

## Notes of June 13, 2022 General Meeting

### Marti Burt, note taker

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Our summer gala will be held at Betsy Porter's home—please hold July 28th from 5:00 to 7:00 for this great event! Please invite a prospective member to join us as well! Thanks to Stephanie for organizing, to Betsy for hosting and to Cindy for a great invitation! We need your RSVP by July 7th, please.
2. Our letter to the Interim Finance committee members on the potential Hydrogen Hub has been sent and the snail mail version to the Governor will go out today. Thanks to everyone who signed on, a total of 60 to sign on, to Elizabeth for writing the letter, and to Jana for her quick edits!
3. Teresa Leger Fernandez's campaign has contacted us and they'd love for us to march with them in the Pride Parade. The date is Saturday, June 25th. Our drum corp is in! The march starts at 1:30 from the P.E.R.A. parking lot, so best to be there by 11 to find Teresa's group and get organized.
4. Dottie learned of a program from Indivisible National offering \$200 reimbursement for expenses related to actions on gun control or Roe v. Wade. But as we would have had to have completed this by Wednesday (June 15th), we decided to pass on it.
5. Attached to this email is the packet of information from Joyce Bogosian's session on writing LTEs and the invitation Cindy made for our Gala and our letter against the Hydrogen Hub.
6. No meeting July 4<sup>th</sup>. Then yes, meetings at our usual time for the rest of July. No meetings in August or on Labor Day. Time to relax and recover. Meetings start again on September 12th.
7. There is a BlueCD2 NM general membership meeting tonight, and monthly on the first Monday of every month.

Ricann started the meeting by reading a piece on anger—how the author uses anger but doesn't let it use her—that came from the organization "Americans of Conscience." This group has a useful checklist for candidates assessing where they stand on the many issues we care about. She will send the anger piece to members.

#### Discussion of the primary

Cindy said her main takeaway was that "money doesn't always triumph." Opponents of all the pro-choice women we supported were very well funded but they lost, resoundingly in Andrea's case, more than good enough in the others. She also shared a research result that successful work for down-ballot (meaning local) candidates increases votes for the statewide and federal level candidates by 2.5%. It also safeguards the interests we care about in the NM legislature. So our strategy pays off two-fold.

#### Reports from outside meetings

Ricann met with a group called by NMIC to discuss what Indivisible can/should do at the federal level to influence the policies we care about—tentatively called the NM Indivisible MoC (Members of Congress) Group.

Ricann and Cynthia attended the monthly NMIC meeting where a strategy of Give No Ground was discussed. Discussion focused on which candidates to support nationally, identifying Senate candidates, presumably in battleground states, who are key to holding the Senate in Democratic hands. Actions on

their behalf would include all the usual—calling, texting, canvassing, donating. This would be for candidates from other states, as neither of our NM Senators are up for re-election.

Marti reported on her involvement with the Public Power Working Group, as part of work with our Climate/Environment Committee. She asked for people interested in helping to gather information on communities and states that have publicly-owned utilities, to use as examples of their benefits (in contrast to investor-owned utilities like PNM) when working to persuade NM communities to adopt public power options.

## Committee Reports

Each committee chair or other member briefly reported what their committee has been doing and plans for the immediate future. Reports will be assembled into a single document, “Committee reports for June 6, 2022” and posted on the members only part of our website, in the section titled “Meeting Minutes,” which should probably be changed to “Meeting Minutes and Committee Reports,” or a separate tab set up for committee reports. The two-sentence versions are below:

- *Strengthening Democracy* – Cindy reporting. Main focus now is on modernizing the NM legislature. Action is suspended until completion of a privately-commissioned report toward the end of the summer. See Ricann’s slide presentation, on our website under “Resources,” to understand the issues in greater depth. Also, working to establish relationship with Common Cause NM to work on this.
- *Behavioral Health*—Pam reporting. Main foci are expanding access, getting creative to promote support and resources for adolescents, and improving procedures in family court to assure the safety of women and children. Joyce Dubensky, a new member, offered her husband’s help with ideas, as he has been a family court judge for many years and worked on reforms. This committee is also working with the Civil Rights/CJS Reform Committee to modernize law enforcement training with a special focus on drastically improved training on use-of-force and interventions when mental health is a primary issue.
- *Civil Rights/CJS Reform*—Rachel reporting. Rachel has been working with Gail Chasey, an Albuquerque state representative and chair of the relevant Interim Committee, on legislation to make major changes in the Law Enforcement Training Act. We are invited to put together an entire panel on this subject at a committee meeting in October. We will have the support of several legislators and are working with staff of the Department of Public Safety to develop legislative language.
- *Hold the House and Senate*—Ricann reporting. 3 foci—first, winning in CD2, by working with BlueCD2, doing letters with VoteForward, and anything else that offers. Second, work with the Teresa Leger Fernandez campaign to make sure she gets re-elected. Third, help however we can with the campaigns of vulnerable US senators—Warnock (GA), Kelly (AZ), Hassan (NH), and Cortez Masto (NV)—to hold the US Senate.
- *Reproductive Rights*—Cynthia reporting. Efforts in the last 2 months all focused on supporting the 3 pro-choice NM women representatives, to preserve the pro-choice majority in the NM House. Immediate future is to assure the reproductive rights of NM women by working for legislation in the 2023 session to codify women’s right to make their own reproductive health care decisions into NM law. Will work with Planned Parenthood and any other group focused on the same goals. In addition, Cynthia represents us at a National Indivisible convening to strategize what to do post-Roe, both for states that already have laws codifying reproductive rights and those that don’t. NOTE: Supreme Court ruling will NOT apply to reservations.

## **Improving our “Alerts” process and doing a member poll again to assess interest**

We discussed the pros and cons of a number of options, including a single “alerts” list, simplifying alerts, increasing interest in acting on alerts among the overall membership, etc. This merged into discussing how to increase participation among members.

### *Decisions re immediate actions:*

- Marti will do a new poll of members but with a couple of new twists: 1)
  - Naming our immediate priorities for action—LE training project, Civil/voting rights, reproductive health/codifying rights, climate action
  - brief pitch about being an action-oriented organization, all can help move these priorities forward;
  - brief pitch about how effective we can be/have been;
  - offer of tutorial on how to copy and paste text of message into an email, how to copy and paste email blocks into bcc part of an email’s “To:” section, and any other matters of technology that may be inhibiting members from responding to alerts with action.
- Cindy will compile something like a “member handbook” for distribution at the July 28 social. It will include information on the many ways members can participate.

## **Training for our members on “know how the legislature works” and “deep dive on budgets.”**

Rachel will offer two trainings in the fall for our members.

- #1, Deep Dive, probably in September.
  - This training will be for the few people who want to be able to access and read the proposed state budget and track the fate of money for the things we care about, so we can take action if needed to be sure that there is money to do what we want done.
  - It will also equip those few people to help other committee members with budget information when they have questions that involve the budget, to relieve the pressure on Rachel and also not make it necessary for everyone to know how to deal with the budgets.
  - So far, Marti and Cindy are interested in this training. Anyone else, let us know.
- #2, Know How the Legislature Works (really works, not the theory), probably early December or early January, before the 2023 session starts.
  - This training will be for any member who might want to be involved in the 2023 legislative session—tracking bills, talking with legislators, testifying, writing emails, etc. It will explain how the legislature works and the various ways that IndivisibleSOS as a group and members as individuals can be involved.