

Notes of June 6, 2022 General Meeting
Marti Burt, note taker

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE

Sandy made the following announcements:

- 1.Thanks to all of you who have canvassed for Representative Andrea Romero and Sheriff Mendoza! Thank you for volunteering! This was our largest group of canvassers ever! Teams got generally positive responses during this door-knocking, including from people we encountered who weren't even on the lists.
- 2.Sandy received a call from Indivisible Albuquerque. They are assuming that once the current elected Public Service Commission board is replaced by an appointed board in January 2023, the Governor will appoint people friendly to the PNM/Avangrid merger and request it to reverse the elected PSC's decision this year to reject the merger. Indivisible Albuquerque has notified the New Mexico Supreme Court that they will be submitting a brief to stop the appointed PSC from making this change, based on "all decisions to date," i.e., that the PSC's process was completely legitimate, none of the relevant facts have changed, and that this is just the Governor trying to get what she wants. Raellen/Indivisible Albuquerque asked our group to sign on to the brief. Sandy agreed that we should do this, given where our group stands on this issue, the hearings we attended, Letters to the Editor etc. Stay tuned for updates.
- 3.Santa Fe Indivisible is hosting an event on Tuesday night (June 7) starting at 6 pm to watch the first public hearings of the January 6 Commission. Use this link to sign up: <https://www.mobilize.us/jan6hearings/event/467129/> It's a potluck at 1420 Cerillos Road. It should be fun to watch as a group!
- 4.Also tomorrow night (June 7) – Andrea Romero, whose campaign we have been helping with canvassing, is hosting an election watch party starting at 7 pm at Opuntia (across the street from Violet Crown). We hope and expect this party will be to celebrate Andrea's winning her primary.
- 5.**Our group has written 10 letters to the editor-note that number- and had all 10 published in the last two weeks! Great letters on many issues! Thanks to all who wrote. We can do this regularly.**
- 6.Reminder that we will NOT be meeting at all in August-we need a break and will return to a robust Fall schedule starts on September 12, the first Monday after Labor Day. Enjoy the break and recharge. It will be the fight of our lives for democracy between September and the midterm elections! We expect us all to be very busy.
- 7.Ricann Bock will be chairing the next two meetings while Sandy is in Greece with her granddaughter!
- 8.At our June 13th we will hear from our committees with a special focus on how we will work on several issues with the legislature's interim committees over the summer.

9. At our June 20th meeting we will have fun! Marcy Matasick from Raging Grannies (the singers) will be joining us to recruit for a Santa Fe based group and to lead us in singing! Should be lots of fun and a great way to let off some political steam!
10. Sandy will be back for the meeting on the 27th when Kayla Herring from Planned Parenthood will speak to us about plans to codify women's reproductive rights in New Mexico into law. Right now, we have gotten rid of the old bad law but we do not have any law that assures women the right to make their own health care decisions. We need one. That's what this is about—getting that legislation into law in 2023.
11. In January, when Sandy steps down as president and Ricann assumes the presidency, Cindy Pabst has agreed to replace Ricann as secretary. Welcome, Cindy, to the leadership team!

AGENDA

Reports from external meetings

Ricann and Elizabeth reported on the agenda of the interim legislative committee that is going to be holding hearings on June 15-17 in Gallup on creating a Hydrogen Hub at the Escalante power plant (currently inoperative) as part of the tri-state consortium on hydrogen fuel development that the Governor joined in the spring after failing 5 times to get any traction for hydrogen fuel in the 2022 legislative session. This is the governor, aided again by Patty Lundstrum, chair of the interim committee, and Ralph Munoz, chair of Senate Finance, to get what she wants in defiance of commitments to move as quickly as possible to renewable sources of energy.

Ricann and Elizabeth are asking us to respond, as a group and as individuals. As a group,

1. We will update the letter we sent to the legislature during the 2022 session opposing development of hydrogen as fuel and send it to interim committee members. We will circulate it first to see if anyone wants to sign onto it in addition to the 60+ members who signed the first one.
2. If anyone is willing to go to Gallup to testify in person at the hearing, that person will represent the group.

As individuals, we can:

1. Write or email or call members of the interim committee
2. Submit written testimony to the committee
3. The hearing will be Webcast but not available on Zoom. This means we can watch it (Webcast) but not participate in it live (that would take a Zoom link). So emails or written testimony are the ways we can have input.

Modernizing the State Legislature

Ricann gave a presentation on Modernizing the State Legislature, which is a campaign that Strengthening Democracy chaired by Roberta Colton will take up.

Our state legislature has a hard time getting many things done because its sessions are too short, legislators have no staff most of the time, it is unrepresentative of the state due to legislators being unpaid, and many of its rules are antiquated.

Ricann has been working with a group of nonprofits and advocacy/good government groups led by Tom Solomon to develop a proposal for structural change. One member of the group is Legislative Momentum which includes a group of women state representatives. Some changes like permanent staff for policy and constituent services, can be made by simply adding funds to annual budgets. Others, like paying legislators or changing the length of sessions, require constitutional changes that would first have to pass the legislature and then go to voters at the next election.