National Democratic Training Committee Virtual Boot Camp. The training has expanded to candidates, staff, and local leaders.
	8. Reported that we will be making changes to this year’s County Chairs’ Brunch including shifting to a virtual event. Announced that we are looking at Monday, August 31st for this event.
5. Secretary’s Report
	1. President Zahorik submitted the minutes from the February 15, 2020 General Membership Meeting for approval.
		1. Vice President Mark Guethle motioned to approve the Secretary’s Report. Macoupin County Chair Pam Monetti seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.
6. Treasurer’s Report
	1. Treasurer Brittany Miller submitted the Treasurer’s Report for February, March, & April 2020 for approval.
		1. Vice President Guethle motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Greene County Chair Kory Chapman seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.
7. Bylaws Committee Announcement
	1. President Zahorik announced the creation of an Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee to review our current Bylaws.
	2. IDCCA Counsel Tony Schuering gave an overview of some of the potential updates including instituting a corporation to help with legal liability.
	3. Anyone interested in serving on this committee should contact IDCCA staff.
8. Executive Director’s Report
	1. Executive Director Dan Kovats gave an overview of the IDCCA response to COVID-19 including closing our Springfield office, coordinated a statewide “Stay Home, Save Lives” yard signs, canceled our in person Precinct Committeeperson Trainings, updating guidance for County Conventions & candidate slating, shut down all non-essential spending with the organization, and launched a direct mail “Thank You” bumper sticker fundraiser.
	2. Reported that instead of our traditional “in person” Candidate Boot Camp, we have shifted our event to a virtual Boot Camp to provide the same level of training in a safe environment. The same approval process was adhered to even though the event has shifted online. Reported that 528 individuals have applied for the Boot Camp and 452 were accepted into our training. The Class of 2020 will be the largest Boot Camp Class since we started this event.
	3. Reported that our webstore will be back up and running within the next few days. A new design “Wash your hands like you just shook hands with Donald Trump” is up and going on the store.
	4. Reported that we are actively pushing our “Candidate Search Engine”. 70 people have identified themselves as interested in running for office. IDCCA staff will do the initial vetting and will send the candidate to the Chair for vetting.
	5. Reported that Biden for President yard signs will be ordered in early August after the Vice President nominee has been named. Announced that we are expecting close to 10,000 signs to be ordered. The IDCCA will purchase the signs and will ask the County Parties to donate to cover the cost of the signs.
	6. Asked for County Chairs to check the IDCCA website to verify the correct information is posted on our list of Chairs.
9. REV Project (Recruit Engage Vote) Update
	1. Assistant Executive Director Jillian Hawkins reported that this project was initially scheduled as a door to door canvassing outreach program. Considering COVID-19, the program has shifted to virtual phone banks and is focused on “wellness checks”.
	2. Gave parameters of the program of contact “likely Democrats” including a Democratic support score of 70% and above or pulled a Democratic ballot in one of the last three Primary Elections.
	3. Reported that we have over 360 volunteers signed up for the REV Project calling into 30 counties. Reported that we have made 2,429 calls and spoken to 467 Democratic voters.
10. Announcements
	1. State Central Committeeman Bill Houlihan gave brief remarks to update the Chairs regarding the passage of the “Hero’s Act” that was passed in Congress. Spoke about the slating of George Petrilli who was slated to be a candidate for Congress (IL 18th). Asked for the County Chairs’ in the 18th to help with getting signatures to get the candidate on the ballot.
11. Executive Session
	1. President Zahorik asked for a motion to move to Executive Session to conduct our biannual Reorganization Election. Vice President Guethle made the motion to move to Executive Session. Vice President Billy Halstead seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was moved to Executive Session.
	2. Executive Director Kovats announced that IDCCA staff & IDCCA Counsel will remain in the meeting but will not have voting privileges.
	3. President Zahorik asked to reaffirm that there is a quorum present for Executive Session. Executive Director Kovats reaffirmed that a quorum is present.
	4. Vice President Halstead thanked the Nomination Committee for their work in screening potential candidates. The Nomination Committee included Vice President Billy Halstead (Peoria), Vice President Pam Davidson (Knox), & At Large Member Mike Barone (Jackson).
	5. Vice President Halstead thanked all the candidates who submitted their credentials for consideration.
	6. President Zahoriked opened the Executive Session for nominations for the following offices: President, 1st – 10th Vice President, Treasurer, & Secretary for a term of May 2020 – May 2022.
	7. Vice President Halstead made a motion to nominate the following slate of candidates for office. Vice President Guethle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
		1. *President Kristina Zahorik (McHenry)*
		2. *1st Vice President Billy Halstead (Peoria)*
		3. *2nd Vice President Terry Link (Lake)*
		4. *3rd Vice President Mark Guethle (Kane)*
		5. *4th Vice President Terry Redman (DeWitt)*
		6. *5th Vice President Jay Briney (Mason)*
		7. *6th Vice President Charlie Laskonis (Winnebago)*
		8. *7th Vice President Doris Turner (Sangamon)*
		9. *8th Vice President Pam Davidson (Knox)*
		10. *9th Vice President Paul (Snow) Herkert (Calhoun)*
		11. *10th Vice President Toni Preckwinkle (Cook)*
		12. *Treasurer Brittany Miller (Tazewell)*
		13. *Secretary Pam Monetti (Macoupin)*
	8. President Zahorik announced the following individuals have been appointed to the following positions:
		1. *At Large Member Teresa Vincent (Union)*
		2. *At Large Member Mike Barone (Jackson)*
		3. *At Large Member Jeff Mears (Johnson)*
		4. *At Large Member Cynthia Borbas (DuPage)*
		5. *At Large Member Derek Jones (Rock Island)*
		6. *Sgt At Arms Dan Sidwell (Bond)*
	9. President Zahorik announced that a press release going out to announce the election and to highlight that our newly elected Executive Board is the most diverse Executive Board in our history.
	10. Vice President Davidson made a motion to move out of Executive Session back to the General Membership Meeting. Motion was seconded by Vice President Guethle. Motion passed unanimously.
12. Adjournment
	1. President Zahoriked asked for a motion to adjourn. Vice President Guethle motioned to adjourn. Vice President Halstead seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 1:53pm.