

New Mexicans for Money Out of Politics (NM MOP)

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General Meeting Minutes, October 16, 2017

Present: rough count 43, including Maggie Toulouse-Oliver, and including one NM gubernatorial candidate

Minutes taken by Hannah Burling

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 by Bruce Berlin

Committee Reports:

28th Amendment Committee: John House reported on that the committee is working towards getting all our elected officials to sign a pledge by American Promise. The pledge asks them to commit themselves to the principles of getting money out of politics and giving equal and fair representation. The committee has written a letter which they will send/email with the pledge to all these candidates. In addition to sending the letter, they intend to have individual constituents make personal visits. If it is not possible to follow up in person, constituents will follow up with phone call and mail. There is also a subcommittee working on a bullet point analysis of what issues there are and the possible language of a 28th Amendment.

Outreach Committee: Valerie Stasik reported that a Members Handbook is being assembled, including an Outreach Section with scripts to be used as a guide in approaching other groups. Various members of the Committee worked on various scripts that focus on specific groups. We agreed our approach would focus on what each group is doing so that we could better build a bridge.

A Coalition Conference with other groups is in the works with plans to hold it sometime in the spring. Our conference mission is to determine how we work together to overcome big money.

Robert Cordingley has compiled a list of organizations we may contact, to which we continue to add.

The Outreach Committee wants to hold General Meetings at different locations to help diversify our audience.

We plan to migrate to MailChimp for communications and campaign management. Up to 2,000 subscribers and 123,000 emails are free forever.

Media/PR: Valerie Stasik reported that our Meetup.com page gets us new signups at a rate of about 6 per month according to Quinn Evans. Our website, Nmmop.org, designed by Robert Cordingley, continues to expand. Our Facebook page, New Mexicans for Money Out of Politics, continues to get interaction. Our posting on Nextdoor.com has garnered interest. We now have a brief media list to which we can send press releases and calendar requests and have done so for

this event. Posters were also created for this event, but it's difficult to find places to post that aren't crowded.

Membership Committee: Ishwari Sollohub is now beginning to collect physical addresses. With physical addresses, we will be able to contact members to approach their own legislators. Quinn has taken over the spreadsheet for greater efficiency.

Issues Committee: The co-chairs are Nancy Cushing and Hannah Burling. Hannah Burling reported that the mission of the Issues Committee is to identify and research issues which are in line with the mission statement of New Mexicans for Money Out of Politics. The committee also recruits and supports the training of members to educate, monitor and lobby.

The committee presented six issues to explore for lobbying the state legislature: campaign finance disclosure, open primaries, independent committee on redistricting, automatic voter registration, popular vote compact and mandatory public campaign financing. The membership was asked if there were other issues they would like to have addressed and whether anyone present had expertise in these fields. There were no additions to the list or volunteers to do research. The committee will be presenting these issues to the membership at the November General Meeting to focus our lobbying efforts. The 2018 legislative session will be a short session and lobbying may have to wait for the 2019 legislative session.

Finances: Hannah Burling presented a tentative budget.

NM MOP Proposed Budget 11/1/17 – 4/31/18

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1. Advertising	\$1500.00
2. Conference speaker	\$1200.00
3. Printing (1000 brochures & flyers)	\$1500.00
4. Postage	\$ 200.00
5. Refreshments	\$1000.00
6. Rent	\$1000.00
7. Travel	\$1000.00
8. Website	<u>\$ 250.00</u>
Total	\$7650.00

She noted that Childcare had not been included in this budget.

Fundraising: Hannah Burling reported that a fundraising committee is needed and asked for volunteers. The public library does not allow fundraising on its premises.

Bruce Berlin announced that there was potential for a program in Albuquerque, along with Common Cause, to be called *Leveling the Playing Field*, which would work on reducing the influence of big money in the legislative process. This would take place the 11th or 18th of November. Also there is the previously mentioned spring coalition-building conference inviting several other organizations to join with us in our mission. He asked for volunteers to sign up to help with the conference. In February, in New Orleans, there will be a conference called “Unrig the System.” This will be no ordinary conference. Bruce would like to go and encouraged others to sign up. The website is Unrigsummit.com.

There is a climate change conference on the 26th & 28th of October in Santa Fe and a nonviolence training based on the work of Martin Luther King, Jr. on October 27th. These will all be found on the NM MOP website.

The general meeting in December will be a holiday party on December 11th.

From now on the program for monthly General Meetings will include a short business meeting, and a presentation. Our first presenter, at this meeting, is Maggie Toulouse Oliver, the New Mexico Secretary of State.

Bruce introduced Maggie Toulouse Oliver, who spoke for half an hour on campaign finance disclosure and took questions from the floor for another half hour.