

minutes of the August 1, 2022, meeting  
Indivisible Tucson Action Alliance

Chair Dana Offerman called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. There were 41 people in attendance.

Speakers

Dana introduced our speakers for the day. The first speaker was Amy Fitch Heacock from the Women's March. Ms. Heacock indicated that the primary focus of the group in the immediate future will be Get Out the Vote. They do plan a rally and community event in October. She talked about the difficulty for doctors and pharmacists in the aftermath of the *Dobbs* decision. She indicated that much of the group's messaging will be focused on this issue. They plan to coordinate their efforts with other groups for the mid-term elections, and they need volunteers. The website for the local group is [www.tucsonwomensmarch.org](http://www.tucsonwomensmarch.org).

The national convention for the group will be in Houston this month. When asked about why the convention would be in Texas, Ms. Heacock indicated that the hope is to support the many Texas citizens who support the goals of the group in the state which is subject to much gerrymandering.

After the general election, the organization will confer with partner organizations to see how best to get the abortion laws in Arizona made more reasonable. They will have some sort of initiative but are looking to see if there are other options.

During the question-and-answer session, Ms. Heacock was asked if there were corporations or businesses we should or should not support because of their stance on reproductive rights. She said that most corporations support both parties, but Planned Parenthood has a list of what corporations support what candidates and parties on its website. She said that Walgreens is one of the worst companies by allowing its pharmacists to refuse to fill prescriptions based on the pharmacist's personal feelings. In one instance, a second pharmacist had to be called in to fill a birth control prescription. Elizabeth Packard added that the website [goodsuniteus.com](http://goodsuniteus.com) also indicates which companies donate to which candidates.

When asked about what was being done to help women who need abortions to get them, Ms. Heacock said that these are new issues, and they are working on solutions.

Ms. Heacock indicated that the best way to change things is by voting. The Women's March will work with Ground Game and other groups to help in getting good people elected. They are working on messaging to let people know how important it is to vote to protect our rights. You can contact her directly at [amy@tucsonwomensmarch.org](mailto:amy@tucsonwomensmarch.org).

Dana next introduced Pam Simon and Patricia Maisch from Moms Demand Action. Both are survivors of the January 8 shooting at Gabby Giffords' Congress on the Corner. Their organization works on gun violence prevention. They presented a slideshow about their organization's work.

Moms Demand Action works under the Everytown umbrella with other organizations including Mayors Against Illegal Guns, Everytown Survivor Network, and Students Demand Action. Moms Demand Action (MOMS) is the field organization for Everytown. MOMS has 10 million supporters and there is a MOMS chapter in every state. Contact

information is [www.momdsdemandaction.org](http://www.momdsdemandaction.org). The state coordinator is Rene Friedkin at (805) 302-2973 and the Tucson coordinator is Kathy Jensen at (520) 548-5841. You can reach Pam at [pasmomaz@gmail.com](mailto:pasmomaz@gmail.com). Patricia's phone number is (520) 349-9999. If you text "Join" to 64433, you will be connected to the national organization for information.

Patricia emphasized that the organization is not anti-gun or anti-Second Amendment. It is for sensible gun laws and advocates for stronger laws and policies to reduce gun violence.

In the last legislative session, MOMS was not able to introduce sensible gun legislation, but they were able to stop 9 very bad gun bills. They intend to canvas, phone bank, and otherwise support gun sense candidates. They also educate parents and adults in safe storage for guns and supply gun lockers to gun owners.

Patricia says that the organization uses RTS at the state legislature. She reminded us that it is also important to thank your legislator if they voted for a bill you supported or against a bill you thought was bad.

Pam reminded us that there are ways that anybody can support the organization. They ended by saying that they were able to be in Washington DC for the signing of the Celebrate Safe Communities law.

### Save our Schools Petition

Petitions are circulating to put the repeal of HB2853 (universal voucher expansion) on the ballot for 2024. If there are enough signatures are gathered by the deadline of September 18, then this will stop the voucher program from going into effect until after the vote on the issue in 2024. This would mean that \$1 Billion would not be taken from public schools this year (on top of the \$2 Billion that already has been taken from them). We have signing sites set for Himmel Park, Oro

Valley Library and Nanini Library over the next two weeks and if more people can volunteer to sit at the tables, we can extend the signature signing at those sites. Email Karen Harris if you are interested in helping ([kwharris1979@gmail.com](mailto:kwharris1979@gmail.com)) at Nanini or Dana Offerman ([indivisibleletucson@gmail.com](mailto:indivisibleletucson@gmail.com)) for signing or volunteering at Himmel Park Library, and Jean Meconi for working at the Oro Valley Library ([jimmecc@gamil.com](mailto:jimmecc@gamil.com)).

Jan Counts indicated that she sent out an invitation to the people in her homeowners' group to sign the petitions and had several positive responses. She will have an event in her garage. Amy Gosla suggested that volunteers go to the parent pick up lines at schools to gather signatures.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Misty Atkins first thanked all those who showed up to sign SOS petitions or to take SOS petitions at our event on Saturday. She then shared slides with information on organizations that our group or individuals can support in the upcoming election. These include Field Team 6, Mission for Arizona, Civic Engagement Beyond Voting, Pima County Democratic Party, and your legislative districts. It is suggested that you tell the group leader of any group for whom you are working that you are affiliated with ITAA.

### Postcards

Jan reported that we have mailed 5000 postcards for Field Team 6. Since March. She expects another batch of 800 in the next week and will probably distribute them on August 10 or August 11. The new postcards will have a new message since the primary election will be over.

### Letters to the Editor

Jackie reported that 56 letters to the editor by ITAA members have been in the Arizona Daily Star since the first of the year, which averages approximately two per week. The letters are also posted on our Face Book page, Tweeted, posted on our website, and sent to the state team for further distribution. If you are interested in participating in LTE, email Jackie ([jacolyn@comcast.net](mailto:jacolyn@comcast.net)).

### Text banking

Joe Smith reported that his team has been trained on texting for Field Team 6 and have begun doing follow up texting to those who earlier received postcards. The new message is “If you care about reproductive rights, vote Democrat.”

### Membership

Sally reported that we had a very successful Happy Hour at the Arizona Inn on June 30 and hope to have another one toward the end of August.

### Announcements

Dana announced that we will be focusing on get out the vote through phone banking, canvassing, text banking and other means during the next months. She reminded us that the Republicans only had a 1-person majority in the legislature this last year.

She also announced that National Indivisible will match every dollar we raise between August 1 and August 31 up to \$500. You can donate through the ITAA website ([www.indivisibletucson.org](http://www.indivisibletucson.org)) by hitting the “donate” Act Blue button.

Our September meeting will be September 12 at 3:30 p.m. so we don't interfere with Labor Day. Mike Nickerson, Arizona Senate candidate in LD 17 will be the speaker.

The meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.