

Minutes of ITAA Meeting  
June 3, 2024

Attendees: Diane Huber, Lois Croly, Rosanna Couston, Sandy Kaye, Janet Tanner, Michelle Flores, Jacolyn Marshall, Jan Counts, Janet Marcotte, Judith Randall, Karen Karl, Linda Block, Mary Lisa, Nancy Atherton, Patricia Wiedhopf, Rachel Rulmyr, Sally Simmons, Shanna Leonard, Stephen Schear, Susan Matheson, Thea Chalow, Bill Yokey, Misty Atkins, Dana Offerman, Cindy Bordelon, Lea Anderton, Karen Harris, Amy Gosla, Ann Bradford, Bets Craig, Cheryl Whited, Claudia Miller, David Lippicott, Devon Sloan, Edlyne Sillman, Eileen Hollowell, John McLean

Dana Offerman welcomed everyone. There were 38 people in attendance. Before the first guest speaker, Edlyne Sillman announced an event sponsored by the Marana Democrats ([maranademsandfriends@gmail.com](mailto:maranademsandfriends@gmail.com) 520-240-8303).

Misty Atkins also provided the link to the LD 17 Democrats fundraiser: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/drag-extravaganza-evening-event>.

### Guest Speaker

Jan Counts introduced the first guest speaker, John McLean, who is running for state senate in LD 17. John says that his priorities are insuring women's reproductive health care rights, including access to contraceptives as well as abortion, full funding for public schools (so

Arizona is not 49<sup>th</sup> among the states but at least in the middle of the pack), and securing water rights, in particular. He noted that the legislature refused to address Governor Hobbs plan on water rights.

John noted that Kevin Volk is running for the state legislature in LD 17. He said both are spending time knocking on doors of independents and moderate Republicans at this point since they are running unopposed in the primary, and John is having good results.

While overall climate change is also a priority for John, he noted that the Arizona Corporation Commission is the government body that can help most with renewable resources. John is also concerned about protecting voter rights, and he noted that indigenous people have been affected greatly by legislature actions in the past. It also is a priority of John's to protect LBGTQI+ people.

In the question-and-answer session, John was asked what were the themes he was getting from people to whom he is talking. John says that he is getting questions about the economy, and he is turning those questions into discussions about the need to support public schools, community colleges and programs like JTED to boost Arizona's economy. He also finds people concerned about border security which he turns into a discussion of the need to support sheriffs in border counties rather than just in Maricopa and Pima counties. When asked how his campaign is doing, he announced that the fact that Arizona is a swing state has led to out-of-state donations and that the LD 17 volunteers have been very helpful. Finally, John was asked what topics he would like us to emphasize in letters to the editor. He noted the very good letters that already have been published on abortion. He believes it would be helpful to address public school support noting Senator Wadsack's record in not supporting public schools. Here is John's website: <https://www.mcleanforarizona.com/>.

In the chat, Patricia Wiedhopf noted that the Tanque Verde Democrats meet Saturday, June 8 at 10:00 via Zoom featuring the Corporation Commission candidates and PC Supt of Schools Dustin Williams. Go to <http://tanqueverdedems.org>.

After John was done, Jan introduced Janet Marcotte, who has created a postcard campaign entitled “Worry Less, Do More” to support Democrats. ITAA will partner with her to get postcards out. Janet has designed 6 postcards, 5 of which support abortion rights and one which is more general in asking for support for Democrats (and all of which say vote for Kirsten Engel, Ruben Gallego and Joe Biden). Janet launched the program by paying for 20,000 postcards with her own money; she since has received a donation for 20,000 more postcards. Through the help of friends, she has been able to identify voters in CD 6 who apparently support abortion rights but who are not consistent voters. Approximately 35,000 post cards already have gone to volunteers to send out. The postcards have a pre-printed message on one side. On the other, the volunteer writes a simple message and affixes a preprinted address label. Volunteers pay for their own postage. Janet needs volunteers to address another 5000, and ITAA has committed to doing at least 1500. All postcards will be mailed out at the same time on September 30.

To volunteer to help with this project, you can let either Cindy Bordelon or Jan Counts ([nevcou@aol.com](mailto:nevcou@aol.com)) know.

**Postcards: Cindy Bordelon [cleebordelon2012@gmail.com](mailto:cleebordelon2012@gmail.com)**

Cindy then reported the current postcard campaign will end in June. On July 13, she will distribute the “Worry Less, Do More” postcards. In August, we will have a campaign with Field Team 6, and also some “get out the vote” postcards. In September, we anticipate a national

Indivisible postcard campaign. You can contact Cindy at the above email address for more information.

**Get Ciscomani out of Congress: Kathleen Mayer. [Kmayer17@gmail.com](mailto:Kmayer17@gmail.com)**

Dana reported for Kathleen on the Town Hall held May 25 with Ciscomani. Since Ciscomani declined to attend, Kathleen conducted the Town Hall as his surrogate. A link to the video of the town hall is at <https://www.veed.io/view/8b71b365-6cbc-4d3d-bcfd-80642b04aecb?panel=share>.

Dana also reported that Kirsten Engel has asked that we not endorse her publicly because of national Indivisible's actions in seeking to de-fund the police after the George Floyd killing in 2020. Our endorsement might result in adverse consequences for Ms. Engel.

### Petition for abortion rights

Petitions need to be turned in June 21-23. While we had a big surge after the Arizona Supreme Court decision, signature collection is getting slower. ITAA will have a celebratory event on June 17, where petitions can be turned in and a notary will be present. While we don't have numbers of petition signatures yet, it is expected that the initiative will be on the ballot. If that happens, we will need to educate voters as the legislature has clogged the ballot with competing proposals. Here is the link to register for the June 17 event:

**[https://www.mobilize.us/itaa/event/631076/?referring\\_vol=712748&share\\_context=dashboard-event-details&sharer\\_role=SharerRole.ORGANIZER](https://www.mobilize.us/itaa/event/631076/?referring_vol=712748&share_context=dashboard-event-details&sharer_role=SharerRole.ORGANIZER)**

### Voter Guide

Eileen Hollowell addressed issues regarding the voter guide which will be distributed before the election. Anyone can submit a comment on any proposal on the ballot if they pay \$75 for each proposal on which they wish to comment. There is a 300-word limit for each comment. ITAA has submitted a comment in support of the abortion initiative. (If it doesn't get on the ballot, you are not entitled to a refund of the \$75 fee.) To put a comment in the voter guide, you need to go to the Secretary of State's website ([www.sos.az.gov](http://www.sos.az.gov)). There is no vetting of comments, and it is expected that Republicans will flood the guide with comments. It is important to get in comments early as the comments are printed in the order in which received. Eileen said that one of the other proposals would kill initiatives effectively by requiring a proposed initiative to have signatures from 15% of the voters in the last election in each legislative district. Currently only 15% of the total voters who voted in the last election must support a constitutional amendment. If you wish to comment on a proposal and need help, contact Eileen ([locar3@gmail.com](mailto:locar3@gmail.com)). She also said she got help with wording from members of the LTE team.

The State Team will be monitoring the initiatives that get on the ballot and will provide some guidance on which should be especially concerning. It is expected that we also will get guidance from CEBV.

### Poll working.

Misty Atkins explained the various jobs that are open to help on election day. They are as follows:

- a. Poll workers: These folks work at the polls checking in voters. They work an 18-hour shift at their polling place. Register to be a poll worker at the county recorder website. Democrats are in good shape for this. Here is the link for Pima County: <https://www.pima.gov/667/Poll-Workers>. Here is the link for

Pinal County: <https://www.pinal.gov/287/Poll-Worker-Information>.

- b. Poll observers: These individuals sit inside the polling place and simply observe to be sure that the process is done correctly. They may not talk to the poll workers or the voters. To do this work, you need to go through your political party. Jan Counts volunteered to be a poll observer, and she was given a number to call (Barbara Tillman 520/848-8530). Final County: <https://www.pinaldemocrats.org/action-center/become-a-poll-observer>

Poll defenders: The people who work in this position stand outside the polling place and observe any efforts to intimidate or threaten voters. They do not confront those who are intimidating or threatening voters; instead, they report the incidents. It is run through Arizona Democracy Resource Center who will provide training as well: <https://www.azdrc.org/>.

You do not have to be a resident to be a poll defender.

### **Treasurer:**

Dana reported for Jeanne Hardie. We are in good shape. We have \$4000+ in restricted funds and \$600+ in unrestricted funds.

### Final thoughts

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The next meeting will be in August, as we will not meet in July. Between now and then, communications and notice of events will be through emails.

It was announced that ballots for the general election will go out October 9 and the general election will be November 5.

After this announcement, Dana took a moment to reflect on the victory for the rule of law that was embodied by Trump's conviction on 34 felony counts.