

5/6/19 General Meeting

- David Barber instructed people to sign in, welcomed guests, guests introduced themselves
- Dr. Phillip Fletcher - founder and director of City of Hope Outreach
 - CoHO has been working in Central Arkansas for the last 12 years, starting work in S. Arkansas
 - CoHO Academy- serves students in grades K-12
 - Gardens- provide free produce for residents of community
 - Partnership with Baptist Health
 - Joshua program- men in hope home & putting men to work
 - Developed an app- CoHO Resource App
 - Poverty immersion
 - April 15 Brookside Mobile Home Trailer Park announced its closure for June 30
 - Displaces 135 households, about 400 people
 - Trailer park closes June 30
 - What do we do about it?
 - Help these families move
 - Donate boxes to the Ministry Center
 - Donate money for deposits, moving expenses
 - Brookside Family Fund to First Security
 - Would it help to sponsor one family and commit to helping them? Not as much - CoHO has built a relationship of trust with the citizens of Brookside Community, and CoHO has ascertained the needs of each family
 - In Faulkner Co., there are 944 persons who are homeless
 - CoHO will not allow Brookside Community to be forgotten, they will make sure Conway knows this community contributes to Conway
 - The owner of the property intends to develop the property commercially
 - City has stepped up code enforcement- significantly impacting older trailer parks, and cost of the fines is \$275 per violation (which is the responsibility of the owner)
 - Unintended consequences of cleaning up an area are that lower income communities are forced to relocate
- David thanked our representatives
 - Representative Magie
 - Justice Pearson
- Maureen moved we approve last month's minutes, Meleah seconded, motion passed
- State Meeting Updates from Christi Berry
 - Delegate selection process is up for public comment
 - Available on DPA website
 - Interesting points about diversity such as SES, disability, etc
 - June 1 in Hot Springs to approve delegate selection plan
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Fines from the Clinton election from incorrect filings
 - Details are forthcoming
 - Fines have been paid
 - More information about finances coming soon
 - State committee meetings are open to everybody
 - Breakout session on candidate recruitment
 - Traindemocrats.org has good training info
 - Interested in helping a campaign? Check out traindemocrats.org

- Hoping to see improvements with the DPA with the newly elected exec committee
- If you or anyone you know, we brought copies of our [candidate guide for Faulkner County](#)
- Representative Magie (district 72)
 - After 2020, we will redistrict, and this district will probably change
 - 24 Democrats in state legislature
 - State party - 3 people who worked with caucus every day
 - Very helpful during legislative sessions
 - Most bills are a technical correction or something easy to get bipartisan support, but there are some that needed discussion
 - Fought against school vouchers, won that fight
 - Fought against changes to minimum wage initiative changes, won those fights
 - In the past, they had a bill filing deadline. That was eliminated this year, so that allowed for bills to be rewritten & renumbered so bad bills were harder to kill
 - A bill to remove oversight of dumping in the Buffalo River, would have allowed more hog farms on the Buffalo river, won that fight
 - 3 new female representatives
 - Godfrey, Clowney, McCullough
 - Did awesome work, got legislation passed like DACA nurses getting their nursing license & instate tuition
 - Establish committees to address problems with maternal mortality
 - AR Gov Highway plan would increase gas prices by \$.03/gal, \$.06 on diesel, tax on electric cars, \$35 mil out of casinos.
 - Government is trending harder far right
 - We need to swing the state legislature to have more Democrats
 - 911- we passed legislation
 - Needed to change the way 911 was structured, needed infrastructure improvement for 911 calls
 - Another tax passed- small tax on cell phone bills to support 911
 - Passed teacher salary enhancement
 - Raise min teacher salaries-teachers will receive \$1,000 raises in each of the next four years
 - Wanted to raise value of a car before you have to pay sales tax
 - Unable to get that bill out of the senate
 - Conway- passed a great bill
 - Microbrewed beer in Conway
 - Spencer Hawks & Magie sponsored & got it through
 - Many liquor & beer distributors in neighboring counties opposed
 - Had to get 67 votes in state congress to amend constitution to allow this
 - Breweries will get an application like a private club
 - Can brew off site & transport to facility
 - If they want to market, they can sell to distributors, distributors can sell to liquor store
 - Predicted to be a big boon for downtown Conway
 - Senator Rapert did not vote for the microbreweries
 - Speaker of the house did not allow choices on committees, but instead assigned reps to all committees
 - Sen. Flowers killed the stand your ground bill
 - Several very positive bills that came out
 - We file in November, primary is in March, we need candidates

- Advice for someone considering running- if you want to run, get out there and run, go to party trainings, get out and meet people
- [Treasurer's Report](#)
 - Several expenditures
 - You have the opportunity to [buy tickets](#)
 - Maureen moved to accept treasurer's report, Christy seconded, move accepted
- Conway PRIDE
 - June 2
 - We will have a booth
 - We need volunteers to register voters and invite people to our meetings. [Sign up here](#)
- Pulaski Co is updating voter rolls with mailers, is Faulkner?
 - Someone on executive committee should ask if
- Central AR Young Dems
 - Would love to partner on voter reg initiatives
 - Contact Barrett Goodwin to invite Young Dems to voter registration initiatives
- Donaghey Dinner - May 18
 - Sen Stephanie Flowers is keynote speaker
 - Eve Jorgensen from Moms Demand will introduce her
 - Raise money for supporting candidates
 - Option to just go to after party
 - Jackets & Jeans music, professional photographer
 - Sponsorship opportunities
 - Different levels and ticket prices
 - Honoring Marion Baker award and trailblazer award
 - Closing remarks by Sen Elliot
 - Great lineup, hoping for great turnout
- Adopt a street program
 - Fill out a form, then do the work
 - Looking for people to lead that effort
 - You don't actually get to pick the street
 - We get a sign to promote us, but also makes the city & county a nicer place
 - Talk to FCDP to get involved
- Candidate recruitment
 - [Candidate guide](#) details all positions available, who is holding it, what the position means
 - We need to get the seats challenged
 - You are definitely qualified- to be an attorney general, you don't need to be an attorney or a general
 - Many of the executive committee have run for office in the past, we are glad to help
 - Local government is the most applicable to our daily lives, but the one that is least known about
 - Have a [community conversation](#)
- Business from the floor
 - Rene Henderson was asked to speak in Pine Bluff, sends her greetings
 - Rep Magie said Rene was there every time he turned around, telling Rep Magie how he needed to vote, and he really appreciated her being there
- Presented donations for CoHO academy
 - CoHO academy supports students throughout the summer
 - Can accept donations to CoHO mail to PO Box 11474 Conway, AR 72034
 - Physical donations like Oreos and Takis to 608 E Robins

- Donaghey Dinner
 - Instead of a YD ticket, we offered the after party only tickets for \$25
 - Offering volunteer tickets for \$20
 - If money is a financial obstacle, we have members who have offered to sponsor tickets
- Maureen moved we adjourn

Members in attendance

Jill Acree

Julie Adkisson

Austin Angel

Jessica Angel

David Barber

Christi Berry

Meleah Bowles

Raymond Clark

Claudia Davis

Toni Edsall

Pat Haggard

Tina Haggard

Teresa Huff

Judy McKnight

Steve Magie

Jim Mosley

Hayden Pearce

Tyler Pearson

Pat Ramsey

Maureen Skinner

5 guests in attendance