

Minutes of ITAA Meeting February 5, 2024

Attendees: Michele Harbour, Lea Anderton, Kathleen Mayer, Wanda Gottschalk, Bill Yohey, Linda Block, Amy Gosla, Gail Holan, Linda Coit, Bobbi Zimmer, Jeanne Hardie, Carolyn Zeiher, Rachel Rulmyr, Elizabeth Ferro, Cynthia Herron, Karen Harris, Margaret Scott, Joe Alexander, Di Alexander, Claudia Miller, Jim Perry, Wendy Farwell, Katherine Yelle, Sally Mayersohn, Leilani Green, Judith Randall, Ken Proper, Rex Scott, Michael Bryan, Cindy Bordelon, Sally Simmons, Jan Counts, Misty Atkins, Dana Offerman, Pat Hale, Shanna Leonard, Kara Karl, Marlene Gibbons, Dan Mardock

Prior to the start of the meeting, Dana Offerman asked for new members to introduce themselves. Caroline Zeiher and Pat Hale introduced themselves. Both are interested in the legislature, and Dana referred them to Joe Alexander and the State Team. Dana highlighted one of our most active volunteers, Judith Randall, who shows up for rallies, participates in multiple teams and can always be counted on for her commitment and activism. Judith is actively gathering signatures to assure that progressive candidates get enough signatures to qualify to be on the ballot and asks people in LD 18 to join her collecting signatures for senator & two reps plus Dr Shah (who is running for reelection to TUSD board). You can contact Judith at (773) 320-1303.

Dana announced that Civic Engagement Beyond Voting is hosting a talk by one of the founders of Moms Demand Action, an advocacy group that fights gun violence. To register for this event, go to: Shannon Watts on CEBV <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAuce-vqT4pGdyzbkg7Sn34m3QZr29zZYwm#/registration>.

Guest Speaker

Jan Counts introduced the guest speaker, Rex Scott, the Pima County Supervisor for District 1. Mr. Scott is the first Democrat to be elected to the Board of Supervisors from District 1 since 1972. He did note that with re-districting, District 1 now has a Democratic majority.

Supervisor Scott explained that the Board is a policy making organization. The biggest policy statement is the budget. One of the policies he is most excited about is the Prosperity Initiative adopted by the Board and cities throughout Pima County. It is designed to address intergenerational poverty throughout the county. When budgeting, the Board will address how the expenditures line up with the values and policies they have adopted. One example of a policy that the Prosperity Initiative addresses is early childhood education, and the county has been helping to make preschool available to more families. The initiative will be funded with a small portion of the library tax. Here is the link to the site describing The Prosperity Initiative: <https://www.pima.gov/3137/The-Prosperity-Initiative>

Another concern is the elections which are run by the counties. Two bills introduced in this legislative session would do away with election centers which all but two counties use. Supervisor Scott is the Pima County representative to the County Supervisors legislative policy committee. That group has opposed these bills, voting for the opposition on a bi-partisan basis. The committee will oppose any bills that try to undermine the counties' ability to run elections.

Mr. Scott acknowledged our member Misty Atkins, the representative for District 1 on the Election Integrity Commission.

Another big issue is road maintenance, and Supervisor Scott has asked for money to repair roads in District 1. He also is working with the RTA to plan for the next 20 years.

In the question-and-answer session, Supervisor Scott promised to look at SB 17 which would reject federal funding for biking paths and other improvements. In response to a question about the timing of elections and the recent legislation which decreased the percentage of differences in vote counts to require a

recount, Supervisor Scott noted that LD 18 Senator Priya Sundareshan is working to find a solution to this problem.

Addresses to reach Supervisor Scott: district1@pima.gov or his re-election website is rex.scott@pima.gov. He also noted that if you are not sure what district you are in, go to <https://www.recorder.pima.gov/VoterStats/PrecinctDistrictSearch>

Petition for abortion rights

Kathleen Yelle (recently hired by Indivisible Arizona to coordinate efforts throughout the state) reported that we are hoping to get 30,000 signatures in southern Arizona by May and a total of 800,00 signatures statewide by July . Petitions that have been turned in have an 80% accuracy rate. ITAA will sponsor trainings for volunteers on Feb. 15 (Oro Valley Library) and Feb. 22 at a location off of Broadway. Petitions can be picked up from Di Alexander inside Beyond Bread at Ina and Oracle every Monday at 9:00 (except 2/12) or at the Arizona List headquarters at 2720 E. Broadway. You also can pick up supplies at trainings.

Trainings and events are shown on Mobilize:

<https://mobilize.us/s/WsHkPL>

<https://mobilize.us/s/3plE6q> ITAA in person training at the Oro Valley Library Feb. 15

<https://www.mobilize.us/itaa/event/601300/> ITAA training Feb. 22 off of Broadway

<https://mobilize.us/s/3hL9R7> to pick up petitions or get petitions notarized at Beyond Bread on Oracle and Ina

<https://www.arizonalist.org/>

Suggestions for where to gather signatures: sports events, movie theaters, malls, parks, art festivals, Tucson Festival of Books, neighbors.

Team Leaders Reports

State Team: Joe Alexander email joseph.k.alexander@hotmail.com

Joe provided a chart of Concurrent Resolutions, legislative measures which are passed by both the Arizona House and the Senate and which do not go to the Governor. The legislature is using these to get around the Governor's veto of objectionable bills. The Republicans also hope to have a number of these on the ballot this year to discourage voters from completing the whole ballot and voting on abortion rights. Kathleen Mayer volunteered to go through both House and Senate concurrent resolutions to alert us to those which are objectionable. We should use RTS or other means to communicate with our legislators about the resolutions that are bad. For a list of these resolutions compiled by the Sierra Club, see Sierra Club newsletter https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/240203a_Sierra_Club_AZ_Legislative_Update_5.pdf

Postcards: Cindy Bordelon cleebordelon2012@gmail.com

We will be continuing to send out postcards. Postcards about voter registration will be coming out soon.

Get Ciscomani out of Congress: Kathleen Mayer. Kmayer17@gmail.com

This team targets Ciscomani and his MAGA ties. Right now members of the team are contacting him about his position on border security and other issues where he refuses to commit and about his lack of town halls. If you are in District 6 and contact him, ask for a reply. They are gathering his replies which are basically non-committal. If you call his DC office, you get voice mail. If you call his Tucson office, you get a person.

After all reports from teams, Dana urged members to find one or two teams they might be interested in joining. Contact a team leader at the address given for them in these minutes or on the website.

Treasurer's report

Jeanne Hardie reported that we raised \$175 in January. We have approximately \$3000 in the restricted account and almost \$300 in the unrestricted. We are opening a new bank account because the former bank charged too much in fees. If we use Venmo or Zelle, we also may incur fees. You can donate to the restricted account (can't be used for state elections among other things) through the website Act Blue account.

Dana reported that the recent survey indicated members still want Zoom general meetings. We will still try to have smaller face-to-face gatherings.

She also announced that CEBV will have a presentation from one of the founders of Moms Demand Action at 6 pm on 2/7.

The next meeting will be Monday, March 4 at 3:30 pm. Our speaker will be Kathryn Catherine Nichols from the Arizona List.