

Minutes of Indivisible Tucson Action Alliance Meeting

February 1, 2021

Dana Offerman called the meeting to order. Forty-eight were in attendance. Dana asked those who were attending the meeting for the first time to introduce themselves. New to the meeting were Elizabeth Packard, Caleb Hoyter, Gary Tucker and Glenda Wood.

Dana gave an overview of what ITAA has been doing since 2016. She indicated we need to continue to engage in order to change policies at all levels of government and to sustain changes. She also noted how we have increased our networks and our knowledge of how to make such changes since 2016 and are better able to accomplish our goals now.

Dana asked that all members might want to read the new Indivisible Guide which can be found at indivisible.org. The national Indivisible group is providing a lot of training sessions on how to interact with your Members of Congress whether they are Republican or Democrat. Training sessions can be found at <https://indivisible.org/training>.

Dana next introduced Helen Herziger, our Social Media chair. Helen and Steph Bader currently are the members of the Social Media team, but others may join by contacting Helen at helenhz@comcast.net. Helen and Steph are posting on the public Face Book page every day and posting on Twitter every day. We have 287 people on our Twitter account and 225 on the Face Book public page. The public page is one that anyone can view, but only Helen and Steph post to it. We also have a private Face Book page for Indivisible member. You must be approved to join that page, but it is a good forum for exchanging ideas. Helen presented a comprehensive program on our Social Media effort. (Slides attached) ?????? Our Facebook page is at www.facebook.com/indivisibletucsonAction

Helen encouraged members to join the Indivisible Truth Brigade which provides information to help members counter the falsehoods reported by many people. Other sources of information to counter the falsehoods and to find good information on policies are www.politifact.com. or the national Indivisible website.

The suggestion was made that the daily post be made available to all members. This may not be possible without a lot of work on Helen's part.

The next report was from the State Team. Eileen Hollowell is chair of that team and can be reached at lorcar3@gmail.com. This team monitors pending legislation in Arizona. Eileen suggested that all members become familiar with Civic Engagement Beyond Voting. This website (www.cebv.org) will help you get registered on Request to Speak, the program that lets citizens comment on pending legislation. CEBV also has Request to Speak training available. Another helpful tool from the group is the Iyer Report which provides background and information on pending legislation. You must register with CEBV in order to get the Iyer Report. In addition to joining Request to Speak you also can testify virtually. In addition, once a bill gets to the floor of the legislature for debate, the best thing is to call your legislators.

The big issue before the legislature at this time is voter suppression. There are several bills pending on that issue. While it is expected that some will pass, by being informed on these bills, we can help people register or re-register to vote more easily.

Meetings of the State Team are the 4th Sunday of the month, but the team meets more often when the legislature is in session.

David Stevenson suggested that we should also be having demonstrations to protest the bad bills on voter suppression, that we should get television coverage, that we should post on Social Media and that letters to the editor would be good.

Jackie Marshall then discussed what the Letters to the Editor team is doing. There currently are 26 members on the team and they are looking for more. Team members either write letters or can volunteer to submit a letter written by someone else since the Arizona Daily Star only allows someone to be published once a month. If you are interested in joining this team you can reach Jackie at jacolyn@comcast.net.

Gary Tucker suggested that we find a good publicist who has ins with both print media and tv media. He was active in Colorado and the group he was with used one.

Carol Fiore reported on the Arizona Wilderness Society's 30 by 30 campaign. The society wants to protect 30% of all public lands in Arizona by 2030. To get involved you can email Noah Offenkranz at noah@greencorp.com, Their latest meeting was 2/3/21 at 6 pm.

Karen Harris reminded us that the Senate trial of former President Trump is to start soon. We should write our member of Congress and write letters to the editor to explain why convicting him is so important.

Misty Atkins reported that we have a group writing to businesses who withdrew funding for those who opposed certification of the election to thank them. We also have sent thank you letters to the Republicans who supported impeachment.

Dana then talked about the efforts to discipline Mark Finchem, the state legislator who participated in the insurrection at the Capitol on January 6. There is a movement to recall him and you can volunteer or donate at www.recallfinchem.com. You also can express your dissatisfaction with those corporations who have donated to his campaign. Those corporations are on our website and may be added to Face Book and Twitter. Other members commented on their efforts to hold Finchem accountable., Carol Fiore called and wrote to every member of the Ethics Committee at the state legislature. Eileen Hollowell reported that the State team has also contacted the Ethics Committee. However, if he is removed by the Ethics Committee another Republican will be appointed to replace him. Rachel Rulmyr asked about the FBI investigation of Finchem and of Gosar and Biggs. Thea Chalow noted that we need to find a good candidate to replace him. He cannot run for the House of Representatives again, but he could run for the Senate. The opinion was expressed that it would be better to concentrate on letting his corporate supporters know of our dissatisfaction with Finchem rather than trying to replace him.

Steph Bader noted that one of the representatives from his District 10, Domingo DeGrazia, had talked to a group of constituents and advised them that a private citizen can file a formal complaint with the Ethics Committee, and a formal complaint must be filed before an investigation can begin. Steph will contact Domingo for more information.

Dana reminded us that each individual can do any of these activities.

Sally Simmons reported that the next orientation for new members will be in April by Zoom.

Dana, Misty and Sally all are on the state Indivisible Redistricting Team. The person who was selected as chair of the Independent Redistricting Commission was probably the best of the choices available. Misty urged people to be aware of and watching the redistricting commission's work since this will affect our state for 10 years.

Keith Brekhus, Congressman O'Halleran's local representative, will ask the Congressman about speaking to our group again. We also need to meet with and develop a relationship with Congresswoman Kirkpatrick.

Our next meeting is March 1, 2021 at 3:30 pm by Zoom.