

## HOUSTON GLBT POLITICAL CAUCUS

General Membership Meeting Minutes: Wednesday June 3, 2020

Vice President Katharine Ligon opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Approx. 50 people attended via Zoom.

VP Ligon presented the President's report in President Mike Webb's absence. The report included a statement on the recent events concerning George Floyd.

Melissa Allala (former Board member) who is working for the U.S. Census 2020 team spoke briefly on the Queer the Census initiative encouraging members to visit [www.2020Census.gov](http://www.2020Census.gov) to complete their census.

VP Ligon asked that each elected official or candidate introduce themselves and speak for 1 minute. Approx. 12 candidates addressed the Caucus.

Brandon Mack (Board member) spoke about Black Lives Matter and his involvement in the organization. The Houston chapter of BLM is much more than an organization dedicated to protest. It is involved in a variety of volunteer efforts in its community.

### Committee Reports:

Communications – Austin Ruiz. He has assumed responsibility for PAC communication as well as for the C4. Barrett White's work is requiring more time than in pre-Covid days.

Election & Finance report (which was accidentally skipped in the agenda) – John Humphries (Board member). TEC & FECC reports have been filed and The Caucus owes no fines. Member Maria Gonzales inquired if there will be an audit of the reports as required by the bylaws. John stated that the Board intends to create an Audit Committee as per the by-laws. The run-off push card has been developed. Member Jack Valinski who is working with our database has developed a targeted mailout of approx. 20,000 cards. John solicited ideas as to how the Caucus should campaign at West Gray in the runoff given our current Covid circumstances.

Rules & Administration – Chris Busby (Board member). The committee will resume meetings in July or August and begin reviewing our by-laws.

Screening Committee – Brandon Mack (Board Member). Discussed the screening process for candidates who are seeking our endorsement for the November general election. Details are posted on our website. Screenings will most likely be via Zoom.

Fundraising – in Jonah Baumgarten's absence, VP Ligon reported. The Caucus Virtual Drag Extravaganza held May 15 was a success raising slightly over \$3,000 while not incurring the sizable expense of food. Jonah Baumgarten and Austin Ruiz were commended on their novel approach which was successful and entertaining.

General Operations – Judson Dunn. Even though the Saturday OPS team is functioning at a low level due to the Covid crisis, membership functions continue so that we are not hugely backlogged. Judson intends to phase out using PayPal as our processor within a few weeks to move us to a system that is more aligned with our needs. Our monthly Board and general membership minutes are now posted in a new location on our website. Jack Valinski is working with our database to create a much more targeted mailout which will reduce our overall cost.

Membership – VP Ligon. Everyone was reminded that we have an endorsement meeting August 1 and that one must be a Caucus member for 30 days in order to cast a vote. Any member in doubt of their membership status is encouraged to email [membership@thecaucus.org](mailto:membership@thecaucus.org) ASAP to inquire. Renewal notes and emails have been sent out to everyone who has lapsed in the past few months or is about to lapse.

Education & Advocacy – Brandon Mack (Board member). Working towards an Advocacy Day on Sept. 22 with the Mayor’s office.

Volunteer – Austin Stelter. Planning to support our July run-off efforts.

Expansion – Scott Barish (Board member). Discussed potential action plans for the Caucus to expand into other counties.

Caucus Coronavirus Task Force – in Kendrick Clack’s absence, Board member John Humphries. In conjunction with Rep. Shelia Jackson Lee’s office and The Montrose Center, The Caucus Task Force is hoping to operate a drive thru Covid testing on Sat. June 13.

Announcements:

Our next meeting is Wed July 1 via Zoom.

Our endorsement meeting is Sat Aug 1. Location TBD.

A question was asked concerning President Webb not attending the past 2 meetings. VP Ligon stated that President Webb has requested personal time and as stated in our bylaws, she as vice president is serving as our acting president. A brief discussion ensued.

VP Ligon adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ken Council (volunteer for Secretary Chris Busby)

Preliminary