

Historic Triangle Democrats
Minutes
Meeting April 20, 2023
via Zoom

Welcome

- Jen Tierney opened the meeting at 7:02
- Approximately 40 members in attendance

Approval of New Members

- Motion made and seconded
- Vote in favor was unanimous

General Announcements

- Clean Up Event with Monty Mason, April 22, 10-1
- Tradition Brewing Beer Event with Newport News Democrats, April 28, 6-9
- Fundraiser for Lisa Ownby, May 10, 5:30, at Jen Tierney's Home
- Get Involved, Peninsula Indivisible Event, May 6, at Poquoson Public Library
- Rally Against Gun Violence, WJCC Indivisible Event, April 29 at 1pm, James City County Courthouse

General Assembly Reconvene Updates, Monty Mason

- Governor vetoed 3 bills. They were not overturned by Senate.
- Governor is not honoring separation of powers and offers substitutions instead of specific and severable amendments to bills. Senate rejected all substitutions.
- \$43 million to Jefferson Lab for high-capacity data computing facility
- No budget updates. An agreement will take more time.
 - There may be a tax rebate for some earners. This is open to discussion.
- Q&A
 - Status of restoration of rights?
 - Currently no transparency from the Governor on the process. Dems are demanding answers.
 - Areas of agreement between parties?
 - Yes, examples include R&D, regional priorities, economic development opportunities. There is a great deal of agreement, but political spin often makes it seem as though there is not.
 - Update on bill regarding tracking menstrual cycles.
 - Shelved after being defeated in House committee at Governor's request.
 - Senate passed a version.

Guest: Sheriff Montgomery, York County

- School resource officers are in middle and high school only but the county has stepped up presence of officers at elementary schools.
- Autism Awareness
 - All officers will go through training from the Tidewater Autism Society.
 - Officers will have kits which have already been put into use.
 - Distribution of car magnets to identify families who have members with autism. This program has attracted interest from other areas, including Virginia Beach.
- 911 notifications can be put in place to alert emergency services that someone at the address has particular health concerns such as autism, Parkinson's, etc. Use non-emergency number to find out more about placing an alert.

Candidate Introductions

- Randy Riffle, WJCC School Board, Berkeley District
- Jarris Taylor Jr., House of Delegates, District 86th
- Damon Walker, WJCC School Board, Stonehouse District

Guest: Becca Gaylin, Pres of William and Mary VOX

- Introduction of Kara, VP
- Received funds from fundraiser by HT Dems

Speaker: Tarina Keene, Executive Director REPRO RisingVA

- Virginia is a safe haven for reproductive rights and may be the only state in the south to maintain rights
- This is at risk. Upcoming Virginia races are important, especially Senate.
- Legislative update
- Looking to get a constitutional amendment on the ballot in November 2026
- Introduced Hannah Servedio, Political Manager for REPRO Rising VA.

Minutes

- Motion to approve March meeting minutes
- Seconded
- Vote in favor was unanimous

Adjourned at 8:03pm