

Minutes (Draft)
Ward 5 Democrats April General Body Meeting
April 27, 2020

Chairman Fletcher called the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone to the first virtual meeting of the Ward 5 Democrats.

Vice Chair Frazier is working to improve our virtual meeting experience. We are using a system that allows both telephone and video conferencing. More than 30 people participated in the virtual meeting.

Treasurer Torres walked through the Financial Report, summarizing expenditures and receipts for the period covering January-April, 2020. Though we are waiting for documentation from Industrial Bank, Treasurer Torres believes our account is reconciled.

Voter Registration and Education Committee: Committee Chair Blemur reported that on April 28, 2020, there will be a virtual conference call with the DC Board of Elections. DCBOE will describe the process for casting ballots in DC's June 2nd Primary Election. This will be a good opportunity for DC voters to get answers to questions they may have about mail-in ballots.

Funding Request for Deaf Reach: Recording Secretary Lucio issued a request for funding assistance for Deaf Reach. Deaf Reach is a Ward 5 non-profit organization whose mission is to maximize the self-sufficiency of deaf and hard of hearing people who need special services. A motion to approve \$249.29 in funding for supplies (e.g., paper towels, toilet paper, printer ink, etc.) was offered and passed unanimously.

DC Democratic Candidate Virtual Endorsement Forum: John Lucio presented a recommendation for a DC Democratic Candidates Forum. The Forum will be hosted by the Ward 5 Democrats and the DC Democrats. It will take place on Thursday, May 14th from 7-8:30 PM. It will include the Democratic candidates for 1) At-Large Council of DC 2) Shadow Senator, and 3) Shadow Representative. The Forum will be recorded and posted on the Ward 5 Democrats' website with a link to vote on whether to endorse candidates. Voting will be open from May 15th – May 18th. This will be the first time Democrats have ever endorsed a candidate. John Lucio is working with an ad hoc committee to plan the event. They will address such things as compiling questions for the candidates, selecting a moderator, and identifying endorsement criteria. Anyone who wants to participate or suggest questions for the candidates, may contact John at johnL0770@gmail.com.

DC Delegate Selection Process: Chairman Fletcher welcomed and introduced Charles Wilson, Chairman, DC Democrats and Claudette David, Executive Director, DC Democrats. Chairman Wilson described the process for selecting who will represent the District of Columbia as delegates at the 2020 Democratic National Convention where decisions about the Democratic Party's presidential nominee and platform will be made. To vote for delegates, Democratic voters must first request an electronic ballot by May 15, 2020. Ballot request forms can be found on the DC Democrats' website at www.dcdemocraticparty.org. Thus far, over 400 people have

requested ballots. Chairman Wilson will send out written ballot-request instructions and Ward 5 Democrats will help get the word out.

Ward 5 Democrats June 2020 GOTV Plan: Ward 5 Democratic Committeewoman Bernita Carmichael presented information about a working plan that is underway to Get-Out-The-Vote for DC's upcoming June 2nd Primary Election. This year's election presents special challenges because of the precautions necessary to protect against COVID-19 infection. How do we best connect with voters under pandemic circumstances? Ms. Carmichael admonished that in developing our plan, we will need to "Think Safety First". Our goal will be to safely connect with voters, advance the Democratic Party and candidates, and build the membership of the Ward 5 Democrats.

Ward 5 Democrats Strategic Platform: Ruth Pagani, Chair of the Membership/Social Committee, reported that although they weren't able to move forward with a DC Democratic Convention, the Committee has developed an alternative approach to developing a Ward 5 Platform. They will conduct an online survey of Ward 5 Democratic voters. The survey will cover a range of national and Ward 5 policy issues. The survey will be issued within two weeks. Responses will be useful in developing questions for our May 14th Candidates Forum.

Chairman Fletcher introduced a guest, Candace Nelson, Chair of the Ward 4 Democrats. Not too long ago, Chairman Fletcher had participated as a guest at a General Body Meeting of the Ward 4 Democrats. Chairwoman Nelson shared a few kind words of support and described how they, too, were hosting a virtual candidates forum with Ward 4 candidates. She indicated that, for security purposes, they will limit participation to 100 people and will have a "host" dedicated to monitoring security. Chairman Fletcher thanked Chairwoman Nelson for participating.

Chairman Fletcher, then, adjourned the meeting with a reminder to fill out our 2020 Census forms.

-Minutes submitted April 28, 2020 by Caroline Petti, Chair, Ward 5 Democrats Statehood Committee