

SDSA BOARD MINUTES

May 14, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Lynne Armstrong.

Members present: Lynne Armstrong, Richard Moon, Travis Peterson, Olga Hernandez, Joe LaMonica, Bryan Gerard, Jeanne Belaire, and Cris Ramirez.

Members absent: Roberto Flores and Ruth Dalrymple.

The minutes of the last Board Meeting were approved as read by Cris Ramirez, secretary. Cris reported that Travis made a motion, via e-mail, that "The Board of Directors of Stonewall Democrats/San Antonio goes on record as supporting passage of ENDA, and will recommend that members do the same, and will actively beseech national elected officials from Texas to do the same." The motion was seconded by Roberto and passed. The SDSA Board also approved, via e-mail, Lynne's request to have Josephine Tittsworth as a speaker at the July membership meeting which will be held on the 16th.

A treasurer's report was distributed indicating that the current balance is \$1,045.23. Lynne addressed the concern expressed by some members that a more detailed report on expenses be given to the membership. The report given to the Board will be presented to the members also. There was some discussion about putting this information on the web site, since we are a PAC and this is public information. Bryan suggested that when the report is made, the membership should be reminded that the more money we have the more influence we have.

Richard asked if SDSA was doing the SOS bash this summer, Lynne indicated that we were not and instead we were doing the Olga and Lynne Birthday Bash on May 26th, as a fundraiser for SDSA. A minimum donation of \$25 is being requested of those attending. Originally this was to be a fundraiser for Olga/National Stonewall, but since Olga was able to raise some of the money required through a mini-campaign, the proceeds of the Birthday Bash will now go to SDSA. Olga will be sending out an announcement this week.

Richard reported that the Endorsement Committee is scheduled to meet next week. He reported that in the past once an endorsement has been made we have not changed our mind. Lourdes Galvan is in the run-off and she has been endorsed by SDSA. An announcement will be made at the next membership meeting requesting volunteers to work for her. There was a question about which committee will be responsible for recruiting volunteers and per the by-laws it is the responsibility of the Voter Registration and Mobilization Committee. The Endorsement Committee will meet to discuss the run-off races and decide on any endorsements, recommendations will be made to the Board. Bryan suggested that Lourdes be invited to the next membership meeting and Lynne said she would pass this on to the Program and Events Committee.

Bryan moved that Lynne, Roberto, Bryan and Warren Kelly be approved as members of the Political Relations Committee, Cris seconded and the motion passed. Bryan will follow up on some key points that were discussed at their meeting.

Olga reported that the membership is currently 151, however some of the quarter one renewals will not be renewing. Olga will continue to contact some of these members for whom she has gotten a new address. Based on her experience so far, Olga will be sending an e-mail for renewals, follow up with a phone call and finally, mailing an application. Olga discussed reimbursement for paper, stamps, etc. Cris suggested that the Budget/Finance/Fundraising Committee consider allocating \$50 to each committee for operating expenses. Jeanne will begin organizing this committee. Bryan indicated that the Political Relations Committee will attempt to contact politicians and recruit them as members. Jeanne suggested including a return envelope with membership applications. Olga gave a brief description of a tier membership proposal submitted by James Poindexter. This plan would include a student level, a general level, couple/household level, a supporter level, a sustainer level and a corporate level, with certain rewards being given for higher levels. The San Diego club has a modified tier level. SDSA has one of the lowest membership fees. Lynne requested that Olga take this back to the committee and that the committee rework it with the correct information and then present it to the Board again. Richard indicated that the dual membership discriminated against single people and some of the board members agreed.

Joe reported that Voter Registration and Mobilization met to do phone banking for Kat Swift. The question of committee members being SDSA members came up. Since there is no specific mention of this in the by-laws then non members can be SDSA committee members.

Lynne reported for Program and Events. She passed out a handout on the banquet. The save the date announcement should include Second Annual Awards Banquet. There was a lengthy discussion on the no ticket proposal. Although no tickets saves money, it is difficult to know who is coming and how many to expect. How are people going to get to this event, is there a number to call, are checks to be mailed? A request was made to have a member of this committee attend the next Board meeting. How many people are we planning on and how many extra will they accommodate? Lynne will pass these questions and concerns on to the committee members. The committee is requesting nominations from the membership for awards. A handout with an explanation of the awards was passed out; there should be information on who to return the form to. The SDSA Board will make the final decision on awards.

Cris, Board Development Committee, indicated that the only item she had was the vacancy on the SDSA Board. Lynne indicated that she and Roberto had not fully discussed this yet. They will and will report to the committee.

Bryan, from the Communications Committee, reported that the committee will be following up on using the list server.

Travis reported that the Peace Officers Training has a curriculum and will have six hours to do the training. They will be meeting on May 27th to finalize presentations and will begin training cadets on June 21st.

Travis brought up a concern that Dan had about members making motions from the floor at a membership meeting. Dan submitted a change to the by-laws that would require motions to be submitted to the SDSA Board prior to the membership meeting. This concern came about as a result of a motion by Ted Switzer to impeach Alberto Gonzales. As a result of this motion SDSA incurred expenses for certified letters sent to legislators. Travis felt that the members should have the right to make motions from the floor, Richard agreed. Bryan noted that he was concerned about motions being made that would cost SDSA money.

Suggestions for a speaker in June were given, the new fire chief, Charles Hood, former city council woman, Patty Radle. Olga suggested someone from Texas Stonewall come and give a presentation on becoming a delegate to the National Democratic Convention. Lynne indicated that Shannon Bailey was scheduled to come in October. Since his presentation is about two hours long, Jeanne suggested that the presentation not be given at a membership meeting, but that it be offered to those wishing to become delegates at a separate meeting.

General Claudia Kennedy will be speaking here the morning of July 21st and attending the Bexar County Women's Dinner that evening. She has some time between events to speak to SDSA; Lynne will give this information to the Program and Events Committee. The new member reception will be on July 14th.

Cris suggested that it was not necessary to have committee reports from every committee at the membership meeting. Those committees needing to report something can get on the agenda prior to the meeting and the co-chairs can ask if there are any committee reports.

Travis moved that members who wish to present an item for a vote at the general membership meeting should make every effort to present the item for consideration by the SDSA Board at the meeting prior to the general membership meeting. Jeanne seconded. The board agreed that motions need to be evaluated in terms of the scope, the mission and purpose of SDSA by Board members as well as members, at general meetings. The co-chairs can table motions. The motion did not pass.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM by a motion from everyone and a second by everyone.

Respectfully submitted,
Cristina M. Ramirez,
Secretary