

Democracy Organizing Committee Meeting
January 9, 2017
LaFarge Library Community Room, Santa Fe, NM

Minutes of the Meeting

Review and Update

Bruce Berlin attended the New Mexico Progressives conference in Albuquerque with over 300 people on Saturday, January 7, which focused mostly on the NM legislature and how to lobby them.

Name Change

After much discussion, the group voted to change its name from Democracy Organizing Committee to New Mexicans for Money out of Politics, or NM MOP. A number of people felt that having Democracy in our name gave the appearance that the DOC was a Democratic Party organization. The new name is clearly non-partisan and provides a more accurate description of the group's focus.

Committee Reports

1. Issues Committee:

The committee recommended we support a bill in the state legislature requiring that all campaign contributions be disclosed. Mitch Buszek has been corresponding with NM Senator Peter Wirth, who has stated that the Disclosure Bill has unanimous support in the senate. The committee plans to lobby Republican members of the House to support the bill to minimize the chance of a veto by the governor, but first they need to do research on who might support the bill in Republican districts, and where the legislators get their money now. Mitch is setting up a meeting with Sen. Wirth that we all could attend.

Bruce wants NM MOP to lobby the New Mexico legislature to support the National Popular Vote Compact, which would require electors in states that have approved the compact to cast their votes for the presidential candidate that receives the majority of the national popular vote. Senator Mimi Stewart plans to introduce such a bill, and it will have to pass in both the Senate and the House. (See <http://www.nationalpopularvote.com/state-status>.)

Upcoming trainings:

Thursday January 12 – lobbying training by Retake Our Democracy at 6:00 PM, 1420 Cerrillos Road

January 19 – lobbying training by the Sierra Club and other environmental groups. Must RSVP to diannealbuquerque@gmail.com.

Note: The day after our meeting, the outreach committee had a conference call with Ben Gubits of American Promise (AP). The AP Training was rescheduled from February 18 to April 1. February date was not good for Ben. Some preferred a later date to allow more time to recruit more people. American Promise requires around 50 people to attend. Others preferred an earlier date because most of us are unsure of how to proceed.

28th Amendment Committee:

Committee members have been researching previous resolutions and memorials introduced or passed by the New Mexico legislature. A resolution was passed in 2012 and the most recent was introduced in 2016 by Gerald Ortiz y Pino. The committee is trying to find out if these have to be re-introduced at each legislative session. It also wants to find out if there is a way to come up with a binding bill that will come into effect if and when a 28th amendment is drafted and sent to the states for ratification.

Regarding our representatives in the US Congress, Bruce indicated that American Promise has said that only Senator Tom Udall is a strong supporter of the 28th Amendment and that we may want to work on Senator Hienrich and Congressman Lujan.

Outreach Committee:

No report, but they will be contacting other groups to get a broad representation at the AP training on 4/1.

Follow-up:

Mitch suggested that key members of each committee meet jointly to coordinate efforts. He will try to set up a time and place.

Laura will see Peter Wirth on Wednesday and will find out more about the legislative process in NM and also if there might be a time we could meet with him.

There is a phone call with Ben Gubits from American Promise at 5:30 PM on 1/25. Bruce will provide the telephone number and passcode.

NEXT MEETING: Main Downtown Library, Monday, February 6 at 6 PM.