

CCDC Membership Meeting
9 a.m. Saturday, April 6, 2024
Culpeper Police Dept.

<https://meet.google.com/gnj-cbkz-ivq>

9:00 – 9:30 am Guest Candidates: Margaret Franklin and Carl Bedell

Business Meeting

1. Welcome & Call to Order 9:27 a.m.
2. Chair's Comments – Mary Jo Monahan
 - Matt Borja is the new parliamentarian. He'll ensure that meetings run by the book.
 - Steven Jones Jr. is the new sergeant-at-arms. He'll ensure civility at meetings open to the public.
 - CCDC staffed the East and West Fairfax precincts during the presidential primary. The State of the Union Watch Party (Matt's idea) was fun and well attended. Now it's on to the June 18 7th Congressional District primary.
 - Quoting Sherrilyn Ifill, former director of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and now a Howard University professor, Mary Jo said the practice of democracy means “developing a habit of doing something every day that promotes democratic values: freedom, equal rights, safety, healthcare for all, fair elections.” It means sharing the load, showing up, sharing the good outcomes. Quoting David Plouffe, Obama's 2008 campaign manager, she said our job is find the pro-democracy majority and get them to the polls.
3. The agenda was approved unanimously on a motion by Marilyn Dunphy, second by Ed Dunphy
4. These new and returning members were accepted unanimously: Vincent Burke, Amali (John) Cano, Frank Grant, Kim Jones, Stewart Richter, G Nicholson, Jennifer Ward (Jim Restel, Jan Fitts), bringing membership to 80.
5. The minutes were approved unanimously (Ed, Jim)
6. The treasurer's report was approved unanimously (Jan Fitts, Jim) Karen Bywaters reported that a bequest from a longtime member will be invested after some research.
7. Committee Chair Reports/Discussion
 - Chair's Report – Mary Jo
 - Thanks to the events committee for the successful forum for the 7th Congressional District Democratic candidates in which the five

Piedmont committees collaborated. It received thorough coverage in the Culpeper Star-Exponent. The forum for the eight GOP candidates will be held at 7 p.m. April 17 in Orange, location to come.

- We have 11 delegates and three alternates (seven men, seven women) to the 7th CD convention on May 18 at James Monroe High School in Fredericksburg, so no caucus will be necessary.
- The Democratic Party of Virginia is focusing on voter protection. Our voter protection committee is Jim Restel, Suzanne Ross, Randy Dunn.
- CCDC made a good showing at the Chamber of Commerce community breakfast in March.
- Encompass is throwing a thank-you barbecue April 23 at Mountain Run Park for volunteers at the Culpeper Warming Center. Bring a chair, and they'd appreciate an RSVP. The center's future is uncertain.
- Madison County's Democracy Dinner will be held 5:30-7:30 p.m. April 27 at Revalation Winery. Tickets are \$40 each to support scholarships.
- The executive committee modeled new polo shirts which will be available for purchase online and pickup at a Swag Party at HQ later in the spring.
- Vice Chair of Community Operations; Communications/IT Committee -- Ed Dunphy
 - Please apply to serve on town and county boards and commissions; we're represented on seven.
 - Support the NAACP's Juneteenth celebration starting at noon June 15 in Yowell Meadow Park,
 - NAACP will have a voter registration booth on the last day of the 3-day CulpeperPalooza, April 19-21 at Mountain Run Park.
 - See a documentary on the Carver School at the Carver Center, May 4.
 - A post-7th CD primary potluck celebration will be held 5-8 p.m. June 21 at Mountain Run Park.
- Chair, Events/Social Committee – Marilyn Dunphy. We'll have a booth at Pride Day, and we'll need help in three shifts: 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. We want to make people aware of the primary, the candidates, voting dates, and the importance of their votes.

- Vice Chair of Precinct Operations – Roger Gorg and Steven A. Jones Jr. The June 18 primary will be a rehearsal for the November election, working the usual 10 precincts and looking for people to post signs at the other five.
8. “Politalk” Report – Rice Wagner. Nine people came armed with facts for a great conversation. The next one will be Friday, April 26, place TBA, and the topics will be Trump’s Project 2025 and Del. Nick Freitas’s record.
 9. Next Meeting: 9-11 a.m. Saturday, May 4, 2024, at the town Police Dept.
 - 10.. Carol Nelson introduced Liz White of UpVoteVirginia.

Liz described ranked-choice voting as a more thorough way for voters to express their preferences and to identify the candidate with the support of the majority of the electorate. It elevates nontraditional candidates and avoids vote splitting. Current Virginia law allows RCV only for county board elections. The major downside is its novelty: it’s unfamiliar and seems complicated and would require a huge voter-education effort. .

Meeting adjourned 11:10 a.m. (Ed, Roger)