

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN REFORM DEMOCRATIC CLUB
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, Wednesday, March 9, 2022
Via Zoom electronic communication**

Present: Virginia Krompinger, Louise Dunbar, Michael Heller, Ira Bigeleisen, Bruce Feld, Dee Dixon, Helen Morik, Julia Engel, Robin Weinstein, Bill Weitz, Ellen Feld, Sergio Villaverde, Mitzi Finlay, Jake Herring, Jerald Kreppel, Jeffrey Dinowitz

Bruce Feld declared that a quorum was present.

President Krompinger called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. With no objection, she changed the order that agenda items were discussed.

Update of Club Web Site

President Krompinger has posted the bios of new executive committee members. She asked for both technical and creative help with further updates to the site. Fredda Tourin has volunteered to help with the creative.

Executive Committee Meetings Guest Attendance

Ira Bigeleisen moved to invite Assemblyman Dinowitz to attend this and future 2022 executive committee meetings. Dee Dixon seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Next Membership Meeting and Consideration of Statewide Endorsements

The committee discussed changing the next scheduled membership meeting from March 23rd to some time in April because of the need for the membership devote as much time as possible to petitioning. There were no objections to changing the date to late April. April religious observances such as Passover, Good Friday, Easter, Orthodox Easter, etc. will be avoided when choosing a date.

Jeffrey Dinowitz spoke briefly about the candidates, including Gov. Hochul, who had been nominated at the party convention in New York City. Also discussed was whether or not candidates will be invited to future meetings. Given the number of positions, fringe candidates with little support or finances might have to be excluded but the consensus of the committee was that major candidates, whatever their views, should be invited, allowing club members to question those views. The vice presidents volunteered to invite candidates to the meetings. Vice presidents would be used to invite candidates to meetings. Perhaps a candidates' meeting could be arranged for late April.

Petitioning

Committee Member William Weitz spoke about week 2 of the petitioning effort. The club is off to a good start, but more help is needed. Volunteers are petitioning on the streets and in buildings; they are going out in teams. The number and designations of election districts (EDs) have changed. The 5% signature requirement of registered Democratic voters per district mean we must make a major effort to be successful. Some petitioners are confused because, not within our control, the petition sheet for the 36th state senate district arrived late and is the same color (green) as the 81st assembly district petition.

Jeffrey Dinowitz said there are three slates of candidates in our district. Ramdat Singh, Abigail Martin, Morgan Evers, and Aaron Steynman are among those running. Also, Jessica Altagracia Woolford is running against him. Ms. Woolford's petition has only her name on it.

Approval of Operating Expenses

Treasurer Robin Weinstein happily reported that our expenses are covered by the funds on hand. Expenses include, but are not limited to, the post office box, Zoom, Cube Smart storage unit, Constant

Contact, Web site, etc. Bruce Feld moved that the committee approve these expenses. Helen Morik seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Vice Presidential Ranking

In accordance with the recently-adopted bylaw amendment, since the vice presidents received the same votes and therefore were tied, the executive committee was responsible for their ranking. (The bylaws give the first vice president responsibilities in the absence of the president.) Virginia proposed and it was accepted by the three vice presidents the following ranking: Bruce Feld, 1st vice president; Ira Bigeleisen, 2nd vice president, and Helen Morik, 3rd vice president. Michael Heller moved that the committee adopt the proposal. Dee Dixon seconded the motion, and the rankings were unanimously adopted.

Charitable Activity

President Krompinger would like the club to take on a public service activity, such as a financial education clinic. Sergio Villaverde suggested park clean up. Michael Heller suggested having policy speakers address the club on specific issues. The initiative would have to follow the primary election campaign ending in June; in that respect Helen offered her home for a candidate meet and greet for her building.

New Business

Ira Bigeleisen has investigated and reports that the Winston-Churchill common room is available for an in-person meeting. Robin Weinstein suggested that it be a hybrid meeting. Bruce Feld suggested an in-person meeting only after the petitioning and the primaries are over, virus containment permitting. Michael Heller said good camera work and good audio would be needed for a hybrid meeting. Ira Bigeleisen says an in-person meeting allows of interaction before and after the meeting that encourages collaboration; this kind of interaction can't happen on Zoom. Everyone agreed and looked forward to when we could safely meet in person.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m. by President Krompinger.

Minutes by Nona Louise Dunbar