

## 5/6/19 General Meeting

- David started the meeting
  - Guests introduced themselves
- David introduced guest speaker, Judi Lively
  - Bethlehem House is a Christian program for homeless men, women, and families
  - Transitional residential shelter, so longer term
  - House up to 40ish homeless individuals
    - About 33 people benefitting today
  - Get to the root cause of homelessness, and find the solution
  - Bethlehem House isn't always the right choice for everybody
  - People have 30-45 days to find a job
    - 60% of income goes into a savings income
      - Pay off fines, bills, child support, etc
      - Trying to get to a zero debt level
    - 10% goes to shelter as occupancy fee
  - Work one on one with case manager
  - Bethlehem House provides transportation- about 13,000 miles/ mo.
    - Interviews, doctor, job commute
  - In a couple weeks, the Bethlehem House will have 3 children under 10 months
    - Some of the kids are being reunited with their parents
  - Residents are not allowed to panhandle
  - Each person who does the smallest thing makes a huge impact
  - 6:00 each night, dinner is served to residents + 30 people
    - Have started doing breakfast 6am-8am
  - Allow people to take a shower every night 4:30-7
  - Laundry is scheduled every Tuesday at a laundromat
  - Work closely with organizations in the community
    - Many community groups provide evening dinner
  - Raising money for operational funds
    - 40% of the budget comes from HUD
      - HUD is not in the business for transitional housing
      - Since 4 years ago, funding from HUD has dropped 75%
    - State & federal funding is declining
    - Goal this year: \$100,000
      - Not yet at 20%
      - Strategies to raise money
        - 365 campaign
        - Fundraising events
      - Would like to be prepared to replace government funding if needed
    - [365 campaign: monthly giving](#)
  - Had a former resident graduate from law school, one who regained law license, one who graduated college
  - By the time residents have made it to Bethlehem House, they have usually burned every bridge
  - Best thing for public to do to support Bethlehem House
    - Prayer
    - Money donation
    - Food donation

- Volunteer to serve dinner
  - Permanent commitment
    - Monthly donation or volunteering
- Public Policy for Democrats to support
  - Renters' rights
  - Money put towards mental health & addiction
  - Prison- when people get out of prison, the only place they can go is Phoenix recovery
  - Prison reform
    - Let people who have paid their dues vote
- Bethlehem House is looking at collaborating with the city & county for work positions & funding
- Empty Bowls program- have food here, and charge an entrance fee and the money goes toward Bethlehem House
- David Wintworth Reed Husband moved to approve last month's minutes, Maureen seconded, unanimously approved
- [Treasurer's Report](#)
  - Donaghey Dinner was wildly successful- [click here](#) to see the Donaghey Dinner Summary
    - Net profit: \$4,138
  - Email [treasurer@faulknerdemocrats.com](mailto:treasurer@faulknerdemocrats.com) for detailed report
- Community Updates
  - Central AR Young Professionals- Barrett Goodwin
    - YDAR are the Youth Wing of DPA
    - Rebuilding ARYD in Pulaski Co
    - Rep Faulkner, Pulaski, Lonoke
    - Action Item: Sign up for email list- sign up sheet is going around the room
  - Emerge Kickoff
    - Supporting Democratic women running for office
    - Sarah Scanlon is new president
  - Conway PRIDE
    - 14 people registered
    - 40something signed up for emails
    - Very supportive of Democratic party
  - Share FCDP with your friends, invite them to meetings
  - If you know of community events, let us know so we can get involved
  - State committee meeting last weekend in Hot Springs
    - Raise profile in Faulkner Co
    - Filing fees at state level
      - Biggest discussion
      - Point of filing fee is to demonstrate that you are a serious candidate, and to demonstrate that you can raise money
      - Filing Fees are high, but Voter Access Network tool is cheap
      - Filing fees- how much a candidate pays to run for office
        - No filing fees encourages literally anybody off the street to run, which isn't necessarily what we want
        - High filing fees discourage people from poorer backgrounds from running for office
        - Filing fees are the majority of state budget
      - Voted & agreed on no decrease for 2020, but 10% decrease in the next election cycle (2022) to give time to replace the funding

- Change in rules on membership
    - Now allows residents age 14+ to join DPA
  - Much of the filing fees are redistributed in support of candidates, but not all
  - If filing fees are not fundraising solution, then DPA needs to find a new fundraising solution: Heart of the Party
- DPA major fundraiser: Heart of the Party- giving regularly, even smaller amounts, is helpful
- You can also give to FCDP monthly
- If you are interested in running for office, we will help
- New committee members- 4 all day meetings/year
  - We need someone to take Nancy Graddy's position
  - If you are interested, let us know
  - Need somebody in the next 3 months
  - To vote on this position, you must be a paid member
- You don't need to be a paid member to be a delegate, but you have to pre-register for county convention
- Also, pay your dues :)
- County Filing Fees
  - We want to lower our fees, and we want to know what you think
  - You can fill out the Google Form [here](#)
- Candidate recruitment
  - Filing is November 4-11
- Upcoming events
  - Postcards & Queso- [Click here to visit the Facebook event](#)
    - Thursday, June 13
    - 6pm-8pm
    - Cilantro's Grill (by the movie theatre)
    - Writing thank you cards for the Donaghey Dinner
  - Debate Watch Parties
    - We want to bring the community together to watch the debates
    - If you would like to host one, at your house or at another location, please let us know!
  - Brookside Benefit Event
    - Details TBA
- Outreach
  - Wampus Cats Broadcast
    - Radio broadcast for CHS games
    - Must buy for the whole year- over \$1,000
    - Might also put an ad in the booklet
    - We could get the slot, and donate to candidates
    - If we move forward with this, we will ask for authorization from membership
  - Mailer Brainstorm
    - Would like to do a mailer before filing period
    - We want your ideas
      - What would you say for lots of new ideas
- New business from floor
- Moms Demand Wear Orange event is this Saturday at the Laurel Park splash pad
- FCDW July 1 meeting is cancelled, instead committees will meet that day
- Greenbrier School Board meeting June 11
- Meeting is adjourned

Members in attendance

Jill Acree

Julie Adkisson

Jessica Angel

David Barber

Meleah Bowles

Claudia Davis

Stuart Douglas

Pat Haggard

Tina Haggard

Toni Edsall

LeRoy Hendricks

Frances Hendricks

Teresa Huff

Jim Mosley

Leslie Parker

David Reed

Maureen Skinner

Linda Whitworth-Reed

8 guests in attendance