

MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 ITAA MEETING

Attendees

New attendees on the call were Roberta Catham (she has attended previous ITAA meetings but is now back) and Elizabeth Holley. In addition, the following members attended: Jeanne Hardie, Jennifer Hill, Joe Alexander, Di Alexander, Karen Harris, Karen Kaplan, Kathy Salm, Lea Anderton, Lydia Heidi Hursh, Nancy Stewart, Nancy Wexler, Patricia Sohler, Peggie Jo Vincent, Peggy Hughes, Rolande Baker, Thea Chalow, Misty Atkins, Tricia Sauer, Jan Counts, Andrea Genette, Bets Craig, Bobbi Zimmer, Brenda Wexler, Catherine Wallace, Cindy Bordelon, Cindy Doklan, Dana Offerman, Devon Sloan, Eileen Hollowell, Elizabeth Holley, Tina Kilcullen, Virginia West, Nicholas Prester

New Members

Approximately 25 new members have joined ITAA since May.

Goals and Priorities for Fall 2023 and 2024

Voter Registration and Outreach: Young voters are more focused on issues rather than political parties. Some ITAA members participated in the Youth Empowerment Caucus at the University of Arizona on August 30. This event welcomed University of Arizona students and students from the surrounding area with the goal of activating their involvement on issues that directly affect them, including water/climate change, LGBTQ, reproductive rights, voting rights, gun violence, among others. At the event, students had the opportunity to register to vote and make connections with nonprofits and groups working in the field on those issues, including ITAA. We will also be participating at the U of A this Saturday for a climate change session. If you would like to join us, email indivisibleucson@gmail.com.

Reproductive Rights Initiative: Tina Kilcullen and Di Alexander are working on this initiative and helped collect signatures in the past. They discussed helpful pointers on how to collect viable signatures. Signature collection is very technical. For example, Wite-Out cannot be used and it is a good practice to keep Post-it notes available on the clipboards. Di will be keeping track of all petitions (who has pages, ongoing tabulation, etc.). Di will be attending a training session sponsored by Healthcare Rising AZ on September 14 on how to collect petition signatures and will provide more information to the group after she completes this training. Tricia should have the petitions by the end of the week of September 18. Tricia will provide us with updates and advised the group to be patient as this initiative is a big and very important undertaking. If you are interested in helping gather petitions, send an email to indivisibleucson@gmail.com.

Voter Registration: Thea asked for guidance from the group on voter registration of young people (18-25 years of age) since this is an important voting coalition. Cindy mentioned her conversation with a representative from NextGen America at the Youth Engagement Caucus. NextGen America is the nation's largest youth voting organization using innovative digital and field strategies to turn out young voters in key states. He informed Cindy that due to the political climate with school boards it was difficult for groups like NextGen to be allowed to register voters in high schools. Cindy also mentioned that Civic Engagement Beyond Voting (CEBV) recently announced a new initiative to engage Gen Z through a high school voter registration challenge. These voter registration events will be led *by* students *for* students.

Text Bank: Joe Smith reported that some group members participated in a texting event with the National Indivisible Ohio Reproductive Rights Initiative over the summer. There is another texting event coming up on September 13. Contact Joe if you would like to help at jocko3484@gmail.com.

Postcards: Cindy, the new ITAA postcard lead, reported on possible upcoming postcard campaigns, possibly every other month, starting in October for the remainder of this year and next year prior to the 2024 Presidential election. At the present time, there won't be any National Indivisible campaigns for Arizona (an Indivisible "battleground state") until November at the earliest. Most all of ITAA postcard campaigns are with Field Team 6 and upcoming campaigns will focus on outreach to unregistered voters in LD 17, 18, 19 on reproductive rights, voting rights, climate change/water, K-12 education, gun violence, and social justice. If you would like to join the first round of postcards, email us at indivisibleucson@gmail.com.

Social Media Update: Karen reported that she has seen an uptick in people following ITAA on Facebook and X, formerly known as Twitter. She encouraged members not currently on social media to join Facebook to help post ITAA events and current developments that could be reposted and more widely distributed. Karen mentioned the National Indivisible [UnRepresentatives](#) effort, which focuses on vulnerable candidates in Congressional Districts 1 and 6. We need to look into having more LD 17 candidates speak at future ITAA meetings.

Outreach and Voter Interaction: Anand Giridharadas, a former correspondent and columnist for the New York Times, is the author of *The Persuaders*, a book about building trust, bridging division and changing minds. He is experienced with talking to voters who may have differing

opinions and build productive conversations. He recommends that we need to stop talking among ourselves and instead focus on talking to others. CEBV is having an online conversation with Giridharadas on Wednesday, September 13 from noon to 1 p.m. ITAA is a co-sponsor of this event. Here's a link where you can download a free guide on how to become a better persuader: <https://thepersuadersbook.com>. It was discussed that ITAA needs strategies to focus on independent voters. If you would like a link to the training email indivisibleucson@gmail.com.

Letters to the Editor: Jackie reported that the LTE group is very active, and so far this year, has had 55 LTEs printed in the Arizona Daily Star, which has a daily readership of 200,000 and 300,000 on Sundays. Each of our LTEs is amplified three to four times. The goal of the LTE group is to educate, persuade, and inspire. You don't have to be an experienced writer to write an LTE - you just need an opinion. The group is always looking for new LTE writers. The group wants to focus on promoting candidates and issues in a general manner and people who provide solutions instead of just negative things about candidates. We also need LTEs focusing on down ballot candidates such the Arizona Corporation Commission and Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction, among others.

State Team: Joe Alexander will lead the State Team going forward. At our next ITAA meeting, Joe will ask for ITAA members to join the State Team.

Treasurer Report and Spending Priorities: Eileen reported that ITAA has two pots of money: cash of \$315 (not subject to National Indivisible rules and requirements) and distributed funds of \$1,750 (money ITAA raises in conjunction with Indivisible using ActBlue and National Indivisible donation campaigns subject to National Indivisible rules and requirements as well applicable state and federal laws). A new National Indivisible donation campaign will begin on October 1. Go to our website at indivisibleucson.org to donate. ITAA uses our distributed funds to help us function as a group and this money goes to expenses such as Zoom, domain name, and Mail Chimp. Since May, ITAA has spent \$1,250 in distributed funds with a remaining balance of \$1,750. Jeanne Hardi has agreed to assume Treasurer duties for ITAA and will officially take this role in the next couple of weeks, and we thank her for taking this on. We also want to thank Eileen for stepping in as interim treasurer and appreciate a job well done.

Upcoming ITAA Events

- ITAA will hold a Happy Hour at Karen Harris' house on October 6. More information to follow.
- A New Member Orientation will be held at Beyond Bread at Ina and Oracle Roads on October 10 at 9:30.

Next ITAA Meeting

Our next meeting will be the first Monday of the month - October 2, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom. Please provide Dana with agenda items you have for this meeting. Dana reminded us that saving our democracy is important for all our efforts going forward.