

Tucson NOW General Chapter Meeting Minutes

Sunday, August 19, 2018

Joel D. Valdez Library

Chapter President Bonnie Aaronson introduced Carmen Linero-Lopez from the Feminist Majority.

Carmen Linero-Lopez spoke about her mission for this Fall to get out the student vote in AZ. She has moved to AZ from CA for the next several months to work on this. She spoke about the fact that the Higher Education Act (which set up FAFSA, Pell Grants, etc) contains a clause that requires institutions to make voter registration widely available to their students. Many attempt to comply by putting a web link, which is often lumped in with many mandatory disclosures that don't really get looked at. They should be making sure they receive physical voter registration forms. Carmen is hiring teams of student organizers to mobilize the student vote on all the different campuses. They are paying them \$15/hr.

In 2016, Carmen did a lot of work in Nevada, and they were able to increase voter turnout by 10%. There are 7 million people in AZ and .5 million undergraduate students, so getting out the student vote has potential to truly make a difference. Supreme Court decisions have affirmed that students have a right to vote where they go to school. There is a polling location at the UofA. The Feminist Majority Foundation is partnering with the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition to work on this goal. There will be campus vote parties with walks to the polls (or busses if polling locations are farther from campus). Carmen will keep us informed of trainings and community events they will be hosting so that Tucson NOW can help support their effort.

Susan DeHart of OFA also spoke, about OFA's efforts to get out the vote. They are asking people to fill out cards that say "I will vote because_____". This gets the importance of voting ingrained in their minds. They are working with other groups that are doing registration drives, and working on getting people to make a real "commitment" to vote. They are doing things such as sending out text messages, asking people of their exact voting plan (will you vote by mail?, go to the poll?, how will you get to the polling place?), and getting people information and how and where they can vote. They are doing letter writing campaigns from Salt of the Earth Labor College, and OFA does training on registering voters, letter writing, throwing house parties, and other things. OFA's website is www.ofa.us and there is a link where you can put in your zip code to see all nearby events.

Upcoming events:

- Aug 25, Women's Equality Day- Couragious Conversations- "Walking the Talk" at Dusty Monk from 11:30-1.
Fund raiser for a larger 2020 event- 100th anniversary
Guest Speaker- Dianne Post from Inez Casiano NOW chapter in Phoenix

Award to be given to owner of Antigone Books

- Oct 8th- Candidates Forum Panel on domestic and sexual violence
Mom's Demand Action, YWCA, and more involved
Will be at The Loft at 6pm
- YWCA Legislative Day- at the beginning of the year, exact date TBD
- Women's March- Jan 20th

Committee Updates:

Ending Violence Against Women: Planning to set up more #MeToo in Real Life meetings, looking into doing something with Sister Jose Women's Shelter

Constitutional Equality: Need a new chair for this committee, as Jami is now the Vice President and cannot take on both positions. It was discussed that this committee may just go on hiatus until after the election.

Possible Action Issues Discussion:

- ✓ Contra Costa NOW contacted us with offer to assist if possible in opposing Kavanaugh. Also sent us their Roe v. Wade Fact Sheet
- ✓ Violence Against Women Act is set to expire in Sept
- ✓ Fundraising- may do another movie event. Going to look into contacting Civia Tamarakin with the movie "Birthright" about event. "Equal Means Equal" and "Seeing Allred" are also possibilities.
- ✓ Letter writing- combine Empower Hour social event with action of letter writing. We may even be able to find a restaurant that would donate back some amount of our bill (La Cocina?) Need someone to volunteer to set up these events (choose time/place/issue).
- ✓ Plan on tabling at events
- ✓ "House party" movie screenings. Any member can show a movie at their house, there are several possibilities on Netflix.

Next Meeting: Sunday, September 9th at Himmel Park Library, 2-4pm