

Historic Triangle Democrats
Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2023
via Zoom

Opening:

- Jen Tierney opened the meeting at 7 pm
- Roughly 50 members were in attendance

New Members:

- New Members need to be voted in
- Motion made and seconded
- Vote in favor was unanimous

Minutes:

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

New Business:

- 2023 Budget vote — Jim Icenhour
 - 2023 proposed budget presented to members
 - Motion to approve and seconded
 - 2023 budget approved unanimously
- Federal financial report — Jim Icenhour
 - February 2023 report presented to members
- State financial report — Jim Icenhour
 - February 2023 report presented to members
- Motion to approve both financial reports; seconded
- Vote in favor was unanimous

General Announcements:

- Signatures for candidates still needed — thank you to all the volunteers gathering them
 - Monty almost done
 - John and Max almost done
 - Jess done
- Notary at the HQ this weekend (2-4 pm)
- HTD will give folks addresses of friendly Dems for signature gathering if people want to knock on doors in their neighborhoods
- This Saturday there is a voter registration drive and bake sale at the Happy Shopper in Grove!

Candidate and campaign staff introductions:

- Jess Anderson – House Delegate candidate for District 71
 - Ready with signatures and all the paper work
 - Canvassing this weekend (special shout out to MK for her help!)
 - Jess4Virginia.com, etc.
 - Encouraged folks interested in donating to her campaign to do so

- John McGlennon – JCC Board of Supervisors reelection campaign underway
 - Very diverse district – broad support in the district
 - Special thanks to Christine Payne for helping with the signatures! Still needs a few more
 - No opponent yet

- Dr. Ronald Lee — House Delegate candidate for District 86
 - Retired from Air Force after 20 years
 - Passionate about human rights and other key progressive issues like education, gun violence prevention and safety
 - We must defeat AC Cordoza
 - Ben is his campaign manager

- Alycia Singletary – House Delegate candidate for District 86
 - Strong local ties — Hampton University undergraduate alum
 - Worked at CIA for 8 years
 - Returned to Hampton Roads to have a direct impact on a community she knows and loves
 - Education is a top priority for her
 - Still putting together a team

- Lindsay Fogarty — House Delegate candidate for District 69
 - From the area – long history in York, Poquoson, Williamsburg
 - Top issues: health care, economic equity, human rights, education
 - Comes from a family of teachers
 - Passionate about making a change

- Robbie Frankel – Sen. Monty Mason’s campaign manager
 - Race will be close and we need to ensure people understand that urgency
 - Every vote counts — no shortcuts

- Marlene Esquivel – Jess Anderson’s campaign manager
 - Fundraising and ramping up boots on the ground in the summer

- Ben Kopit – Ron Lee’s campaign manager
 - Very fired up and ready to work
 - Excited for everyone to get to know Ron

- Max Blalock — Candidate for Roberts School District (not present because he had a prior commitment but Christine Payne spoke up for him)
 - Important to get folks hitting the ground getting folks ginned up for Election Day
 - It’s the long game!

HTD Board Members:

- New Board Members
 - Jan Keady: 1st Vice Chair Williamsburg
 - April Greener: Membership and Data

- Martha Howard: Vice Chair of Campaigns for JCC
- Corey Buttram: Secretary
- Reva Canaan: Vice Chair of Hospitality & Events for WJCC
- Motion to approve new board members and seconded
- Vote in favor was unanimous

General Assembly Update from Sen. Monty Mason:

- Contentious General Assembly session from Day One
- 29% of the Dem bills in the House of Delegates passed
- 48%-48% break in the Senate — pretty even
- Senate Dems stomped the bad bills that passed out of the House of Delegates
- So-called 'Recalibration' of Governor Youngkin's budget was voted down in the Senate
- Senate passed a Skinny Budget:
 - \$4.2 billion budget rainy day/reserve
 - \$250 million to shore up VA retirement system
 - Money to cover inflationary costs for transportation and infrastructure projects
 - \$200 million shortfall in school funding by the Governor's office — Senate covered it short term to provide stability ... came from excess revenue ... so there is still a \$200 million hole
- House has been a proxy for the Governor for the first 2 years — but as long as Dems hold the Senate we will control the impact... if the Dems take the House, it will be a different story entirely
- Heralded the overhaul of the workforce development system — noted the state Secretary of Labor did a lot of hard work here... worked with Labor Groups and it passed unanimously
- Dominion energy rate legislation – compromise bill passed unanimously in Senate and with one nay in the House
- State Corporation Commission judges vacancy still an issue — 3 judge panel, 2 vacancies.

Q&A and Comments:

- John McGlennon — thanks to Monty and Dem legislators for removing the educational support cap ... it will help tremendously
- Suzanne Hagedorn — second the thanks for education support
 - Has a kid in York County schools and the Youngkin history SOL is a nightmare. Encourages everyone to comment on the SOL.
- XXXX — someone asked about making Richard Bland independent
 - Monty answer: Senate is in agreement that they should be independent; but the House is in a different place (they are good people but they are in a different place)
- Jess Anderson — seconds Suzanne's point re: commenting on the SOL
 - Asked Monty about the education short fall — Monty responds: yes short fall still an issue; definitely encourages people to comment on the SOL but also on RGGI
- Christine Payne – Sen Mason was at the forefront of the blue wall re: stopping Youngkin and GOP assaults on women's access to health care/abortion access, guns, etc.

- Monty responds: Homegrown VA boy... but this is different — a six year old boy had access to a gun and shot his teacher. That is DIFFERENT. We don't know why people kill themselves but one thing we can agree on is the access to the weapon. Safe storage is the most basic thing — it's lay up stuff. Regarding women's reproductive rights, he recalled a commercial from years ago where someone in a restaurant snatches away menus from women and decides what they will eat for them. Says the point of that was that nobody would stand for that behavior when it comes to lunch, why should we let them do that with women's bodies?