

Minutes of SCFDW meeting January 23, 2022

The first portion of the meeting was speeches by candidates, each one allowed 5 minutes.

Brian Colon: Running for NM Attorney General. As usual he was cheerful and uplifting, told his moving personal story as an example of how democratic values work. Talked about his career of defending the less powerful in private law practice and in public service. Cell phone 505-270-2154. Website www.colonform.com.

Heather Benavidez: Running for NM Treasurer. Has a Master of Public Administration degree from UNM, worked as manager of First Choice Clinics, recently rose to chief of staff in the state treasurer's office and has worked in that office since 2017. She is a former municipal and magistrate judge, worked in the 13th judicial district for a number of years and has experience mediating foreclosures. She emphasized her experience and trustworthiness. Phone: 505-604-8102. Email: heatherforNM@gmail.com.

Ann Maxwell-Chavez: Running for magistrate judge in division 1, now starting her 4th year in that position. She has worked in magistrate and district courts. Judge petitions due March 8th.

Zachary Quintero: Running for state auditor. Spoke briefly, has degrees in law, economics and government. Has experience working for MLG investigating fraud in senior care. Phone: 575-202-8118, website: www.zqform.com.

Katherine Bruch: Sandoval County Commissioner district 1, up for re-election. She said she was working on respect and the day-to-day workings of our county, and that she appreciated all of us having worked hard to elect democrats to county positions (sheriff, clerk, treasurer and assessor) which helps balance the effect of the county commission. Email: katherinebruch4sandoval@gmail.com.

Jonathan Muniz: candidate for municipal judge in Rio Rancho. Has experience in social work with adolescents and prisoners, also experience working in ER settings, behavioral health and substance abuse. Moved to Rio Rancho in 2015. Believes that helping the community helps at risk people in many settings.

Ed Lovato: candidate for Sandoval County Probate Judge. He recognized the work of building our county party, officers and volunteers. He explained the role of a probate judge and his history of service being a motivator to seek this position. Phone: 505-338-1719. Email: edward@edwardlovato.org.

Barbara Jordan: Running for Mayor of Rio Rancho. From Pine Bluff AR, 20-year military career. Survivor of many traumas, brings resilience, humanity and democratic values to leadership. Working for effective change, talked about need for reassessment of Rio Rancho's water situation, had not been re-studied in 20 years. Website: www.jordanforriorancho.com. Reminder about early voting starting Feb. 1 and election day on Mar. 1.

Laura Montoya: Running for NM Treasurer. Has been Sandoval County treasurer. Has been serving in many ways for 23 years, working with tribes, senior citizens veterans and advocating for them in work with state legislature as representative to the legislature for county treasurers. Has had a focus on ethics in government. Asked us to be delegates for her at the pre-primary convention.

Brief Announcements:

Alex Piland, DPSC Chair: reminder about Feed Rio Rancho Kids, can now donate via website: www.uuwestside.org/feed-the-kids-rio-rancho.

Jae Riebe, SCFDW treasurer: 28 people paid so far, reminder to pay dues.

Deb Dapson, SCFDW president: reminder that those who don't pay dues will be removed from membership at the end of the month.

New Business:

Alex Piland talked about a post carding project to support Barbara Jordan and Jonathan Muniz. We agreed that we could support preprinted cards, 500 for \$348. Sample cards were displayed, and design/wording were discussed briefly.

Dues and methods of payment were discussed, including Act Blue, Venmo and the non-functioning NMFDW portal to pay for county branches of the FDW. Need more info.

Then we came to a discussion of purpose for our organization. To support candidates, learn about them and about legislative initiatives, broader issues? General agreement on our charity Feed Rio Rancho Kids. Several people brought up new ideas. Rosella Gonzales mentioned election integrity, and the need for trained poll-watchers. She will send Deb further info about training. Katherine Bruch thought we should keep an eye on the activities of the County Commission. Alex Piland told the group about initial inquiries and discussions about a lawsuit against the County Commission over their redistricting vote. Discussions with our county's Native American communities have begun, and if this progresses it will be brought in State Court. Rosella asked if the county commission is going to use taxpayer money to conduct false audits. Alex mentioned that Laura Montoya was very important in turning out the Pueblos to help act against the commission and that she had paused her own campaigning to help with this.

At this point we were out of time.

Total attending: the number varied but at most was 29 people.

Next meeting will be likely late April, on a Saturday.

Carla Clark, SCFDW secretary