

Minutes of ITAA meeting
February 7, 2022

Chair Dana Offerman called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. 45 people were present including two speakers. Dana asked that any people attending the meeting for the first time identify themselves. Karen Moscato from Bullhead City, chair of the Mohave County Democratic Party, and Jennifer Langdon from Tucson and California introduced themselves.

Chris Hawkins, the Southern Arizona Coordinator for Stop Dark Money, announced that she needs people to sign and to pass out petitions to get the “Voters Right to Know” proposal on the 2022 ballot. The group wants to collect 300,000 signatures to help them assure that they have 237,000 valid signatures. If you signed a petition for this measure last summer, your signature is good, but if you sign again, it will not invalidate your signature. They simply will cross one off. Chris is willing to meet with groups to collect signatures and get people to pass out petitions, Her phone number is (650) 766-4257 and her email is chrisazorganizer@gmail.com.

Speakers

Dana Offerman then introduced Dana Allmond who is running for a seat in the Arizona House of Representatives from the new District 17. Ms. Allmond told the group that her top priorities are protecting peoples’ rights, including the right to vote; K-12 education and improving mental health access and quality. She is a West Point graduate and a veteran. She is the mother of triplets, and her husband is a physician’s assistant with the Veterans Administration. Ms. Allmond is one of the people who resigned from Senator Sinema’s veterans committee. She believes that her oath taken as a West Point cadet to defend the constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic, is her long-term commitment. Further information can be found at her website at www.allmond4az.com. She also is on Face Book, Twitter, and Instagram. Here are there links to her various campaign platforms:

Donation link

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/dana-allmond>

LinkedIn profile

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dana-allmond-mba-ltc-u-s-army-retired-0997bb11b/>

Email address

dana@allmond4az.com

Social Media

Facebook (allmond4az), Twitter (@allmond4az), and Instagram (allmond4az)

Ms. Allmond has testified several times at the Arizona legislature including on issues such as a firearms bill that was not about gun safety and border issues and she will be going to the legislature with the League of Women Voters on Thursday, February 10.

Ms. Allmond responded to a question about her military experience by describing her military career, working in human relations.

Questions were then asked about signing her petition to be on the ballot. LD 17 is mostly the old LD 11. Until March 5, you can sign her petition on-line at <https://go.azsos.gov/sfgr>. After March 5, there will only be paper petitions. Ms. Allmond is getting her paper petitions printed and will give information on how to get them to Dana Offerman. You can only sign if you are a resident in the old District 11 or the new District 17.

Ms. Allmond was asked why she resigned from Sen. Sinema's veterans' commission. Ms. Allmond indicated she was very enthusiastic about the commission at first, but after the first meeting it was apparent that Sen., Sinema was not paying attention to the commission. The Senator only attended one meeting and didn't listen to what commission members said. When the five members resigned, Sen. Sinema called them at a very early hour in the morning when it was unlikely anyone would answer.

She was then asked about her position on border issues and on environmental issues. On border issues, she does not believe that barriers are the solution. She believes most Arizonans want a pathway to citizenship which she supports. With respect to climate issues, Ms. Allmond believes we are in a climate crisis and would welcome suggestions on legislation designed to address the crisis.

After Ms. Allmond was finished, Dana Offerman introduced Brian Radford who also is running for a seat in the Arizona House of Representatives from District 17. There are two representatives from the district and he and Ms. Allmond will be doing some joint campaigning. Mr. Radford spent 20 years an employee in the prison system. After retirement, he was a teacher's aide for developmentally disabled children among other things. His top priorities are: 1) Education including education for the developmentally disabled; 2) Voting rights; 3) Healthcare and 4) Water. Mr. Radford reminded us that Democrats only need to take one more seat in the House to tie Republicans and if the Democrats pick up two additional seats, they will be the majority party. He indicated that LD 17 can be a swing district. Party registration is 35% Republican; 29% Democrat and 36% Independent. Information about how to support his campaign can be found at radfordforaz.com.

Survey

Following the speakers, Dana introduced the results of the survey sent to members on what they would like to do in the next year. She said there was a great response to the survey, and that members will be put on teams aligned with what they indicated were their preferences for action. Team leaders will be appointed for each team. Dana then turned to Misty Atkins for more information about the survey and actions to be taken through teams.

Misty gave a power point presentation in which project teams were listed. The project teams and their leaders are as follows;

- Request to Speak: Eileen Hollowell
- Letters to the Editor: Jackie Marshall
- Social Media: Karen Harris
- Outreach: Bobbie Zimmer and Rick Bramhall
- Postcards for Voter Registration and Get Out the Vote: Misty Atkins
- Texting for Voter Registration and Get out the Vote: (Joe Smith later volunteered)
- Phone Banking for Voter Registration and Get out the Vote: Needs team leader
- Door-to-Door for Voter Registration and Get Out the Vote: Jan Counts
- House Parties: Elizabeth Packard
- Calls to Members of Congress: Needs team leader

Team leaders will contact members of their teams to plan a course of action; will train members as necessary, will provide regular communications and will provide and coordinate opportunities to take action.

Questions were asked about specific activities. Sue Anderson said that she had difficulty getting on Request to Speak. Eileen Hollowell indicated that this was a system problem. Eileen advised members to get on RTS either very early in the morning or late at night. She also suggested that you can break up your RTS work so that you comment on a few bills on the weekend that will be up for discussion on Monday, then on Monday comment on bills that will be heard later in the week. In addition, Eileen encouraged members to email or call their legislators if they can't get through on RTS and to use Twitter to communicate.

With respect to house parties, Elizabeth Packard indicated that she is having house parties on the next two weekends. She still has room for 4-6 people on February 19 if members would like to see how a house party works. Elizabeth put her address and email in the chat if members are interested in following up on attending the February 19 event. Here is Elizabeth's contact information:

520 303-8315

lizpackard3232@gmail.com

1612 E Buck Hollow Ct Oro Valley

Messaging

Dana then noted that Karen Harris had recently sent an article from mikeluxmedia.com by Robert Hubbell to members of the Steering Committee about the need for Democrats to present a positive message. (Click [here](#) for a link to this article.) Hubbell also included a link to Democrats Can Win in 2022, And How They Can Do It (Click [here](#) for that link.) She asked Karen to expand on that topic.

Karen initiated her remarks by saying that Democrats need to look forward, rather than dwelling on the issues we have had with Sen. Sinema and others who have undercut legislation

in Congress. Democrats need to emphasize the good things that have been done for average Americans such as the infrastructure bill and the number of jobs created. She said we have a real problem in that Democrats are much less likely to vote in mid-term elections than Republicans (47% to 61%) and are better organized (600 Republican precinct committee people in Pima County versus 200 Democratic precinct committee people).

Karen talked about two forms of messaging that can be effective. First, we can break down legislation that has been adopted or suggested by Democrats to show what will be helpful to people or to show projects or results to which they can relate (what roads did the infrastructure bill pave or improve; what did the Affordable Care Act do to insure those who didn't have insurance; what childcare would be provided by Build Back Better). She also suggested calling legislators or members of Congress to thank them when they have voted for a bill that you support.

Secondly, you can talk about such legislation, both on a federal and state level, and show that Republicans were against things that would help ordinary Americans. Not a single Arizona Republican voted for the infrastructure bill either in the House or Senate. For example Republicans stopped the extension of the tax credit for children. Republicans voted against a minimum wage hike. These are all examples on the federal level.

On the state level, Karen gave a personal example of how she effectively communicated about a bill sponsored by Quang Nyugen in the legislature. The bill, HB 2448, would require public and charter schools to provide firearms training to all students one or more times during grades 6-12. Karen got so angry at the bill that she tweeted on her Twitter account about the bill. She had 25,000 visits to that tweet.

Eileen noted that one thing that can be done to increase our influence on social media is to like tweets like the one Karen sent. If members have personal Twitter accounts and see a tweet such as Karen's (or see Karen's tweets on the ITAA Twitter account) they should "like" it. The more "likes" a tweet has, the more the algorithms go up in the account's favor. Her Twitter accounts are: @ItaaTucson @harkw09667852 & @SueWolf04900211.

Eileen also indicated that another form of messaging is to appear in person at the legislature and said that there may be an Indivisible team field trip to the Capitol to testify if necessary. She also encouraged members to call or email legislators to thank them for a particular action. She called Rusty Bowers to thank him for effectively killing the bill that would have allowed the legislature to overturn the results of an election.

Karen was asked if she could send members a 'cheat sheet' on messaging and what to say. Karen said she will work with others to develop it.

Treasurer's Report

Margo Nichols reported that we have \$2387.35 in our restricted funds; \$219.25 in unrestricted funds. She also indicated that as we look at hybrid meetings (in-person/Zoom), we may have an expenditure for equipment.

Other business

Dana announced that just as we are hoping to have in-person meetings in the future, we also hope to have social or happy hour gatherings soon. She then announced the schedule of speakers for the next several meetings:

March: Kristen Engle, candidate for Congress from CD6

April: Arizona List Representative

May: Field Team 6 representative

June: Candidates for the Arizona Corporation Commission

We will continue to look for speakers for the late summer and early fall.

Dana then thanked Dana Allmond and Brian Radford for speaking at this meeting.

Our next meeting is Monday, March 7 at 3:30 via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.