

Minutes of March 25 meeting of the Sandoval County Federation of Democratic Women

Attendees: Deb Dapson, President
Genia Chavez, Vice President
Jae Riebe, Treasurer
Carla Clark, Secretary

We had a total of 50 attendees, with people coming in and out of the meeting and our special guests.

The first section of the meeting was comprised presentations by our guests, beginning with Rep. Daymon Ely and Senator Brenda McKenna who discussed what they felt were the successes and difficulties of the legislative session. Both felt that a lot got accomplished and that the session was very efficient due to the remote nature of the meetings allowing greater focus and fewer distractions. Particularly successful were work on the budget, sick leave legislation, early childhood education, aid in dying, decriminalizing abortion, medical malpractice reform, liquor license reform, redistricting, tax fairness, patient debt collection protection and a number of other bills. Sen. McKenna praised the staff and Clerk of the legislature and the police who protect the Roundhouse. Both noted challenges in getting bills moved forward, especially in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Senator McKenna and Representative Ely were honored by our group, with certificates of appreciation and Starbucks cards.

Senator Harold Pope spoke briefly, agreeing with Sen, McKenna and Rep Ely on several of their comments and noting that he had spoken out in the Senate at a difficult moment concerning the need for legislators to treat each other with respect and in a professional manner.

Commissioner Bruch asked a question about why bills got delayed in the Senate Judiciary Committee addressed to all the legislators present, and there was some discussion about what may have contributed to that, as well as the fact that they all felt that the presence of women in both the House and the Senate were beginning to change the culture of the legislature for the better.

Next Pam Cordova from NMFDW spoke about NM being the first state to organize Native American women within the national FDW, and there is now a Laguna Pueblo Federation of Democratic Women. Aleta (Tweety) Suazo commented how proud she was of this and how she looks forward to working with Pam Cordova and the new Laguna Pueblo group.

Marg Elliston and Fred Harris spoke briefly, celebrating the success of our state legislators and of the Biden administration's American Rescue plan. Marg expressed looking forward to being on the SCC and to working on the CD1 race to replace Deb Haaland.

Alexandria Piland, our new county chair with all of 7 days in office so far, discussed work accomplished—recording the voting in the recent CCC meeting and the first county party executive meeting upcoming, with a pledge to put minutes and results on the DPSC website as part of ongoing transparency and record keeping. She said she has big plans for our county party: codification of county party rules, getting ready to work on the CD1 race so that we can support the candidate chosen by the SCC, and fundraising being the first 3 priorities.

Bert Coxe from Sandoval County Indivisible thanked our legislators present for their hard work and success in the legislative session.

Karen Miller won an artisanal loaf of bread as the door prize for the meeting.

Business section of the meeting:

Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report was approved.

We discussed how to pay dues through the NMFDW website and by other methods.
We heard briefly from Karen Schafer about Feed Rio Rancho Kids which is the main charity we have supported over the past 2 years and continue to support.

New Business:

This section consisted mainly of the creation of committees and volunteering to be on or to head them.

Speaker committee: Leah Ahkee-Baczkiwicz and Naomi Hatch

Fundraising committee: Genia Chavez and Arwen Lynch-Poe

Venue and Logistics committee: Naomi Hatch and Nancy Gloman

Philanthropy committee: Chris Spigarelli and Kitty Perez

Legislative Liaison committee: Senator Brenda McKenna and Commissioner Katherine Bruch

Outreach/Social Media committee: Deb Dapson

Membership committee: Jae Riebe, Karen Schafer and Judy DeAtley

Lastly, County Clerk Anne Brady Romero spoke about activity in her office, particularly the special election coming up and compliance issues and generally how busy the office is and how much needs to be done. She appreciates help from Joey Dominguez.

The meeting was adjourned.

Carla Clark
Secretary, SCFDW