

**Fresno AFRAM Caucus
Minutes
Dinner 5:30p – 6 p, Meeting 6p
Thursday, August 13, 2015
Unity Hall, Fresno, Ca**

Call to Order

Time 6:18 pm

Introduction

Arvelia Via Cooper-Whigham, Pres; Darlynn Qualls, Treasurer; Patricia Stratham-Clay, member; Joy Hall-Villareal, member; Brenda Smith and Latisha James, staff

Open Forum

- 1] Mai Thao – Community Political Organizer & Staff: not present
- 2] Latisha James – Internal Organizer: Unit 2 De-Cert was voted approved
- 3] Black Infant deaths dying by 1st birthday: Darlynn Qualls – Henry Perea brought up the topic at her church - Black Infant Health Program of Fresno County of Fresno Public Health email given and asked of them for programs/brochures: www.bihfresno.org.
- 4] Dinner w/Special guest Representative John Lewis of GA on Wed, Aug 19, 2015 at Double Tree by Hilton (Selland Arena): 2233 Ventura St, Fresno, Ca 93721 – voted on buying a table vs tickets – motioned by Darlynn to purchase a table, 2nd by Patricia, all in favor of it list was made: Darlynn +1, Patricia S-C, Patricia A-W +1, Brenda, LaTisha, Gavin Priscilla N, Robert and Tenaya J.
- 5] Joy: American Indians are now being diagnosed w/Diabetes.
- 6] Darlynn: Community Reach.
- 7] Arvelia: prayer for Gavin Simmons – job issues.
- 8] Labor Day Breakfast 9/7/15 - sign up Patricia S-C +1, Patricia A-W +1, Priscilla N, Ayanna, and Adonis.
- 9] Women’s Conference 9/22/15 chosen: Darlynn Q, Patricia S-C and Rogenia C.
- 10] SEJ Summit 10/9-10, 2015 in San Jose, Ca: motion by Joy to rent a van for travel from Fresno, Ca for members to San Jose, 2nd by Darlynn, carried by all – motion by Darlynn to get a hotel for Fri night in San Jose 10/10/15, 2nd by Patricia, carried by all. Sign up: Darlynn, Joy, Patricia S-C, Via, Adonis, and Ayanna.
- 11] questions for Brenda: Are we going to have meetings at different worksites to start building members & memberships? Yes, we are and there will be quite of few them. More discussion will happen at the Organizing Leadership Training (OLT) on Aug 22nd & 27th at the Unity Hall Fresno. A Caucus Structure packet will be given out to AFRAM president soon.
- 12] Caucuses: handout for all caucus’ meetings were given out and everyone was encourage to attend the other held meetings to bring others up-to-date of upcoming events so that we may show solidarity and support of these other caucuses.
- 13] Steward training: it was brought up to help empower ourselves and others at our worksites of learning our rights to attend these trainings that rotate throughout the yr; next one is held on Sat Aug 22nd: Steward & Discipline at Fresno Unity Hall.

Minutes

Reading and Approval: April 2015; no minutes for June and July (no meeting)

1. Motion: Darlynn Qualls
2. Second: Joy Hall-Villareal
3. Carried: All in Favor

Treasury Report **as of 4/30/15**

Balance: Conference: \$ 3,821.20

Expense total: \$5,702.64

Budget Balance: ~~\$3,722.36~~ **\$1,725.50 as of 7/31/15 report from Ming Lee, SEIU Director of Finance**

Old Business

Budgeted Items: Labor Day Breakfast, Women's Conference, SEJ Summit, Marjorie Mason and End of Yr Event

Report(s)

April 2015

APALA Festival

SEJ mtg

- Reports for May, June, July and Aug by Arvelia Via, Pres

Donation(s) Request(s)

- Youth Training Luncheon for MLK "Sacrifices from the Heart": too late
- CA Labor Federal, "Workforce & Economic Development (WED) Annual : too late
- Conference: Building Workforce Partnerships" March 4th – 5th in Sacramento: too late
- West Fresno Ministerial Alliance: too late
- Please fwd these once you receive/know of them so they can be added to the agenda

Joint Caucus Events

Fresno

- APALA – their conference in San Diego Aug 13-16, 2 from Fresno to attend
- Women's Caucus – Women's Conference 9/22/15, a table purchased
- Latino – Latino Leadership training 9/22-25/15 in San Juan Bautista Ca, San Jose is sending Rachel, Pres; SEJ voted & are sending bob Segura of San Jose; Fresno are sending 4 people
- Native American – have their new logo/banner; pow-pow participating
- LGBT – are contributing & participating to/in the AIDS Walk 10/17/15
- Retirement – n/a

San Jose

- Latino – April 4, 2015
- AFRAM – n/a
- PWD – only 1 member left: Myrna
- Retirement – n/a

New Business

- Leadership Training – Unity Hall time is APRIL 11, 2015: It was a great experience and opened to all who want to be trained or get new skills; next one will be in Aug 22nd & 29th both are Saturdays.
- NAMI: Saturday May 23, 2015 – Woodward Park, Group Activity Area - donation item: no one able to attend.
- Juneteenth Celebration Planning - June 6, 2015; Theme: Our Ancestors' Politics are Still Our Politics. Our day of Celebration is the 1st Saturday of June: June 6, 2015 10 am - 3 pm in the Unity Hall. Full details in the Juneteenth Activity report.
- RSVP – for meetings and events – **A Must as Enough Food is COMMON Courtesy**
- Caucus Guidelines, Rules and Regulations – *Using International AFRAM*
- Fundraising Opportunities – Bus trip(s) – *Ongoing discussion: planning a Dinner, Comedy Dance for Valentine's Day 2/13/2016 – 6 pm-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. Mentoring to our youth (middle or High school aged children – Victoria Sumner.*
- 2015 Budget – Completed and turned in – approved at Budget Mtg Jan 21, 2015

Organizing

- Memberships & Dues – Match 31, 2015: still sending in our membership applications for this year.
- Stewardship Training – Have started up July 2015; check the website and other flyers for the next session.
- *Photos and Tri-folds – if you have any photos from past events please bring them to next meeting or to the union office!:* will be putting together 3-fold boards & albums from past events for display for the upcoming Summit and other events at next meeting **Sept 10, 2015.**
- Next Western Regional AFRAM meeting – *LA or San Jose - TBA*
- Organize other chapters within the Central Valley – Kern, Kings, Tulare: *TBA*
- Connecting to the Community - Contact Black churches & businesses: Outreach to be explored in upcoming meetings.

Table to Next Meeting

- 1] Fundraising ideas for 2016
- 2] Community Outreach ideas 2015-2016
- 3] SEJ Special meeting on Monday Aug 24th

Adjournment Time 7:45 pm

Motion: Patricia S-C

2nd: Darlynn Q

Carried: All in favor

Next Meeting *June 11, 2015* Sept 10, 2015

Call to R.S.V.P. (559) 447-2560