



**Lafayette Parish Democratic Parish Executive Committee (LDPEC)**

**April 11, 2024---6:00PM**

**Acadiana Open Channel**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance** – Meeting called to order at 6:20pm.

**2. Roll Call of Committee Members-Establish Quorum**

**Present:** Jae Regan, Aimee Robinson, Don Mitchell, Emily Broussard, Amanda Anderson, Ann Ardoin,

**Present via Zoom:** Mary Pritchard, Mitzi Miller, Melany Champagne, Nureaka Ross, Stesha DeRouen, Tia LeBrun,

**Absent:** Peyton Rose Michelle, Consuela Gaines

**Guests:** Kathy Hurst, Scott LeBlue, Peggy Sabbatier, Joel Thompson, Lillian Dejean, Sam Wall

**3. Chair's Report – Jae Regan**

**a** Mike Leblanc has resigned from his At Large position via email on 4/11.

**b** Established dedication to following bylaws.

**i Attendance** - If a member misses 3 meetings, their seat will be considered to be vacated. You may only use a proxy 2 meetings in a row. We expect every member to attend meetings.

ii **Decorum** – There will be no fighting in meetings between members or with the community. Debate is fine but refrain from full-blown arguments.

c A moment of silence held for ULL Student Basil Bennett Brown.

4. **Financial Report – Mary Pritchard** Mary had a flat tire right before our meeting time and so she was joining us via Zoom and did not have specifics in front of her, but she did advise our total balance in two accounts was approximately \$8551. Jae moved to accept financial report and Don seconded.

5. **Previous Meeting Minutes** – Emily Broussard read the minutes from April 3, Aimee moved to approve, and Amanda seconded.

## 6. Old Business

a **Paul Breaux Statement** – The previous DPEC wrote and issued a statement condemning the decision to move the Gifted/Talented and Immersion programs away from Paul Breaux Middle School.

b **Meeting location** – at AOC, there is only paid parking. Aimee suggested we move the meeting place to City Hall as it is easy to get to, free to use, and parking is free also. City Hall also may encourage community members to join meetings. Aimee offered to call City Hall to book our meeting there if available. Next meeting will be held on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at City Hall.

## 7. New Business

a **Vacant Seat** – We have an open At Large seat now that Mike has resigned. Aimee motioned to nominate Jae to fill that seat and Emily seconded the motion. Vote was unanimously approved.

b **ULL Statement** – Jae motioned that we compose a statement regarding the death by suicide of a ULL student. Jae suggested that the statement address: honoring the student personally, our support of LGBTQ+ students at ULL and the LGBTQ+ people in our community, the need for student support, and the lack of response by ULL police. The statement will stress the need for justice and respect for human rights. Aimee seconded the motion and there were none opposed. For next steps, Jay would run the draft of the statement by the student's family and then send to us. When the statement has been vetted, members will share on their

socials and Don will put the statement on our website. Jae will also be reaching out to ACLU and HRC.

**c Bank Account** – Jae motioned to have their name added to our bank account and Peggy removed, Aimee seconded.

**d DSCC Endorsements** – The need to endorse candidates for DSCC officer positions was discussed in anticipation of the state DSCC meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm in Baton Rouge.

- **Chair** – Three potential candidates. Katie Bernhardt will be running for reelection if nominated, Randall Gaines, who is a former member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, and Tyrin Truong, who is the current mayor of Bogalusa. We unanimously voted to endorse Randall Gaines based on his experience and the advice of our DSCC members and visitors.
- **Parliamentarian** – Aimee moved to endorse Kathy Hurst and Don seconded. We voted to endorse Kathy Hurst and it was passed with no opposition.
- **Third Chair** – Aimee moved to endorse Peyton Rose and Jae seconded, passed unanimously.

**e Bylaw Changes** – The need to update our bylaws was discussed and the items to be added/changed include the attendance policy (to clarify that Zoom is an acceptable form of attendance) and endorsement guidelines. Aimee noted that Kathy did draft bylaws for DPEC but that they were never adopted. Scott suggested we change the bylaws as needed and Kathy advised that we just make sure they don't contradict the state bylaws. Jae asked that everyone send them suggestions for them to compile for our review.

**f Committees** – The need to assign members to committees is discussed. Jae motions to establish a youth outreach committee and Emily seconds, motion passes unopposed. Jae volunteers to head youth outreach committee. Amanda volunteers to do bill tracking, it is noted that this is a huge job and will probably require more than one member to handle. Amanda suggests we use the bill tracker that is on the 10,000 Women's website. Emily motions that we create a subgroup in Whatsapp for legislative issues, Nureaka seconded, and the motion passed without opposition. Emily will create the subgroup and Amanda will compile list of important bills and

send us the link for the 10,000 Women bill tracker. The committees discussed and the members who expressed interest in tracking relevant bills are as follows:

- **Financial issues – Aimee**
- **Library Matters – Melany**
- **Education – Mitzi, Tia, Melany**
- **LGBTQ issues – Jae**
- **Criminal Justice – Consuela**
- **Disability issues – Don**

g Campaigning – Stesha advised that she is currently working on campaigning ideas and would like to get together to discuss goals, timelines, money, and messaging. She will put together a proposal. Aimee suggests we become super visible in our community in order to foster more trust and credibility with voters. Voter registration initiatives are discussed, and Kathy mentioned that a guide is needed for people with felony convictions who are now eligible for voter registration. Melany and Consuela will put together info on felony voter registration and Melany suggested we investigate accountability for jail staff re: voting.

**8. Meeting Adjournment** – Jae moved to close the meeting and Don seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm. Next meeting will be May 9<sup>th</sup> 6pm at City Hall (pending approval).