

Minutes of ITAA meeting
April 4, 2022

Chair Dana Offerman called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. Dana asked that any people attending the meeting for the first time identify themselves. Mike Davis introduced himself.

Speakers

Dana Offerman then introduced Nancy Gutierrez, a candidate for the Arizona House of Representatives, as our first speaker. She is running for a seat in the Arizona House of Representatives from the new District 18 (primarily comprised of the former District 9). Ms. Gutierrez grew up in Arizona and received her bachelor's degree from Northern Arizona University. Her husband was in the military, and she taught at their first post in New York. She also has taught in Sierra Vista and Las Vegas. She now teaches at Tucson High where she has been since 2013. She has two daughters, one a recent graduate of the University of Arizona and the other a senior at Tucson High. She is a member of the Teachers' Union and has been the president of the Tucson chapter of NOW.

Ms. Gutierrez is running for the legislature because she believes the education system is broken. She has watched it deteriorate over the years. She is concerned that teachers are being limited in what they can teach. She is concerned about a bill that would change the way schools are funded. She believes charter and private schools are getting funding that should go to public schools, noting that charter schools can choose what students they admit. She also is against the recent law that prohibits transgender girls from participating in school sports.

With respect to voting rights, issues that concern Ms. Gutierrez include the proposal to make all voting on one day and in person. She believes we should be expanding voting places and making it easier to vote, instead of harder. A bill she cites as attacking women's rights is the recent law prohibiting abortions after 15 weeks. She also believes that health care and education should be funded with the States \$1,000,000,000 surplus. She has worked with Moms Demand Action for sensible gun legislation and would close the sales of guns at gun shows. She is concerned about water issues, including the transportation of water from rural areas to urban areas, and would seek expert advice on resolving these issues.

Her contact information is at <https://linktr.ee/nancyforaz> or nancyforaz@gmail.com

Our next speaker was Claire Knipe, the political director for Arizona List. Arizona List works to elect women who are Democrats and pro-choice to state and local offices at all levels. The organization recruits women, trains them, helps them decide what office would make sense for them to seek and when, and provides money and staff support to help them get elected. Arizona List also helps with training after a woman is elected. Over the years of its existence,

Arizona List has helped elect over 150 women to 300 offices. Given the recent passage of the anti-abortion law in Arizona and the attacks on education, they are very concerned. In this election year, the organization hopes to make sure the public knows the new candidates that are running and knows where to vote since this may have changed with new districts.

Following the two women's remarks there was a question-and-answer session. Dana noted that the aims of both speakers were aligned with those of ITAA and asked what ITAA could do that would be most impactful at this stage. Ms. Gutierrez said she need both money and volunteers who will go door to door, help with phone banks and otherwise get her name out as there are 5 Democrats running for 2 seats in District 18. Ms. Knipe said that candidates need help gathering signatures. In LD 17, volunteers are needed to reach independents and those who may be Democrat leaning voters. It is important to get people to support Democrats all the way down the ballot, including in school board elections

Karen Harris asked Ms. Knipe what candidates, other than Ms. Gutierrez, Arizona List is working with presently. Ms. Knipe said that all female incumbents who are running again (and who are pro-choice Democrats) continue to be supported by the organization. Arizona List is supporting women for all top five state-wide offices and is supporting Joyce Jones-Ivey for Oro Valley Town Council and Jennifer Eckstrom for TUSD School Board.

Elizabeth Packard observed that at house parties she had held or attended some of the candidates did not present themselves as well as they could. Elizabeth asked if there was something that could be done to help them. Claire said that Arizona List and other groups have training sessions that candidates can attend. The Democratic Party will not be training candidates until after the primary.

Dana asked if Arizona is now working with Dana Allmond, candidate for the Arizona House of Representatives in LD 17. Claire said that the organization is.

Claire also gave her contact information. Training information provided by Arizona List can be found at <https://www.arizonalist.org/>. Claire's email is claire@azlist.org.

Treasurer's report:

Margo Nichols reported that we have \$2,2872.26 in distributed (restricted) funds and \$29.25 in unrestricted funds. We were awarded a Grow Grant for \$1000 which will be used for incorporation expenses. In addition, ITAA has established a matching grant program effective April 1-May 31. National will match up to \$500 of what we raise locally. You can donate through Act Blue by going to the webpage.

Postcards:

Jan Counts announced that, this week, we will be doing our second round of postcards to people whom Field Team 6 has identified as being likely to register as Democrats or are Democrats who haven't voted in a while. Postcards will be distributed on April 7 at 10 a.m. at Riverfront Park in Oro Valley and at 11 a.m. at Dusenberry Library. You should let Jan know if

you want to pick up a packet of postcards by emailing her at nevcou@aol.com You should let Jan know when you have mailed the postcards. Joe Smith's text team will be doing follow up text banks to those who got postcards. Both Joe and Field Team 6 will help with training for the text team members. Karen Harris noted that even though the people who we are contacting through these means may not live in Southern Arizona, they do live in districts that we think we can change for Democratic members of the legislature.

State Team:

Eileen Hollowell reported that as bad as the legislative session has been, the efforts of the state team and its terrific use of RTS as well as the efforts of others has kept some really bad legislation from being passed. One voting rights bill that passed probably is unconstitutional. However, an extreme right-wing Republican is threatening to not vote for the budget bill unless he gets a bill expanding school vouchers to be heard by committee.

Eileen also noted that Vince Leach now has an opponent in his LD 17 senate race. She and others are doing research on his extreme positions on matters such as transgender children, education and voting rights so these can be publicized through letters to the editor and other means during the next election. If you are willing to help with this research, contact Eileen at locar3@gmail.com. Eileen and Dana are meeting with Sen. Leach this Friday, April 8.

Letters to the Editor.

Jackie Marshall reported that the team has 51 members including letter writers, editors, and cartoonists. They have had 22 letters published since January 1, 2022, 3 letters are in the pipeline and 2 political cartoons have been published. The work that is published is sent to the state organization and distributed to other ITAA organizations to use. If you are interested in joining this team, contact Jackie at jacolyn@comcast.net.

House parties:

Elizabeth Packard reported that house parties are going well. She has had 2, and Di Alexander and Beth Smith had one that was attended by 30 people. The house parties may be to discuss issues or present candidates for office. Oro Valley Town Council, member and candidate for re-election, Joyce Jones-Ivy and another candidate for the state legislature were present at one of Elizabeth's house parties. Elizabeth also uses the events to get volunteers for activities such as postcards, canvassing and text banking. It was noted that if you contact ITAA Board of Directors (indivisiboetucson@gmail.com), you may be able to be reimbursed for costs of food and non-alcoholic beverages for these events.

Membership:

Sally Simmons reported that we had a Happy Hour at Reforma Modern Mexican restaurant on March 31 with about 12-13 people attending, including several new members. We will have another happy hour at Karen's house on 4/29 from 5-7 p.m. More details will be

sent later. RSVPs for the 4/29 event should go to indivisibletucson@gmail.com. Karen's address will be given when someone emails that they will be attending

Other business:

Dana announced that we will continue to have monthly meetings by Zoom so we can reach members who live in all parts of Tucson. However, the Board of Directors would like to have the home addresses of all members so that we can plan smaller events in locations that are near to peoples' homes. These events could include postcard parties, canvassing, literature drops or other things. The addresses will not be shared with anyone outside the organization. An email making this request will be sent out

Dana also shared that new business cards, available to members, are being printed. These can be passed out to potential new members when you are at another event or gathering signatures or other places where people might be interested in joining us or knowing more about us.

Our speakers for the May meeting will be Kirsten Engel, candidate for a seat in CD 6 and maybe a representative of Field Team 6. In June we will have all 3 Democratic candidates for the Arizona Corporation Commission, and we are hoping to get Mike Nickerson, candidate for the Arizona Senate in LD 17. We will have a meeting in July by Zoom. If anyone has ideas for speakers for that meeting, let Dana know.

Joe Alexander suggested that a possible topic for one meeting might be increasing the number of people who vote the whole ballot. He is aware of a group that is working on this issue and will bring us more information when he has it.

The next meeting will be Monday, May 2 at 3:30 p.m. by Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.