



APRIL 9, 2024 AGENDA

5:30pm

County Commission Room / Lewis County Courthouse

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. *In Attendance:*

Larry Pigg (county commissioner, District 1)

Chris Gibson - D1

Michael Traugot - D1

Ramona Meredith - D8

Cynthia Holzapfel - D1

Elizabeth Barger - D1

Frankie Floied - D7

Brenda Mash - D7

Mary Hamilton - D1

Teresa Fraser - D5

Valerie Sloan, chair - D4

Guest: James Dallas, running for State Senate District 28 against Hensley.

4. New Business:

Identifying key volunteers for the executive committee and two reps from each district 1-9 to align with by-laws. - Valerie Sloan explained the positions we have open and how we should identify at least two people per district to be part of the committee which we have about half of what we ideally need with extras representing D1. Val looked at the list of primary voters from March and tried to identify several potential people to contact under the age of 60 in several of the districts where we have gaps finding at least six to contact.

Official documents for bank account requirement. Must vote Valerie Sloan as approved to be on the bank account with C&S bank in Hohenwald and the removal of Diana Lawless.

Requesting one debit card for the account to be able to function with any upcoming expenses.

Valerie Sloan as chair read the letter out loud that will be taken to the bank to change who is associated with signature card.

Larry Pigg - made motion

Elizabeth Barger - 2nd

All in Favor - yes - 11 unanimous.

Val will take the letter that was read out loud to the bank on Friday April 12.

GOTV registration events at local festivals and farm markets. (voter registration deadlines are July 2 and October 7). Can we have a booth at the monthly farm market?

Agreed to have a booth at The Farm on the 2nd Saturday. There's also the motor voter bill that allows people to transfer their registration when they get the new D.L.

Friends of the Library have an event on May 4.

Summerfest is June 8.

Thinking about the Friday block parties.

VS will investigate these opportunities and report back if there are fees associated.

GOALS - Poll Workers. Explained our target is to recruit 3 Democrats per district to be poll workers between 18 and 27 people.: Primary - Thursday August 1 and National - Tuesday November 5. VS explained that there are 6 positions per voting precinct - Manager, 2 at the check-in table, 2 machine operators, and a judge. It's a long day, but well worth the investment in the democratic process and the community. It is a paid position and you pledge an oath to the constitution. VS will continue to collect names and work with the election commissioner to ensure that we can fill spots equally in the 9 precincts for the primary and the general.

Four people from the group and VS are interested / available for August.

Continuing to add to the list of previous workers for the election commissioner.

Biden signs. James Dallas, State Senate candidate in attendance, helped explain the fundraiser available to purchase bulk signs and other merchandise before May 1. There is a second deadline for the fall.

Voted unanimously to spend \$200 for 50 signs to place in public areas and VS will put a poll together to collect additional orders prior to the end of the month.

James is our liaison who will pick up our order and we'll coordinate to pass off our items in Columbia at a date TBD.

Democrat events in the area

James Dallas Campaign State Senate District 28 against Hensley - James as guest introduced himself and explained why he decided to get into the race after living in Columbia TN for 6.5 years. He works in IT at Vanderbilt and is a member of a union separate from Vandy. He has endorsement from Moms Demand Action on sensible gun safety laws. He handed out some cards and his email signup sheet. James may return to Hohenwald to collaborate on a fundraiser later in the year. He's running un-opposed in the primary and thinks he needs to have \$150k to run the campaign, of which he has about 10%.

Gloria Johnson Campaign US Senate against Marsha Blackburn - Cynthia Holzapfel was on a webinar meeting Tuesday night and made contact with the campaign. After hearing that a list of 300k registered voters in Memphis did not vote, she asked them if we could have a similar list for Lewis County.

The list is developed using VoteBuilder and we have access to this with the ability to run our own reports. However, the campaign has the resources and has a script to use to continue to share Gloria's message.

Gloria has plans to visit all 95 counties and VS has contacted the campaign to help coordinate that. An ideal visit would be at The Farm market day?

Maryam Abolfazli US Congress against Ogles (but he has a primary challenger too) - James shared her name, but we don't know anything about the campaign. Kirian who ran previously decided to drop out and not challenge in the primary. VS will reach out. Campaign site doesn't have much, yet. <https://www.maryamforcongress.com/>

Here is an article:

https://www.nashvillescene.com/news/pithinthewind/maryam-abolfazli-running-against-ogles/article_1035c972-f1f6-11ee-a323-1f881ec860f6.html

Heritage Dinner in Maury County is a fundraiser with \$50 per person, tables of 8. It is on June 1 and there's also options to place an advertisement (even for your local business) in the program. He shared this link as the registration and more info:

<https://www.maurydems.org/event/heritage-dinner-2024/>

Three Star Dinner James explained is something similar, but more costs in Nashville likely at a fancy hotel. It's also an evening activity so many in our area may not want to go. The date is June 15 if anyone wants to connect and register, they do have excellent speakers.

VS shared that she participated as a selector for the District Convention to choose the delegates for the DNC. We are in District 5 which goes all the way over east of Nashville to Lebanon and curves around Nashville, down to Columbia and Lawrenceburg, then over to us at the other corner. VS made brief connection with the more rural people particularly in Wilson County and they are starting social events. They have tried to get traction through focus issues like Women's Rights, Healthcare, Education/vouchers, etc. They have something in daytime hours at the end of the month. Will report more later. Maury county also has rural components. We are looking to create a rural caucus of our own and one of the contacts in Maury suggested a Facebook group dedicated to that. Just ideas right now.

At the convention, there were two spots for men and only two applicants. There were three spots for women and 7 or 8 applicants who spoke about themselves prior to the vote.

Brown bag lunch series - Next event on May 11 at the Centerville CoWorks. July, September, and November will be hosted somewhere in Hohenwald, TBA.

5: Additional Business?

Add to the next meeting agenda: Discuss phone bank volunteers for the campaigns and to build awareness of LCDP

Recording meetings and writing up minutes:

Larry Pigg suggested we purchase a recorder to record and have on file a tape of our meetings. We agreed to let VS research and get back to us. Frankie Floied says he might have an extra little hand recorder that he could give to us.

Cynthia Holzapfel countered and suggested we just use cell phone recording so she volunteered to do that during this meeting. The debate was whether the file should be tangible/analog or if digital is okay that could be lost.

The biggest issue is translating into minutes. Maybe we can try opening a Google Doc and hit the record button to see what it hears?

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULE CONFLICT:

The county commission is having a special session on May 14 that is also our next meeting date. We agreed as a group that we will keep our meeting plans and encourage everyone to attend the session that is about the annual budget. If the session goes really long, there is a room adjacent to this that we can use, or we can use the main room when they adjourn. Either way, Larry Pigg as a county commissioner, will stay with us as our liaison to the building access.