

## **New Mexicans for Money Out of Politics (NM MOP)**

[www.nmmop.org](http://www.nmmop.org)

[newmexico.mop@gmail.com](mailto:newmexico.mop@gmail.com)

Outreach Committee Meeting Minutes, July 17, 2017

Attendees: Debbie Helper (co-chair), Rebecca Alvarez (co-chair), Bruce Berlin, Gregg Manoff, Quinn Evans  
Members absent: Robert Cordingley, Dudley Hafner, Herb Faling, Kathryn Holladay

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

This was the first meeting of the NM-MOP Outreach Committee since the American Promise Training event in April which brought 75 people together to hear from Ben Gubits about AP's initiative toward passing a 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment to overturn Citizens United. After the one day event, there were 4 1 hr training sessions held 2 weeks apart, each attended by about 30 people. As a result, 4 lobbying teams were formed to meet with our NM legislators. This was considered a big success.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**WORKSHOP/COALITION:** We first discussed Gregg's proposal (attached) to set up a workshop with the goal of gathering a coalition of people from different groups around Santa Fe and New Mexico whose interests and efforts are geared toward getting Big Money out of politics. He is currently working on something similar for the Citizen's Climate Lobby. Even as a one day event, it will require a lot of planning, some fundraising to pay for venue, materials and refreshments/lunch. Herb Faling had also expressed interest in getting like-minded groups together to share in their efforts and Robert Cordingley has put together an exhaustive catalog of such groups (attached). One concern raised was the decidedly partisan outlook of some groups as it might clash with our purposeful mission of remaining non-partisan. It was decided we would wait to get a report from Gregg of the outcome of the Citizens Climate Lobby event so as to learn from it. Priority for now is going to be clarifying NM-MOP's mission/message so we can effectively reach out to diverse groups.

**MISSION STATEMENT/BROCHURE:** We then discussed Bruce's efforts to finalize the brochure and mission statement for NM-MOP. He is attending the Democracy conference in Minneapolis soon and wishes to distribute the finalized brochure there in hopes of encouraging start-ups in other states using New Mexico as a model. Much discussion centered around "trigger" words that might discourage participation by more conservative citizens. Some thought the language should be sufficiently vague and avoid mention of specific issues so as to encourage participation by all interested in getting Big Money out of politics and ensuring fair elections. Quinn and Gregg were interested in and agreed to help Bruce with the wording of the brochure to be completed by the end of the week.

**SURVEY:** At the Steering Committee meeting, the desire to perform a survey was brought up by Hannah Burling as a member of the Udall lobbying team. This had been suggested by Udall's office rep as

something we could do to help Sen Udall's efforts toward passing his Democracy for All resolution. Rebecca offered her expertise and suggested she could have student volunteers perform the survey. When the Udall team reached out to Udall's staffer for specifics as to what goal to achieve with a survey, no direction was given. Discussion today was about what the survey might look like but, more importantly, what we expect to achieve with the survey. It was agreed it should include sampling from rural and urban centers from around the state, perhaps offering participation at Walmarts or other regional big box stores. The thought was to collect data which might be of interest to us as NM-MOP such as assessing level of awareness of the impact of CU, interest in getting Big Money out of politics, and then offering this information to legislators, but also to combine it as an educational exercise and a way to reach out to citizens in all areas of New Mexico. We agreed the questions should not be leading questions in order to preserve the validity of the survey. Rebecca felt it should be limited to 5-10 questions including demographic information. We discussed being able to educate participants AFTER THEY TAKE THE SURVEY about our group by offering the NM-MOP brochure and a fact sheet about the challenges facing our Democracy.

Rebecca is going to look at the NM census data to determine where we need to go to collect data and how many respondents we would need to have a valid result. Benefits might also include getting results published in a newspaper to gain better exposure for the group, but also as simple outreach to raise awareness. She had put together several questions and circulated them to the group for comment. We have until the fall semester to decide if we want to take this on. Fundraising may also be required.

**WORKSHOP ON COMMUNICATION:** Debbie suggested we consider an educational program about how to talk to others who hold disparate views on political issues while agreeing big money and fair elections are a problem. As a non-partisan group we need to learn to communicate in a non-partisan way while still feeling comfortable to voice our opinions. There is a TED talk on this that she agreed to share with committee members for review and this will be considered further at the next meeting.

**OUTREACH:** Searching for diversity in our membership, Bruce wants us to research the groups we should reach out to and, specifically, go to their meetings and listen for areas of common ground – not necessarily to recruit members at that initial contact.

**STATUS OF MEET UP POSTING:** The Meet Up posting is adding new members to the group at each meeting and we thought it would be good to continue. Means of funding it when it comes due in August and of reimbursing Kathryn for her initial outlay were not resolved. Debbie suggested soliciting donations or donors from the group that could rotate, but we did not have details on cost. Bruce pointed out that while we hold meetings in a library, we cannot solicit donations at those meetings. We will talk to Kathryn and the whole group about this issue at the general meeting on Wednesday.

**FACEBOOK PAGE:** Rebecca stated there are two starts to Facebook pages. One is by Miguel who is now MIA for unclear reasons, but his page is not public. The other has been started by an unknown author. Discussion was over whether this would be better constructed by the Media/PR Committee or by the Outreach Committee and it was Rebecca's preference that it be Outreach. Dr. Álvarez is willing to

monitor the site once it is up and running. We will discuss at the general meeting and get Kathryn's input since we believe she has expressed interest in developing the Facebook page.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

**Next Outreach Committee Meeting**

Monday August 14th, 6pm at the Pick Room in the downtown Santa Fe library. Skype is available for those who cannot make it in person.