

Historic Triangle Democrats
February Meeting
2/20/25

Chair Jen Tierney called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Attendees: 114 people on the call which included board members, candidates, and speaker.

Voted in new members

Finance report approved.

Started \$5,644, now \$5,792. Financial report approved.

Minutes: Approved

Community Announcements

1. Volunteer Lunch scheduled for Saturday , 2/22/25 – reached capacity, registration is closed.
2. Jim Icenhour Town Hall meeting for Jamestown District will be held on 7 pm next Thursday 2/27 at James City County Rec Center. He will discuss the budget, development at Eastern State property, schools. There will be a question-and-answer session. Thursday, February 27 at 7 pm at JCC Rec Center
3. Levar Stoney, Lt. Governor Candidate : March 8, there will be a coffee at HTD Dems HQ. Mobilize link for signup in HTD emails and on website.
4. Facebook page is getting a lot of good feedback. Good idea to highlight African American leaders in our community during Black History Month
5. March 8 at 2 pm at the courthouse, Invisible is sponsoring a rally for the ERA.
6. Moment of silence for Cookie (Edith) Heard and her passing. Don Moffitt died this week. He was also very active with this group.
7. 2025 Cultural Events for Black History Month held at the Williamsburg Library were good and last one will be this Sunday at 3 pm.

Candidates Announcements

1. Jess Anderson had a successful launch of her campaign last Saturday. Abigail Spanberger also attended.
2. March 1, Campaign manager will be available for Jessica Anderson and volunteer opportunities will start.
3. Levar Stoney – running for Lt Governor. March 8 will be in town. He grew up in Yorktown. He is running for Lt Governor. Former Mayor of Richmond. Removed every confederate monument in Richmond.
4. Jay Jones - running for Attorney General. He is from Virginia Beach, and he is excited about his campaign.
5. Dr Babur Lateef – running for Lt Governor. He is chairman of the Prince William County School Board. He is an ophthalmologist in Northern Virginia.

Speaker- Stacy Kern-Scheerer – Immigration Lawyer, who runs the Immigration Clinic at W&M. She focused on a few important topics. First, she gave a short overview on how to become citizen, which generally requires having a green card for 5 years. Not every immigration situation provides a pathway to a green card, but there are some pathways through family, employment, and humanitarian situations (e.g. asylum and refugee status). She then highlighted a few components of the immigration system:

1. Removal procedures. She gave a brief overview on Immigration Court proceedings, explaining that Immigration Courts are within the Department of Justice, and ICE is the prosecutor in Immigration Court. She then discussed the current Administration’s expanded use of “expedited removal”.
2. The importance of relying on accurate information. Don’t Spread Panic and Fears – spread knowledge. She provided a list of reputable websites for reference and information on what is happening with immigration issues and policies.
3. Refugee caps: She explained that the Executive has the authority to set the number of refugees permitted to enter into US. The number has gone up and down over the years. The current number is zero.
 - a. Refugee program and organizations. She explained that if you are refugee, then refugee settlement organizations are designated and funded by the Federal Government. Examples include Catholic Charities and Lutheran Services. She explained that funding and support for these organizations are being cut, which has devastating consequences for refugees in the U.S.
4. Legal assistance programs: She explained the importance of legal orientation programs within Immigration Courts, and programs for unaccompanied minors. Because there is no government-support right to a defense attorney in Immigration Court (like there is in criminal court), these programs are of particular importance. They have been defunded and litigation is pending.
5. Volunteers can contact: Immigration@wm.edu

The meeting ended at 8pm.

Susan Brown Wallace

Evette Conwell