

NOTES iSOS Membership Meeting

9/25/23

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Strategic Planning Retreat** – It was an incredibly productive day, with goals set, committees revived, commitments made, and all while having a good time and eating good food. Here are the groups that met and some of what they decided to do going forward.
 - **Healthcare** (Liza, Pam, Jana, Roberta, Laurel, Sandy)
 - Set up a meeting with Rep. Reena Szczepanski to discuss the Medicaid First effort.
 - Share analysis by Julie Weinberg with group (Sandy)
 - Read the '22 bill, critique and distribute (Liza)
 - Ask Reena for five suggestions that SOS can do to support the Medicaid First bill
 - Learn more about “NM Together for Healthcare Coalition” and consider joining
 - **Environment** (Ellen, Barbara, Bev, Mary B, Marti)
 - This group will focus on renewable/electric/energy
 - Attend meetings of Public Power Working Group and work with them on their priorities
 - Let members of SOS' previous Environment Committee know of this change and focus and invite
 - them to continue working on these issues with the reformulated group
 - **Elections Plus** (Ricann, Monica, Dottie, Helen, Peggy)
 - Focus first on city elections this fall (school board, city council, community college board, referendum on tax on high-end home sales)
 - Research tax referendum (Helen) and recommend to group
 - Research how best to support Sarah Boses, District 2 school board member and Board president,
 - who is being challenged by a Moms for Liberty, far right MAGA candidate
 - Ricann and Monica will chair a meeting this week with committee (formerly called Hold the House and Senate) to begin drafting strategies for all the '23-'24 elections
2. **United for Affordable Housing Campaign** – Andrea Romero, NM Representative for many of us, is chairing this campaign. It promotes more affordable housing for Santa Fe in general, and in specific is working hard to pass an ordinance for Santa Fe that would add a 3% tax on the amount over \$1 million of home sales in the city, the proceeds to go to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Check out their website at <https://www.unitedforaffordablehousing.com>, where you can endorse, contribute, and find out how to otherwise support.
3. Roberta has written letters to our two Senators and Reps. Stansbury and Vasquez, urging them to support legislation that would essentially overturn *Citizens United* (the Supreme Court decision that declared corporations to be people and opened the floodgates of corporate election spending) and limit corporations' financial participation in elections. **MAJORITY VOTED YAY to send these letters out to membership to try to obtain a majority of signatures.**
4. **Money** – Members have suggested that we make contributions, of \$250 each, to two organizations that we support with our actions –FreeFlow NM (our period pods) and the Alliance for Gun Violence Solutions. This will be a vote of members attending this meeting. **We tabled this issue for the moment for lack of time for discussion. Please send any questions/comments to Ricann ricannb@icloud.com**
5. Rachel reported on new appointment of Ben Baker to work with the Governor. Tuesday, Oct 17th meeting with 9-2 meeting with Behavioral health folks are joining law enforcement in this meeting. **Plases let Rachel know if you'd like to join her group. rlfeldman1949@gmail.com.** This is a huge opportunity in this legislative session! Civil Rights and Criminal Justice committee needs additional members. Mitzi will join and will take notes.
6. If you're free on **Tuesday, October 3**, you may want to attend **a documentary film at CCA that our climate advocacy group, 350 Santa Fe, is sponsoring.** It addresses the environmental justice issues involved with energy development in or near indigenous communities. The film is **Powerlands**, and was directed by filmmaker Ivey-Camille Manybeads Tso, who grew up in such a community in the Shiprock chapter of the Navajo Reservation. After documenting the impacts on her own community, she traveled the world to find and film other indigenous communities faced with such impacts. Ms. Tso will be present to

answer questions after the film. You can reserve tickets on the CCA website. No charge for tickets, but donations to 350 Santa Fe are accepted to help us defray the costs.

7. **From Kathleen Burke of Fair Districting NM:** Our Legislation Drafting Committee is hard at work creating next year's resolution for the constitutional amendment for an independent redistricting commission. Regarding the upcoming lawsuit in the 5th NM District Court, *Republican Party of NM v. Oliver*, we will clarify that Fair Districts does not take a position on the merits of this case, but we do think it further illustrates the need for an independent redistricting commission.

POSTCARDS AND LETTERS

1. People are working hard on the postcards for BlueCD2. The first card – “Democrats make things better in Dona Ana County,” should go in the mail Monday (tomorrow).
2. Virginia – many SOSers are writing cards. Those cards are supposed to be mailed October 27, but that seems very late to us, given that early voting has already started in Virginia – on Friday September 22. We suggest mailing them on or after October 17, or even earlier – up to you.
3. Many other organizations are writing letters and cards to influence the Virginia elections. Here are 2 that you can sign up with on your own – they are working to influence the election as a whole in a Democratic direction–i.e., not for one specific candidate:
 1. **Working America (WA)** – you sign up for letters in increments of 25. WA provides text for the letters and instructions for writing and mailing. You add your brief comment to their text, print the letters, address and stamp the envelopes
https://actionnetwork.org/forms/mail-voter-guide-letters-to-va?link_id=1&can_id=05b652e5ff5f1b3371f9b27e07c5d1ad&source=email-working-america-virginia-program&email_referrer=email_2054823&email_subject=working-america-virginia-program
 2. VoteForward – once at the website campaign page, you can pick from several Virginia campaigns. I suggest the political one. <https://votefwd.org/campaigns>. Again, you download your own letters and names/addresses.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Did you all see the article in Friday's *New Mexican* about “our” 2023 law enforcement bill, SB19? If not, check it out here – and know that our Civil Rights/Criminal Justice Reform committee is actively working on 2024 legislation and/or budgetary requests to fix the things that got changed or dropped from the bill that passed in 2023
https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/a-new-era-of-transparency-for-police-training-and-discipline/article_0b29f244-57fc-11ee-8983-8bdd9810650e.html

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

- October 2 – Charles Sallee Director Legislative Finance Committee/Council – on how the budgeting process works, and other concerns of the LFC
- October 9 – Sheila Lewis Alliance For Gun Violence Solutions
- October 16 – Senator Moe Maestas, the sponsor of SB19, the bill many SOSers worked on, led by Rachel – see link to recent *New Mexican* article above
- October 23 – Senator Nancy Rodriguez, Vice-Chair of Senate Finance, all about the budget
- October 30 – Natalie Sept of the United for Affordable Housing Campaign will speak to us about the extra tax on house sales over \$1 million, on the ballot on Nov 7, to fund Santa Fe's Affordable Housing Trust Fund

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Reena Szczepanski, NM representative for district 47 where many of us live, will be with us today to discuss probable upcoming legislation, including the health care legislation that our new health group expects to work on. Reena has lived for 23 yrs in NM. She is the Majority whip. Health and health care is where she started her career and still holds her interest.

Last Session: Major priorities included repro rights and gender affirming care; major voting rights bill, including Native American voting rights; tax reform for working families,

- Tone of leadership in house was very different because of new house leadership on both sides. Minority leader: Ryan Lane from Aztec, Greg Neigburt, Minority whip, from Roswell. Both are more open to conversation.
- Reena passed 5 bills, statewide community driven Division of Creative Industries in economic development dept. Up and running already! \$65-67 million is optimal range and we started with \$2 million. Need more funding. Grants are already going out around the state.
- Revenue is highest in NM history and we estimate 10 years of this income from oil and gas. Looking at supporting new industries that can replace this income.
- Medicaid Forward will big a reform with massive price tag. Huge issue, enrollment went down from 200,000 last year to 300,000 unenrolled this year.

Next Session: Governor's call. She is/will be sending messages to legislature; and via State of the State speech (on opening day).

Hopes:

- **Gun violence prevention and safety;**
 - **Q.** ISOS and coalition for gun violence solutions: Town Hall meeting Oct 15 3-5 for Pamela; 3 priorities of the coalition: 1. 14 day waiting, 2. no guns under 21 and 3. ban of assault weapons.
 - **A.** 1. Sponsor with Sen Hamblen for the bill to raise the age for purchase of semiautomatic weapons to 21, 2. w/Wirth for bill to prohibit firearms within 100' of polling places for all non-school polling places. 3. Rep Romeo has worked on the waiting period bill.
 - Reena is wondering if all the bills should be combined. Republicans are on different page and many have gun clubs in their districts. We need more activity around the state. Rural dems in both chambers need to hear from people in favor of common sense gun regulations.
- **(CYFD) Children, Youth, Family Dept** (Gail Chasey's career was in this area) NM Child First fights for fostering kids;
- **Climate,**
 - codifying exec order?
 - Sen Pope and Reena to create a fund for public buildings can be solarized. General Services Division handles landscaping, ie grassy landscaping.
 - **Q.** Hydrogen?
 - **A.** Has been quiet. We need emissions caps for hydrogen for currently operating producers. The state of 4 state compact for hydrogen hub is unclear.
 - Other climate wins include: Sun Zia transmission line, largest in western hemisphere. It's in eastern NM, wind farm transmitted to CA. A turbine manufacturer (the engine) in NM. Jobs are construction jobs, not long term so to combat that we are trying to find a long term revenue source.
- **Housing,**
 - **Q.** new buildings are not being built renewably, what can we do about that?
 - **A.** Sustainable building tax credit offer credits for building sustainably. Building codes, NM has not adopted 2023 building codes. To comply, it causes building costs to go up. There is a new Housing Council (gov). It's been suggested that we put \$650 mil into housing by Egoff.
 - **Emergency services professional retention.** This comment opened up a conversation around decreasing population, esp of working age (& child bearing) in NM but also around the country. Many issues come into this, healthcare, bad education system, not enough kids in schools, falling tax base, etc.

All our efforts are important: calls, showing up at the Round House, drop by visits to offices. In person....

Where Reena needs help:

1. Behavioral Health. Connie Vigil in ABQ heads up a group to change standards of competency around getting treatment. Modeled on a program in FL. Fentinol and crime make this more important. We do have drug courts, but are more for non-violent drug addicts. 40 page bill from FL being advanced. What we're doing is not really working. There's a delegation going to FL to see how it works. Reena will send the FL bill to us.
2. Guns
3. Healthcare recruitment and retention of workers.

Reena's campaign kick off is Oct 11 at 5:30.

Notes by Ricann