

RCDC Virtual General Meeting 10-April 2021

On ZOOM

09:55 Various people showed up on screen and worked on synchronizing electronically. As people showed up, we were discussing the True Virginia subset setting up a mailing list. Comments were exchanged on broadband issues besetting the county. 16 members were present. Total 25 people present.

10:05 Meeting called to order by Mary-Sherman Willis. [0:10:00 in sound file]
Next meeting will be, in person, at the town hall in little Washington, May 8th.

10:06 Approval of the Agenda and Minutes of March meeting – motion was made, seconded and approved.

10:06 Treasury has approximately \$4,750 in the account, as a result of generous donations, membership dues and routine expenses. Dues are due. Suggested donation is \$25. More is always welcome.

10:07 Mary-Sherman spoke to us. Reminding us of our passing the Virginia Voting Rights Act, which permits 45 days of no-excuse absentee voting, automatic registration for anyone receiving a Virginia Driver's License and it prohibits racial discrimination related to voting.

We need to continue running ads in the local paper, celebrating the American Rescue Act, and how Democrats are actually helping people, supporting them in time of need. Jed Duvall is leading us in this. The ads help us make our point and the revenue helps the local newspaper. Eve Brooks suggested we include what is being done in the Infrastructure Bill and what we are doing for children and the elderly, in our upcoming ads. We need to be careful about our references to the previous administration. Ellen Adams suggested that we not alienate the middle-of-the-road people, who are trying to decide if they wish to continue with Trump or join the Democrats. Start with the benefits we get, now and then, what benefits are proposed. We need to tout the positive things we are doing.

10:15 Mary-Sherman invited Doug Ward to tell us about how he will position himself as a “not-Republican.” The core of his campaign platform is what the Democratically controlled administration has accomplished: Medicaid expansion, ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment, repealing the prohibition of same-sex marriage, Clean Energy Act, raising the minimum wage, Voting Rights Act and marijuana legalization. Michael Webert voted against every single one of those acts. Doug plans to highlight, one by one, all the accomplishments of the Democrats.

Larry Wohlers mentioned that, in some online newspapers, such as the Daily Yonder [<https://dailyyonder.com/>], the plight of some rural areas, especially in West Virginia, where there is no environmental control, being subjected to very large

corporations setting up large polluting animal operations, over the objections of the local people. Property values are likely to plummet, in those areas.

- 10:22 The Democratic Primary debates will be happening on Wednesday evenings of April 14th and 21st, at 7:00 PM. The Democratic Primary Election will be held on June 8th. RCDC is a co-sponsor of the debates.
- 10:24 Mary-Sherman said we also expect to be resurrecting our activities and fundraising for local candidates and for general public awareness of Democratic Party activities. Our first activity will be Earth Day pickup on 24-April, meeting at the library, at 10 AM. This involves picking up trash off the side of the road (from Massey's Corner, down to the library), so as to get this out of the way of mowing operations that are expected to begin very soon thereafter. Ross O'Donoghue explained further to the group about this. We plan to meet, disperse ourselves along the highway to collect trash, return to the library for pictures and then have some sandwiches and soft drinks for lunch, together. Pickup trucks are needed to collect the filled trash bags. Ken Edwards and Bruce Sloane will be bringing their pickup trucks. Volunteers for trash collection included: MS Willis, Betsy Dietel (+2), Leslie Cockburn, Edith Tatel, Ellie Clark, Ralph & Gwen Bates, Fred Schaefer, Connie Bruce and her husband.
- Some essentials:
- Cautionary signs, bags, and vests will be provided.
- Wear boots and gloves. Bring some sort of pole with a nail in its end for spearing trash or bring a gripper.
- 10:30 The next event will be 22-May, 10 AM to 1 PM, the Blue State Blue Grass Brunch, featuring music, food and remarks from candidates. Jed offered to contact our favorite artists and photographers to provide about a total of six things to be auctioned. Some place outdoors, near shelter, will be found. We will invite some Board of Supervisors candidates, some running for governor and Lt. governor. We discussed decoration, music, food, etc.
- 10:38 We discussed June 17th Fireman's Parade and July 4th gathering and a September Yard Sale around Labor Day weekend. Interim online auctions (maybe June) before September. Experiences and cooking could be auction items.
- 10:45 Doug Ward updated us on his campaign. He obtained the needed signatures, so that he is now officially on the ballot. His first campaign finance report is due on the 14th of April. He has a campaign website [DrDougForDelegate.com] and FaceBook page and is accepting donations on ActBlue. Mary-Sherman mentioned that a longstanding Republican asked her how he might donate to Doug. Dr. Doug for Delegate bumper stickers and buttons are available.
- 10:48 Discussion of various other candidates.
- 10:55 Motion to adjourn and seconded.