

New Mexicans for Money Out of Politics (NM MOP)

www.nmmop.org

newmexico.mop@gmail.com

General Meeting, July 19, 2017

Present: 16

Bruce Berlin opened the meeting by asking everyone to introduce themselves.

Valerie Stasik reported on the PR-Media Committee.

They are developing a web site. A domain name has been secured, nmmop.org. A new email address has been created for NM MOP business at newmexico.mop@gmail.com. A brochure is being developed; the draft was circulated. Some discussion of a logo followed this announcement. There were questions about the information in the brochure. The committee plans to have it done by the end of this month. Nothing has been published about NM MOP in local papers since Laura Atkins' op-ed in March. The committee last met July 10. They are looking into the costs of printing the brochure. We had a brief discussion about a logo.

Ishwari Sollohub reported on the 28th amendment committee.

She noted that Ben Gubits at American Promise encourages us to participate in conference calls on the second Saturday every month. Each call leads to an action task. She proposes we attend these as a group and participate in the actions. The next call is August 12.

Debbie Helper reported that her team is trying to reach Udall's office, but they are not getting much response.

Valerie Stasik noted that we are most likely to meet with an actual senator or representative during the winter congressional recess.

Bruce reported he has discovered that a friend of his is an old friend of Ben Ray Lujan, and Bruce plans to get that friend to help us connect with Lujan.

Eric Wolf and Ishwari reported that their lobbying group met with staff at Heinrich's office, that the team is about to send a follow-up letter, and that we felt the meeting went well.

John House reported that his team is researching key Supreme Court decisions and proposals for a 28th amendment limiting money in politics. They are inputting data into a spreadsheet so that they can identify which parts of proposed legislation they recommend we support and which parts we may not wish to support. They hope to complete this analysis and craft language for a proposed amendment by the end of August.

Bruce and Greg Manoff reported that on August 1, 5:30 PM, at Greg's home we can connect with American Promise about pressuring politicians to agree to support a 28th amendment.

Debbie Helper reported on the Outreach Committee.

They are looking into other groups that we can align with, but are often stymied because many groups are definitely partisan, and we are not.

Rebecca Alvarez reported that as part of this committee she is interested in doing a survey of New Mexicans. She can deploy college students to do so. This will take place at locations throughout the

state where people of all social groups are likely to go, such as big box stores. A survey instrument is under construction.

The Outreach Committee would use survey data to write newspaper articles and to show to politicians. The committee continues to be concerned about our lack of racial and ethnic diversity. Greg added that most issue groups are affected by money in politics.

Valerie proposed that the PR-Media committee should be a sub-committee of Outreach.

Issues Committee: no one was present to report on this committee.

Bruce reported on a recent Steering Committee meeting.

Web site development; the need to eventually raise money from members, as NM MOP is undertaking activities that will require funding (brochures, website, registering with the NM Secretary of State, and applying for 501C4 status). We are not permitted to raise funds in the library meeting rooms.

Discussion led to the need for a budget and control procedures for managing money, election of officers (also required for registering with Sec'y of State). Bruce proposed we have an election in September and that we should be encouraging people to volunteer for leadership positions.

Ishwari reported on membership.

She is trying to develop an up-to-date list of members including committee assignments and contact information. She would like to add people's skills to the list as a sort of skills bank for NM MOP.

Other business.

Bruce proposed that we should select a major issue to lobby on during the coming legislative session, as well as identifying other groups who lobby for the same issue. There was discussion. It is clear that a 28th amendment bill will not be introduced this session.

Herb Faling asked about the purpose of the brochure. The discussion concerned whether the brochure only lists what we currently are doing or also lists our goals for future projects.

Bruce reported that Secretary of State Toulouse-Oliver has proposed regulations for campaign finance disclosure. Public commentary is invited. We should send letters to her in support. It was proposed that NM MOP send a letter representing the whole organization.

Bruce will attend a democracy convention in Minneapolis in early August, perhaps the only New Mexican to be there. He will host a table about NM MOP – another expense that this organization could conceivably pay for.

Bruce also proposed that we consider a petition drive six months after the survey that Rebecca Alvarez is planning.

Nest Meeting: Since the library will not be available on the agreed date of 8/16, the next general meeting will be on Monday, 8/14, at La Farge Library.