

INDIVISIBLE SOS SANTA FE - Membership Meeting Minutes 11-8-2021

26 members attended online and in person.

There was much discussion of the proposed social studies curriculum for NM schools. Hearings are on Zoom Friday, November 12th from 1 - 5 pm. We need to write letters to the editor TODAY in support, as the opposition is loud and organized. Submit your written comments to the Dept. of Ed. before Friday. Finally, attend the hearings Friday, please! Five of our members plan to testify: Sandy Dransfield, Rachel Feldman, Patricia Pearce, Marti Burt and Paula Sabloff. Sandy will send us the Zoom link for Friday.

Elizabeth Fryer, who is taking on our Climate/Environment Team, and Lisa Silva are working on a presentation for us regarding the PNM/Avangrid merger. Five members confirmed their interest in helping: Patricia Pearce, Bev Hedin, Suzy Moesch, Pam Rogers and Ricann Bock.

Cynthia Feiden-Warsh is collecting items for the border. Clothing, sheets, towels and blankets will be accepted. They can be dropped off at her house, on the side porch, before Thanksgiving. Her address is 41 Centaurus Ranch Rd., in Aldea.

Please consider registering for IndivisiGather on Thursday, November 18th from noon - 2:00 pm. It's a celebration and should be fun. Sandy will send out the Zoom link.

Our partnership with Somos un Pueblo Unido takes the next step - a gathering to get to know each other. Some details are still being worked out. It is scheduled for Monday, November 11th from 5:00 - 6:30 pm at their facility. We are using National Indivisible money to pay for food, etc. Lisa Silva can help as a translator. Cynthia will send out the address and encourages carpooling. We hope to have 10 - 15 members attend. Somos is very active in southern New Mexico with Blue CD-2. We will be talking about ways to help each other on projects.

There are plans to meet at Betsy's house on Monday, December 6th in place of our usual morning meeting, 9:30 - 11:00 am. We want to have a conversation about Critical Race Theory and all the other issues flowing from that term. Sandy will send out several articles/podcasts to get us up to speed before the conversation.

Our guest speaker was Rebecca Avitia, Chief of Staff for Senator Martin Heinrich. The Senator's Santa Fe Field Rep, Eric Castillo, also joined us. Rebecca talked about elections, including the governor's race in VA. Filibuster reform and other problematic senate rules were discussed. She talked about the need to talk clearly and often about Democratic successes. The American Rescue Plan cut child poverty in half, and the Infrastructure bill is the largest investment since we created our national infrastructure. We need to proudly celebrate those successes. She is currently working on Build Back Better.

We had a fascinating discussion of the Democratic problem with messaging, the media, and money (who benefits?). The GOP chooses to benefit from creating an atmosphere of fear as does the media. We need to recognize where things actually are on fire: voting rights, housing, high costs - those are real problems that we can fix.

Submitted by
Jana Theis