

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 Hilary 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 ~~\$30~~ – \$22.31 food
Budget Balance: ~~\$5500~~ \$4,403.01

- Old Business
 - **Budgeted items:** Caucus end of Year event: gift card(s)
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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)
 - 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
 - Leadership Training – Unity Hall time is: 1/9/16
 - Black History Month February 20, 2016 Theme: In Honor of African American History Month: Celebrating our Greatness 11 am – 2 pm.
 - 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.
 - 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**. Start talking about this on 5/12/16
 - 2016 Budget – Planning on Sept 10th & Oct 8th, 2015. - **Handout**
 - Notice of 2016 Local-wide Election: **Gwyn Harshaw on President on 1/14/16**
 - SEJ Caucus End-of-the-year Event: Saturday, December ?, 2016

- Organizing
 - Memberships & Dues – **March 31, 2016**
 - Stewardship Training – 1/28/16, 2/11/16, 2/25/16, 3/12/16 & 3/24/16
 - 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**
 - Next Western Regional AFRAM meeting – **Seattle, WA 2/26-28/16**
 - Organize other chapters within the Central Valley – Kern, Kings, Tulare: **TBA**
 - Connecting to the Community - Contact Black churches & businesses: **TBA**
 - 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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