

York-Poquoson Democratic Committee  
21 June 2021 Meeting Minutes  
Prepared by Elton Smith

York-Poquoson Democrats Membership Meeting

1. The meeting started at 7:03 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance; 19 participants were in (virtual) attendance.
2. Our guest speaker **Lawrence Gholson III, York, James City, Williamsburg NAACP Branch President** (<https://www.yjcwnaACP.org> and contact him at [yourWilliamsburgNAACP@gmail.com](mailto:yourWilliamsburgNAACP@gmail.com)), was introduced by Tara who is also a member of the NAACP branch. Lawrence emphasized that the organization joins with other organizations in areas where their missions overlap and to build socioeconomic collaborations within our communities. The mission of the NAACP is “to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights for all... and to eliminate race-based discrimination.” Their focus list includes 1. Civilian oversight/review board, 2. Ending qualified immunity, 3. Voter registration, 4. Inclusive economy, 5. Health and well-being, 6. Engaging the community. Everyone has his/her own story. He presented his own compelling story as an American story, making the point that we are always stronger together. More information can be found at [www.maximizedlifecoaching.com](http://www.maximizedlifecoaching.com), [www.lawrencegholson.com](http://www.lawrencegholson.com), and [www.myfammat.com](http://www.myfammat.com). Tara noted that the NAACP was founded by an interracial group of activists and the local branch reflects the diversity of its origins.
3. Local and State Legislature (s) comment

**91<sup>st</sup> District** Matthew Hatfield (for **Delegate Martha Mugler**): <https://www.muglerfordelegate.com> Many opportunities to volunteer. Especially need help in Poquoson. To sign up to help out with Delegate Mugler’s campaign, sign up at the following link <https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/392077/>. Del Mugler plans to participate with us in the 4<sup>th</sup> July Yorktown parade.

**96<sup>th</sup> District** Rebecca Leser (for **Dr. Mark Downey**): [www.downeyforva.com](http://www.downeyforva.com) 1) You're invited to a cornhole tournament in support of Mark Downey, M.D., candidate for the Virginia House of Delegates, 96th district on Sunday, June 27, from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. (Address provided upon signing up). Bring your competitive spirit. 2) Join Dr. Downey for an informative virtual town hall on Tuesday, June 29th at 6 pm. We will hear from the organization Virginia Animal Rights Voters about the status of animal rights in the Commonwealth, what legislation we need to pursue to protect animals, and how we can all be effective allies in the pursuit of animal rights. Dr. Downey also promised to join us for the 4<sup>th</sup> July parade. Contact Rebecca at [rebecca@downeyforvirginia.com](mailto:rebecca@downeyforvirginia.com).

**93<sup>rd</sup> District Delegate Mike Mullin** highlighted some of the milestones of the democratic legislature over the last year: \$528k for Medicaid; Led the nation with Juneteenth as a holiday; leader in criminal justice reform, eliminating the death penalty. Stephen Bauer followed up with some details of the campaign: Join Del Mullin for the

Round table on Voting Rights for Virginias on Wed at 6 pm.

<https://www.mobilize.us/mullinforva/event/393406/>. Signup to volunteer to phone bank and canvass at <https://www.mobilize.us/mullinforva/event/385909/> and <https://www.mobilize.us/mullinforva/event/396574/>.

4. Treasurer's Report (Fred)

- a. Current balance is \$2,414.97. Need to reimburse Tara for zoom account and the August picnic is coming up.

5. Vice-Chair's Reports

- a. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair – Tara Taylor – Asked the campaigns when signs would be available. They are now, and they will deliver to Tara's "campaign office" over the next week. Most work has gone into organization of the picnic – to be discussed separately.
- b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair – Dalila Johnson – Working on ideas for fundraising at the picnic. Also noted that the participation at the primary polling locations worked well.
- c. 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair – Elton Smith – Asked if anyone was at the meeting for a second time wishing to be voted in. Crystal Cutler was a new face, first time at our meeting. Originally from NY, she moved to Virginia from Pennsylvania. She was given a YP Dem business card and list of activities at the recent primary. Welcome! Elton is taking notes for LeRoyce who is recovering from surgery.

- 6. Gary made a motion to approve Minutes from May meeting. Elton seconded. After scrolling through the minutes, they were approved with no comments.

7. Committee reports and upcoming events:

- a. Picnic Committee: Tara and LeRoyce are chairing the committee for the YPDC 5<sup>th</sup> annual picnic, scheduled for Saturday, 7 August (about 11am – 2pm). A Google Form is being created to ask for volunteers. We need volunteers to lend chairs, canopies, tables, coolers, etc. We will also need help with setup/ tare down, cook, help with displays.
- b. July 4<sup>th</sup> parade. Start 8:30 on Sunday morning. Short walk but up a hill. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate.

8. New Business

- a. Gary: We might want to support voter registration, likely in September. There was a suggestion to possibly team up with other organizations (NAACP, LWV, etc.) with similar goals. Note that voter registration is strictly non-partisan, which must be kept in mind when organizing.

9. Open Session – Comments from Members:

- a. Gary -- New Resident Post Cards: John and Nancy Hummel have addressed, stamped and set out about 400 post cards to new residents in York County and Poquoson. We have about 100 post cards left. John: How will we know if the cards are effective? Gary: We will add a question to our membership form inquiring about how they heard about us to help answer that question. We may come back next month to discuss whether more cards should be purchased.
- b. Sam Eure – Working with the Educational Community, supporting legislation of interest to that group.

#### 10. Upcoming Events:

- a. Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Yorktown Parade
- a. Saturday, 7 August Annual Picnic
- b. Friday, 15 October - Sunday, 17 October, Poquoson Seafood Festival
- c. Tuesday, 2 November General Election
- d. TBD York-Poquoson Democrats End of Year Social.
- e. Reorganization of the York Poquoson Democratic Committee, which happens every 2 years, will be in Dec or Jan.

11. Monday, 19 July at 7:00 pm, next York-Poquoson Democrats membership meeting.  
 Guest Speaker: Professor John McGlennon, will provide thoughts on the Republican Convention and Democratic Primary results; what is at stake in Virginia, as well as how Democrats can win in statewide and local elections. Professor McGlennon is a member of the James City County's Board of Supervisors and has taught politics with a special focus on the South and Virginia at the College of William and Mary since 1974.

12. Gary proposed a motion to adjourn. Second from Elton at 8:27 pm