

**RCDC GENERAL MEETING
TOWN HALL, WASHINGTON, VA
12 January 2019**

MINUTES

0930: Social hour with refreshments

1000: Welcome and calls to order by the chair

Two candidates for the Virginia 18 district introduced themselves:

Tristan Shields believes that a rural Democrat can win and that we need a rural Democrat in Richmond to counteract entrenched Republicans. One key issue for him is access to the Internet. He likened this to previous struggles for rural electrification.

Laura Galante talked about sitting with Republicans over breakfast and noted that it is possible to have a meaningful dialog with them. She also spoke of the need to bring wired Internet to rural locations.

April Moore is a candidate for the VA Senate in the 26th district. Taylor Waterman represented April and spoke of an interest in clean energy and environmental issues.

Consistent items:

- Minutes for November were approved.
- Treasurer Bruce Sloan reported a balance of \$3,315.16, with no outstanding obligations.
- There will be a budget meeting soon, and membership dues of \$20 are payable now.

Old Business

- Darien Reece is in charge of a Riggleman Watch effort . One issue is his prior security business.
- The high school scholastic bowl team will hold a fundraiser in February. See Sharon for details.

New Business

- The 18th District just voted to hold a primary in June, regardless of what Republicans decide.
- The Virginia General Assembly just opened as the oldest such deliberative body in the US.

- The Issues and Actions group will meet Tuesday at 6 PM in the library. Current issues include:
 - Redistricting
 - Equal Rights Amendment
 - Voting rights for felons in VA
 - Possibly the new Solar Freedom Bill, which would remove restrictions on local governments, business, and citizens to install solar power for their own use.
- The movie, “Equal Means Equal” will be shown soon, but not Sunday as originally proposed. This concerns the equal rights amendment. VA could become the critical 38th state to ratify the ERA and move it into the Constitution.
- Abby Clark, representing the Solar Lobby, spoke of the Solar Freedom Bill coming up in the VA General Assembly. There will be a lobbying effort in Richmond next Tuesday. This bill would further issues of clean power and clean air—issues long supported by Democrats.
- Ron Goldman will replace Hank Golden on the District Committee.
- There was some discussion of the needs for trash removal, etc., in the Shenandoah National Park. The RCDC might agree to participate. Details pending.

Adjourned