PE&SJ report for business meeting 09-08-2021

Attending: Nancy Craft, Tom Kennedy, Elizabeth Waitekus, Mary Pelham White

We agreed to support local the HRCAN group by forwarding to our community the link to sign the petition.

We added the link where we can send emails directly to the White House thanks to Elizabeth.

https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/

We are reminded of the value of Sally Gudas in supporting and keeping up to date with local immigration needs.

Mary Pelham shared the story that started 2 years ago when she met an immigrant and his son at the bus terminal in Norfolk who had left his immigration documents on the bus. Hopefully Mary Pelham will put the story to pen so it can be shared by all!

Mary Pelham, Convener and Nancy Craft recorder

NOTE: Sally Gudas continues to need drivers to take immigrants to appointments.

The Social Justice University is virtual so everyone can come!

For Additional Opportunities check out the Virginia Organization Calendar!

HAMPTON ROADS LEGISLATIVE COLLABORATIVE TABLE

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2021 – 2022

DRAFT

Health Disparities

- Establish a standard that allows workers to earn and use up to five paid sick days a year to care for themselves, visit a health professional, or care for a sick family member. 1.2 million workers in Virginia have no paid sick days or any PTO. These workers are disproportionately people of color working in service industries and helping professions.
- Fully fund all components of community mental health services through STEP VA (System Transformation Excellence and Performance in Virginia).

Environmental Justice

Enact comprehensive environmental justice (EJ) legislation including: a) requiring state agencies consider EJ in all decisions, b) mandating all localities take EJ into account in Comprehensive planning, c) requiring early, meaningful engagement and involvement of EJ communities *before* permits are granted and *throughout* the permitting process, d) sharing information in ways that are accessible to that community, e) codifying the

Inter-Agency Environmental Justice Group into state law, not just as a budget amendment.

Criminal Justice Reform/Public Safety

Ban solitary confinement. Virginia uses solitary confinement too frequently and for too lengthy periods of time, with disastrous results on people's mental health.

Democracy/Voting Access

- Reduce the influence of money in Virginia politics. Out-of-state fundraisers, corporate and ultra-wealthy donors, and the constant barrage of fundraising leave voters cynical and suspicious that their voices are stifled by moneyed interests.
- Continue the constitutional amendment process to restore the right to vote.

Poverty/Economic Justice

Create housing reparations designed to increase and preserve home ownership among African Americans and others who have historically suffered from red-lining, lack of access to credit, or other forms of discrimination. Include assistance with financing for home maintenance and repairs, down-payment and closing costs, and changing mortgage lending practices.

Civil Rights/Dismantling Systemic Racism

Include farm workers in Virginia's minimum wage law. Virginia continues to exempt farm workers from its minimum wage coverage, a clear legacy of Virginia's history of slavery-based agriculture. This means that small farms, not covered by the federal law, can pay workers any amount and that larger farms, though covered by the federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour, are not required to pay Virginia' higher and rising minimum wage.

WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT ENHANCES VOTER ACCESS AND RESPONSIBLE GUN LEGISLATION. July 9, 2021

Second Tier Issues

Note: These also had support and will be moved forward if a path opens in the legislature. They're listed here for our information only. This side of the eventual handout for legislators will list our organizations.

Bail reform, counsel for accused on first appearance

Regulate above ground storage tanks with toxic contents

Transportation Climate Initiative

Qualified immunity

Rent relief

Food deserts

Inclusive, honest history in education (for example, exploring critical race theory)

HAMPTON ROADS' LEGISLATIVE COLLABORATIVE TABLE

Let's Hear about Social Issues

Health - Crime - Environment - Education - Equality - Government

Social Justice University

An action-focused, educational briefing

Free & Open to the Public

Sunday

September 26

Registration: 2:30pm
Program: 3-5pm
Location: On Zoom!
Register here: bit.ly/registerSJU

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander
NSU Dean of Liberal Arts

For More Information: lcthr@googlegroups.com

Interspiritual Empowerment Project/Virginia Organizing September 2021 Calendar

Teresa Stanley, IEP Coordinator, teresastanleyobx@gmail.com, 757-286-5858

Meghan McNamara, Eastern Shore, Norfolk, Portsmouth Organizer, meghan@virginia-organizing.org, 847-922-1213

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	PLACE	INFORMATION
Wed. Sept. 1,8,15,22,29	4:15pm	Black Lives Matter Witness/Vigils	Corner of Independence Blvd. and Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach	Contact: Teresa
Thurs. Sept. 2,9,16,23,30	4:15pm	Black Lives Matter Witness/Vigils	Corner of 27th Street and Hampton Blvd., Norfolk	Contact: Steve Baggarly 757-469-6239
Fri. Sept. 3	10am	Legislative Collaborative Table Planning Meeting	Virtual	Contact: Teresa
Wed. Sept. 8	6:30pm	Portsmouth VO Chapter Meeting	virtual	Contact: Meghan
Thurs. Sept. 9	4pm	Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission Meeting	virtual	Contact: Teresa
Thurs. Sept. 9	7pm	Pastors/Leaders Community Police Relations Table Meeting	virtual	Contact: Teresa
Fri. Sept. 10	10am-Noon	Tidewater Sowers of Justice Meeting	virtual	Contact: Teresa
Fri. Sept.10	1pm	Legislative Collaborative Table Planning Meeting	Virtual	Contact: Teresa
Sat. Sept. 11	10am	Interdenominational Ministers Conference Meeting	virtual	Contact: Dr. Veronica Coleman 757-961-8726
Tues. Sept. 14	10am-Noon	Let's Make a Difference Coalition Meeting	virtual	Contact: Teresa
Tues. Sept. 14	1pm	Virginia Beach Re-entry Council	virtual	Contact: Beverly Chamblee

		Meeting		757-439-8790
Tues. Sept. 14	6:30pm	Norfolk VO Chapter Meeting	virtual	Contact: Meghan
Tues. Sept. 14	6:30pm-8pm	JustFAITH Facilitator Commencement and Recruitment Gathering with Jack Jezreel	virtual	Contact: Renee McCarthy 757-705-4049
Thurs. Sept. 16	10am-Noon	Interfaith Alliance at the Beach Meeting	virtual	Contact: Teresa
Fri. Sept. 17	10am	Hampton Roads Legislative Collaborative Table Planning Meeting	virtual	Contact: Teresa
Fri. Sept. 17	1pm	Tidewater Sowers of Justice Dismantling Racism Focus Group Meeting	virtual	Contact: Jimmy Culpepper 757-403-2170
Mon. Sept. 20	6pm	Eastern Shore VO Chapter Meeting	virtual	Contact: Meghan
Tues. Sept. 21	3pm	Faith in Action Office Committee Meeting	virtual	Contact: Teresa
Tues. Sept. 21	7pm	Holy Family Prison Ministry Meeting: All are welcome!	virtual	Contact: Renee McCarthy 757-705-4049
Thurs. Sept. 23	11am	Interfaith Alliance at the Beach Capacity Building and Leadership Meeting	Kings Grant Presbyterian Church, 745 Little Neck Rd., Va. Beach/ and virtual	Contact: Teresa
Thurs. Sept. 23	4pm	Financial Empowerment Team Meeting	virtual	Contact: Teresa
Sun. Sept. 26	2:30pm Gather, 3pm-5pm Program	Social Justice University!	virtual	Contact: Mike Stark 757-627-7660

"We can respond to what calls out to us when we allow ourselves to be open." –Sharon Salzberg