Fresno AFRAM Caucus
Minutes
Dinner 5:30p – 6 p, Meeting 6p
Thursday, February 11, 2016
Unity Hall, Fresno, Ca

• Call to Order  
  Time 6:11 pm

• Introduction  
  Arvelia Via Cooper-Whigham (pres), Darlynn Qualls (treasurer), Joy Hall-Villareal (member), Olga Garcia (FASTA guest), Sergio Garcia (FASTA & member), Raquel Garcia (member), Maria Luisa Gutierrez (member), Patricia Strattman-Clay (member), Latisha James (staff), Maya Daugherty (staff) & Mai Thao (staff)

• Open Forum  
  Fresno:
  1. Mai Thao – Community Political Organizer & Staff: vote for $15 in November petition to get on the November ballot. We signed a waiver that only registered voters may sign the petition. We were given a FAQs sheet, Tips & Talking points sheet and a Registration form for 9 signatures. SEIU goal is 10,000 by March 2016. SEIU has selected Hillary Clinton for the primary candidate. We’ll be having Town halls on Assembly Members & School Trustees. There will be meet & greet for Ruby Salas in Bakersfield on Feb 23rd for Congressional Seat vacated by Henry Perea Jr. Flyers are to come. Community Based: Immigration 3/12/16 9-3 pm re: Wage Reform, DACA, DAPA, Citizenship and Voter Registration at West Fresno Center.
  2. Latisha James – Internal Organizer: n/a
  3. Black Infant Health Program – information to come
  4. Elections results – Hand out
  5. Fundraisers & Guest Speakers – Darlynn would like a guest speaker on Black Infant Health/Death rate.
  6. Joy: concerns regarding how all caucuses are using their Bylaws. She said she has served and worked on quite a few bylaws committees and nowhere is it stated by votes/voting can be done by way of texts. I read the voting section of the National African American Caucus from April 10-13, 2005: which doesn’t say anything regarding text votes either for it or against it. She says she will bring this up at the Executive Board Meeting.

• Minutes  
  Reading and Approval: January 2016
  1. Motion: Darlynn – as is
  2. Second: Patricia
  3. Carried: 4I’s, 0 Abstentions & 1 No – yes carried

• Treasury Report  
  Balance: Expense total $49 – $22.31 food
  Budget Balance: $5,000 $4,403.01
• Old Business

**Budgeted items:** Caucus end of Year event: gift card(s)

  o To send Darlynn and Patricia to the 1st face-to-face Western Regional conference on Feb 26-28, 2016. We’ll have to move our budgeted items around for their fare. Darlynn motion to take $1,300 from: Jan $7.69 monthly meetings, $100 MLK events, $85.32 western Regional conference meeting; Feb $40 monthly meeting; July $40 monthly meeting, July $513.50 Western Regional conference meeting; and Oct $513.50 Western Regional conference meeting. Sergio 2nd and it was Unanimous carried.

  o For the Feb Black History remaining items: Food – AFRAM to purchase 99 pieces of fried/baked chicken not to exceed $50 and the rest of the chicken donated by the members – Darlynn motioned, Patricia 2nd and Unanimous carried.

  o Darlynn motioned that the amounts of the gift cards to be purchased for Black History be in the following: $40 in movie cards, 2 $10 Starbucks, 1 $25 Visa card which is a total of $85 which leaves $15 for incidentals out of the $150 budgeted line for Black History, 2nd by Joy and Unanimous carried.

• Report(s)
  SEJ meeting
  SEJ Budget update: each caucus to receive $5,500

• Donation(s) Request(s)
  o n/a

• Joint Caucus Events
  Fresno
  APALA – Bus Trip to Black Oak in Sonora, Ca 3/19/16
  Women’s Caucus – Queen for a Day 2/13/16 at Holy Cross
  Latino – Lorenzo’s father passed away in January 2016
  Native American – pow-pow participating
  LGBT/Lavender -
  Retirement –

  San Jose
  Latino – n/a Rachel has an illness in the family
  AFRAM – Marilyn and others read to elementary students and 300 students marched around and sang We Shall Overcome
  PWD – Alysia, Darlynn and Myrna are working on this as we speak; I’m interested in this caucus
  Retirement – n/a
• New Business
  o Leadership Training – Unity Hall time is: 1/9/16
  o Black History Month February 20, 2016 Theme: In Honor of African American History Month: Celebrating our Greatness 11 am – 2 pm.
  o 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.
  o RSVP – for meetings and events – A Must as Enough Food is COMMON Courtesy
  o Fundraising Opportunities – Bus trip(s) – Ongoing discussion. Start talking about this on 5/12/16
  o 2016 Budget – Planning on Sept 10th & Oct 8th, 2015. - Handout
  Notice of 2016 Local-wide Election: Gwyn Harshaw on President on 1/14/16
  o SEJ Caucus End-of-the-year Event: Saturday, December ?, 2016

• Organizing
  o Memberships & Dues – March 31, 2016
  o Stewardship Training – 1/28/16, 2/11/16, 2/25/16, 3/12/16 & 3/24/16
  o Photos and Tri-folds – if you have any photos from past events please bring them to next meeting or to the union office! – 2/20/16 - 1st display
  o Next Western Regional AFRAM meeting – Seattle, WA 2/26-28/16
  o Organize other chapters within the Central Valley – Kern, Kings, Tulare: TBA
  o Connecting to the Community - Contact Black churches & businesses: TBA
  o Fundraising for 2016: 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. - TBA

• Table to Next Meeting
  1]
  2]
  3]

• Adjournment  Time 8:02 pm
  Motion: Joy
  2nd: Darlynn
  Carried: Unanimous

• Next Meeting March 10, 2016
  Call to R.S.V.P. (559) 447-2560
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