

Minutes
May 3, 2021 meeting
Indivisible Tucson Action Alliance

Attendees: Mary Lee, Eileen Hollowell, Martha Bergner, Bobbi Zimmer, Lea Anderton, Thea Chalow, Margo Nichols, Fred Markussen, Rachel Rulmyr, Linda Block, Kenn Block, Loyce Pickett, Cheryl Whited, Lynn Bultman, Neill Hollenshead, Mary Whitnell, Joe Alexander, Tina Whitley, Katherine Gaboury, Di Alexander, Mary Lisa, Sandy Kaye, Laurie Soloff, Rich Cohen, Jan Counts, Jacolyn Marshall, Patricia Wiedhoph, Bill Yohey, Misty Atkins, Cindy Doklan, Karen Harris, Sally Simmons, Dana Offerman, Madeleine Wachter, Beth Smith

The meeting began at 3:36.

Announcements: Tina Whitley announced that she has *I Love PEVL* signs for distribution. These are free. Email Tina at wtina034@gmail.com to get these signs.

Dana Offerman thanked everyone for the help with the backpack project in which ITAA members purchased and filled backpacks for unaccompanied minor immigrants. We took two carloads of backpacks to Lutheran Social Services which was sponsoring the project.

Dana also announced that Jackie Marshall, chair of the Letters to the Editors work group, has become a steering committee member.

Federal Team: Karen Harris reported on the state Indivisible team's meeting with Senator Sinema's chief of staff and state director. Sen. Sinema remains committed to the need for bipartisan support before she will support HR 1 or DC statehood. The Senator believes bipartisan support will avoid legal challenges to bills addressing each issue. Senator Sinema is a member of G-20, a group of 10 Democratic and 10 Republican Senators and she is trying to get centralist Republicans to approve HR 1 and DC statehood. The state Indivisible team will attempt to arrange other meetings with Senator Sinema's staff; depending on the issue or issues being discussed at those meetings, different staff members will be assigned to join in the meetings.

National Indivisible has indicated that they do not believe civil disobedience (actions which are likely to get one arrested) are a tool to use to persuade Senator Sinema to be more active in passing progressive legislation. Rather, Arizona Indivisible has agreed to work with Indivisible groups in states like Alaska to try to persuade their legislators to support bipartisan efforts to pass legislation.

One other thing that may persuade Senator Sinema to drop her insistence on bipartisan efforts to pass key legislation is if bills she is particularly interested in are not progressing because of lack of Republican support. She is very supportive of the Border Solution Act, an act which has been opposed by the Florence Immigration Project as not being of help to the immigration

issue. The Florence Immigration Project's response to the Border Solutions Act can be found at <https://firrp.org/florence-project-responds-to-the-bipartisan-border-solutions-act/>

The Senator also is supportive of the infrastructure bill as a vehicle to create jobs. This is in keeping with her interest in business and business supporters. It is suggested that businesses be contacted to help persuade her to support progressive issues. It also is important to use the forum provided by Letters to the Editor to keep pressure on her.

State Team: Eileen Hollowell reported that the state team has been very active with Request to Speak (RTS) as well as emails or calls to Governor Ducey. Unfortunately, as the proliferation of bad bills from this legislature indicates, this is the worst legislature in a decade. Despite the fact that the legislators have received thousands of communications opposing bills, the bad bills are still being passed.

One possible long-term solution to the legislature's bad actions is to join the efforts of Civic Engagement Beyond Voting (CEBV). This organization is setting up teams which will target legislators who have voted for issues that a majority of their constituents don't want or refused to vote for issues that their constituents do support. The teams will do things like send letters to the editor in publications in the legislative district or attend functions or meetings the legislator is attending. CEBV needs volunteers to undertake these activities or to edit letters or do research. Training is available. State team will continue to track the effort.

Letters to the Editor: Jackie Marshall reported that 8 ITAA letters were posted in the last month. She is always glad to welcome new members. In addition to being published either on-line or in print, letters to the editor also are printed on the ITAA website, Facebook page and Twitter account, giving them even more exposure. If you are interested in joining this team, email Jackie at Jacolyn@comcast.net.

Redistricting: Dana, Misty Atkins and Sally Simmons are on the state Redistricting team. Sally reported that the IRC Chair has appeared to favor the Republicans thus far and that the executive director selection was an example of this. There are 3 candidates for mapping consultant, only one of which is qualified. The other two are unqualified because of either lack of experience or because of partisan maps based on the company's work, which maps have been rejected by courts. The mapping consultant will be selected at the meeting of the IRC on May 4. Tina provided a link for talking points with respect to use in addressing the IRC at the meeting tomorrow. This resource will give you talking points for public input to the IRC: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EFRDgbYfU2a9Sq0KLPXGL1vpFA6MYgG2EVuUWHRdu1w/edit>

Sally also told the group that we will try to announce meetings where the IRC will accept public comments on proposed maps as soon as we know when they will be held. She also encouraged members to go to Representable.org. This is a website where people can create their own communities of interest (a key part of redistricting). These will be collated into a proposed map.

Social Media: Dana gave the history of recent problems with Facebook. We had both a private and a public Facebook page. For reasons unknown to ITAA, Facebook kicked the entire ITAA Social Media team off Facebook and closed even their private accounts. Facebook would not provide a reason for this action. As a consequence, Karen Harris has had to create a new Facebook (private only) and a new Twitter account for ITAA. They can be found here:

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/ItaaTucson/>

FaceBook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/179770817226870>

Karen and Eileen are the present administrators for these accounts. We just started the new accounts last week, and members are encouraged to comment and follow the two accounts. The Facebook page, since it is private, can be used by members and friends to discuss issues affecting or of interest to ITAA,

Classes on using Facebook and Twitter can be found on www.indivisible.org/training.

Twitter is also a good way to get the attention of Governor Ducey, Senator Sinema and other public officials since they get regular reports from staff members about what the response on Twitter is to certain issues.

We will not have a public Facebook page.

Fitchem recall: Dana gave information on how to volunteer to help with the recall. You must be a registered voter in LD 11 to sign a petition. Thus far, about 10,000 signatures have been collected. To volunteer to collect signatures or to find out where you can sign a petition, go to <https://recallfinchem.com/>

Writing to Persuade. Thea Challow gave a presentation on key points she learned from Trish Hall's book, *Writing to Persuade*.

1. Know your audience, who they are and how they feel, so they will listen to you.
2. How people react to an issue is based on their feelings, rather than their thinking. You must change how people feel, rather than what they think.
3. Look for anything that gives you a sense of commonality with your audience to get them to listen to you. Tell them a story rather than just facts.
4. Edit what you write and skip jargon. Write in plain language and conversationally.
5. Never repeat a falsehood; avoid using the words of the opposition because that just emphasizes them.
6. Tell people how to fix the problem, being as specific and concrete as you can.
7. In any letter to the editor or OpEd piece, your opening line is critical. You want to grab the attention of your audience immediately so they will read the rest of the letter or piece.

Karen Harris mentioned a piece by James Carville about avoiding political jargon: <https://www.vox.com/22338417/james-carville-democratic-party-biden-100-days>

Eileen reminded the group that if you are part of the LTE group you get to have free editing since all letters are circulated among members.

Treasurer's Report: Margo reported that we have \$922.35 in our restricted funds, and we will get another \$500 on May 7 when the Act Blue/Indivisible National funds come in, which will make our balance \$1422.35. These funds cannot be used for state or local candidates.

We have \$67.65 in our unrestricted account. We will need to increase this account in the future to help state and local candidates or referendum.

Closing announcements: Dana advised us that the meeting rooms in the Oro Valley Library are not yet open but we are keeping in touch with the librarian so we can meet in person there when they are open. Until then we will continue to meet on Zoom.

Dana also announced that we will be looking for speakers for future meetings. We will look for candidates in 2022, but we also need your suggestions for speakers. Send suggestions to indivisibleucson@gmail.com.

Ann reported that all are welcome to attend the Tanque Verde Democrats meeting on Saturday, May 5 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The speaker will be Arizona Democratic Party Chair and Legislative District 30 representative Raquel Teran. The website to register is www.tanqueverdedems.org

The next meeting of ITAA is on June 7 at 3:30 pm via Zoom.

Please note that Misty has a wealth of information in the newsletter on our website, so you can always go to it to get information and links that we discuss at our meetings and updates from Indivisible headquarters: <https://www.indivisibleucson.org/weeblycomeditormainphp-302968.html>