

**Fresno AFRAM Caucus
Minutes
Dinner 5:30p – 6 p, Meeting 6p
Thursday, May 12, 2016
Unity Hall, Fresno, Ca**

Call to Order

Time 6:03 pm

Introduction

Arvelia Via Cooper-Whigham (pres), Rogenia Cox (vice pres), Darlynn Qualls (treas), Patricia Strattman-Clay (sec), Joy Hall-Villareal (member), Francis Coronado (retiree), Sergio Garcia (member), Raquel Garcia (member), Maria Luisa Gutierrez (member), Lamont Holiman (SEIU member), Gwen Morris (23rd Assembly candidate), Cynthia Sterling (rep for Gwen Morris campaign), Mariam Alvarez (staff) and Mai Thao (staff)

Open Forum

Fresno:

Mai Thao – Community Political Organizer & Staff – SEIU didn't endorse a State seat, upcoming precinct activities for May 2016 for June 7th election as part of our boots-to-the-ground by Rocking the Vote

Maya Daugherty – Internal Organizer – N/A

Black Infant Health Program - TBA

Fundraisers & Guest Speakers - Travel discounts (Patricia Strattman-Clay) & Gwen Morris candidate for 23rd Assembly District (Jim Patterson is the incumbent)

Minutes

Reading and Approval: March 2016 – **voting on next meeting with these minutes**

Treasury Report – as of 3/31/16 not reflecting the additional \$1000 from SEJ

Balance: Expense total food \$ 2,677.79 other \$1,000 not showing yet

Budget Balance: ~~\$5500~~ 6500 – spent \$2,822.21

Old Business

99 Problems donation – to adopt for supplies for students but will use \$100 to purchase supplies for almost 2 students

Report(s)

April 23rd precinct walk: Patricia S-C, Sergio and Rogenia

Donation(s) Request(s)

- o NAACP Collective Action Fund – tabled to next meeting in June 4, 2016

Joint Caucus Events

Fresno

- APALA – Asian Festival May 7, 2016; Bus Trip 10/2/16 – cash due TBA
- Women's Caucus – Revising their Bylaws; teleconference w/San Jose for a chapter to be developed their area. And hopefully one in Visalia
- Latino – registering citizens for voting & Hispanic Heritage in September
- Native American – Nov: Native American event
- LGBT/Lavender – under new leadership; Gay Pride in June for Fresno
- Retirement – n/a

- PWD – still working on getting it started in Fresno and involving San Jose

San Jose

- Latino – registering for voting
- AFRAM – n/a
- APALA – Asian Festival
- Retirement – n/a

New Business

- Leadership Training – Unity Hall time is TBA
- Juneteenth Celebration Planning - June 4, 2016 - Theme: Our Ancestor's Politics are Still Our Politics – a continuation of this year's theme 11 am to 2 pm. Planning starts 4/11, 2016. We voted on: Guest Speaker – Maureen Moore \$100 (motioned by Darlynn, 2nd by Patricia & unanimous yes); DJ Boss – Solomon Barela \$150 (motioned by Darlynn, 2nd by Sergio & unanimous yes); Face Painter(s) – Akilah Medina & Ayanna Merez Art Is Fun \$50 (motioned by Patricia, 2nd by Darlynn & unanimous yes); Praise Dancer – Proverbs 31 – Chrystal Hale \$50 (motioned by Darlynn, 2nd by Rogenia & unanimous yes); opening with The Native American Indian Veterans Association to present colors and invocation \$50 (motion by Darlynn, 2nd by Rogenia & unanimous yes); food (meat, cake or catering) to be decided once we get invoices from vendors and will conduct text/email vote (motioned by Darlynn, 2nd by Patricia & unanimous yes). Gift cards to be determined once food has been approved and finding out balance of Juneteenth budget (motioned by Patricia, 2nd by Darlynn & unanimous yes.
- RSVP – for meetings and events – **A Must as Enough Food is COMMON Courtesy**
- Caucus Guidelines, Rules and Regulations – *Using International AFRAM*. Copies given in October 15, 2015 meeting.
- Fundraising Opportunities – Bus trip(s) – **Ongoing discussion.**
- 2017 Budget – Planning on May, Sept & Oct 2016.
- 2016 Delegate Election: **May 19-25, 2016 Detroit, MI.** Alysia Bonner motioned for a van to be rented for this convention by email. At the meeting, Rogenia motioned that \$300 be available for this and for it to come out of the additional \$1,000 that is to be given to each caucus per Budget & Finance minutes of March 2016. Darlynn 2nd this motion. It was unanimous agreed upon to rent the van for Fresno Delegates. As of 5/14/16, per our travel coordinator, Kelly Ferguson that an additional \$186 would be needed. The text/email vote took awhile and the rental price might have gone up, so Rogenia has amended her motion to up the amount to \$550 for this rental and with Gwyn paying the parking fee of \$30 a day & gas. Darlynn has 2nd the amended motion. It was agreed upon: Alysia, Rogenia, Darlynn, Patricia, Sergio, Gwyn, Jackie (member) and Arvelia with no response from Joy.
- SEJ Caucus End-of-the-year Event: Saturday, December ?, 2016

Organizing

- Memberships & Dues – **March 31, 2016 - \$20 one yr or \$40 two yrs**
- Stewardship Training – **Sept 10 (Merced) Modules 1 & 2, October 8th (Fresno) Module 4, October 22nd (Fresno) Modules 3 & 5**
- *Photos and Tri-folds – if you have any photos from past events please bring them to next meeting or to the union office! – **soon for display***

- Next Western Regional AFRAM meeting – **San Jose, Ca either June or July 2016**
- Organize other chapters within the Central Valley – Kern, Kings, Tulare: **TBA**
- Connecting to the Community - Contact Black churches & businesses: **TBA**
- Fundraising for 2016: Raffles, bus trips, tickets for future events, t-shirts and other items for Fresno & WRAAC – awaiting prices from Mad Illustrators
- Fundraising for 2017: *planning a Dinner, Comedy & Dance for Valentine's Day – 6-10 pm, discussed calling Piccadilly Inn on Shaw (2305 W Shaw Ave, Fresno, Ca 93711 (559) 348-5520) or at Smuggler's Inn (3737 N Blackstone Ave, Fresno, Ca 93726 (559) 226-2200) proceeds to go to Black Infant Health Program of Public Health of Fresno Ca.*

Table to Next Meeting

- 1] Rogenia: Tabia (theater group out of Oakland/San Francisco for Black History Month 2017)
- 2] Darlynn: 99 Problemz – supplies - raffle
- 3] Arvelia: NAACP Collective Action Fund

Adjournment Time 7:53 pm

Motion: Rogenia
 2nd: Joy
 Carried: All

Next Meeting *April 14, 2016 cancelled- June 4, 2016 after Juneteenth event*
Call to R.S.V.P. (559) 447-2560