

New Mexicans for Money Out of Politics (NM MOP)

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General Meeting and AP Follow-up Training #2 of 3, April 27, 2017

Meeting attended by 26 people, including two new people

Ishwari opened meeting with welcome. Hannah gave brief report on April 20 NM MOP Steering Committee meeting.

- Ben Gubits connected via Skype. Did intros. Ben mentioned an American Promise project, “Writing the 28th Amendment.”
- There were several questions discussed:
- Q. What is the difference between the Nolan bill and the Udall bill? A. basically the strength of the language: Nolan has a greater focus on the corporate personhood element.
- Someone emphasized the need for us to reach out to conservatives; Ben said he’d send Ishwari more materials on this.
- Idea came up about eventually having a march for 28th Amendment.
- Ben emphasizes he is here to help us do what we want; we are not obligated to do anything in a particular way.
- Discussion of grassroots lobbying. NM is a Ballot Initiative state with a veto referendum
- Local resolutions (city, county) are great. Amer. Prom. has model resolutions and guides they can help us with. Taos and Santa Fe have already passed resolutions. It’s important with resolutions to follow up, make the resolution known, take action on it, not just pass a resolution and call it done. There are about 800 cities/counties in the US so far that have passed resolutions. NM has a state resolution. We might want to make that more known and work with that.
- Ben talked about importance of avoiding the notion of lost causes. Had the group read a story he had provided, about Valk’s experience with Swindall, working over time and having success with relationship building and finding common ground. Focus on possibilities rather than obstacles.
- Small group leaders reported to Ben and he offered help with setting up and planning for meetings with the various reps.
- Discussion about Mitch’s idea of reaching out to business owners; Also, foundations in Southern part of state, who know who their donors are. Ben agrees that’s a great place to focus and work. He can send a template for reaching out to reps/staff.
- Researching each representative: find out what we can thank them for.

Next meeting will be rehearsal for upcoming meetings with reps, including roles:

- MC/host
- Someone to share values
- Someone who thanks the rep
- Someone who makes the request/ask
- Follow-up person
- 28th Amendment “expert” to answer questions the rep might have

Goals: ask them to move up a notch toward being a champion.

Ex: “How can we help you to get a conservative to co-sponsor with you?”

After Skype call, the group broke into small groups to discuss and strategize about upcoming meetings and activities. Several people who had not yet gotten connected into small groups did so.