

ITAA General Meeting Minutes, *submitted by Jacolyn Marshall*

Monday, July 7, 2025, 3:30 p.m.

This version omits email addresses and other things we don't want on the public-facing website

Margrit McIntosh: Welcome

- Provided an overview of today's agenda featuring our guest speaker and team reports.

Jim Lewison: Pressure Ciscomani Team

- Pressured Ciscomani to vote against Trump's budget bill
- Will continue to focus on their "Juan Watch" regarding his presence on social media and in his newsletter
- Will continue to track his interviews to counter his PR pronouncements
- Asked for help to monitor media sites, develop graphic designs for flyers in English and Spanish, and track the presence of ICE in our communities that Ciscomani voted for
- Recommended attending Indivisible National's zoom meeting on Thursday at noon regarding their resist game plan. Indivisible National - weekly What's the Plan? zoom call:
<https://www.mobilize.us/indivisible/event/773746/>

Guest speaker: Dr. Teresa Ruiz, candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction

(<http://drruizforarizona.com>)

- Dr. Ruiz spent her 35-year career teaching math in public schools at the middle school, high school, and college level and completed her career as the 8th President of Glendale Community College.
- She now serves as senior vice president of Education Forward Arizona, tracking bills and collecting data that affect our public schools.
- Only 5% of Democrat-sponsored bills were heard by the legislature; only 10 of those were signed into law.
- \$1 billion in tax dollars a year are going to already wealthy ESA parents for private, parochial and home schooling, robbing public schools of necessary funds to keep their doors open.
- Over \$20 million of ESA funds were spent on non-educational luxury items this year.
- Dr. Ruiz promises to be the advocate in chief protecting our public schools and providing our students with the quality education they deserve.
- She has met with former superintendent Kathy Hoffman who offered her advice and recommended her former campaign manager.
- Polls show 2/3rds of Arizonans want to replace Tom Horne who spent over \$10 million to promote ESAs.
- Trump's \$7 billion cuts to public schools across the country will mean a \$120 million loss for Arizona.
- Terry's website: <http://drruizforarizona.com> -- if you sign the petition to get her on the ballot online (linked from her website) they cannot challenge your signature. (The petition was signed by several ITAA members during the meeting!)

Lisa Vaughn: Boycott and Build

- Boycotting is a low-risk (in terms of the security risk to you) but very effective form of activism.

- The opposition depends on businesses that support them with their millions of dollars.
- We can remove that pillar of support by boycotting them.
- We can vote every day with our dollars by refusing to finance Amazon and Target.
- Boycott and Build team needs a graphic design person and social media volunteer.
- Recommended reading: “How to Resist Amazon and Why,” available at bookshop.org: <https://bookshop.org/lists/how-to-resist-amazon-and-why>

Jeanne Hardie: Treasurer's report

- Indivisible’s June match drive raised \$1175, leaving us with a balance of \$7053.
- ITAA shared the wealth by donating \$100 to 6 new Indivisible groups
- Our current funds will be used for tabling expenses, the purchase of microphones, donations to Climate Hawks to maintain their billboards, and covering our postcard needs.

Amy Gosla - Events

- July 17th Good Trouble rally will take place 8-10 a.m. at the Reid Pak Bandshell that will feature a number of speakers. Remember to take your umbrellas, sunscreen, and water.
- Closer to home, a July 17th Good Trouble protest will take place in Oro Valley at the corner of First and Oracle from 7:00-9:00 am.
- Future events will include voter registration drives. Email Amy if you are interested in receiving training for these events.

Jacolyn Marshall : Letters to the Editor Updates

- 97 Letters have been published so far this year, 19 in the last month alone, nearly 5 letters per week
- A wide variety of issues including the power of protests, civil rights and due process violations, national security concerns, national debt, gun violence, Ciscomani’s betrayal and MAGA chaos.

Joe Alexander and Marlene Gibbons: State Committee Team

- We will continue collecting information on how our legislators have performed, analyzing the bills they proposed and their voting records.
- We will be focusing on 10 legislators in particular.

The next general membership meeting for ITAA will be on Monday, August 4, time TBD.