

## Minutes of SCFDW meeting April 23, 2022

The first portion of the meeting was brief presentations by candidates.

Ed Lovato, running for probate judge, talked about the functions of a probate judge, his past positions within the democratic party in our county (including being vice chair of the county party and currently Ward L chair) and volunteering with troubled children and veterans.

Kathleen Cates, running for NM House district 44, discussed her concerns about the environment, water, republican efforts against our democracy and the rights of women and other vulnerable groups. She has lived in this district for 20 years and worked in a non-profit aiding people with disabilities for 26 years. She is a realtor, and consults for environmental groups.

Ramon Montano, running for NM House district 23, discussed his long history on boards of education in Las Vegas, NM and in Rio Rancho, advocating in the legislature for education and being president of the state board of education. He has advocated for senior citizens' interests and public safety.

Greg Bennett, running for Sandoval County Commission, district 3, moved here 2 years ago from Omaha. He has a background in biomedical research preventing birth defects and effects of environmental exposures. He noted that Sandoval County needs to work on a master plan for resource distribution and infrastructure among other issues. He wants to work on water issues in our county and parks also.

Michelle Sandoval, running for House District 57, grew up in Sandoval County and has worked as administrative assistant to the Sandoval County treasurer. She was inspired to run by Jessica Velasquez the state chair of DPNM. She was sued about her petition signatures, defended herself and won. She is interested in working on educating young voters, environmental issues, renewable energy, women's rights and education. She noted that her new job, working for Los Alamos Labs remotely, would allow her to work on campaigning and in the legislature.

Benito Aragon, running for magistrate judge in division 2 (competing in the primary with Ken Eichwald ) has lived in Pena Blanca and Rio Rancho, worked in law enforcement in many communities, including APD .He coaches sports and volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters and mentors young people as well as participating in other charities.

Next Alex Piland, our county party chair had- a few announcements, mainly concerning that all candidates could use volunteer help, and reminding us to look at the calendar on the party website, [sandovaldemocrats.org](http://sandovaldemocrats.org) for upcoming events

Minutes of our previous meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report:

We have a balance of 1562.73. We have 67 active members, 15 who declined to renew, 18 new members, and 14 men in our group. Half of our dues goes to NMFDW.

Old or ongoing business:

We are reminded of the ongoing commitment we have to Feed Rio Rancho Kids with the presentation of a plaque recognizing the efforts of the group, especially Karen Schafer. Donations can be given at the website of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Rio Rancho.

New business:

Mainly this segment consisted of reminders of upcoming events, with encouragement to participate or help in these efforts. Save the following dates:

Sunday is Funday, Aug. 21 in Rio Rancho, needs school supplies, including tissues, hand sanitizer and wipes. Corrales Harvest Festival Sept 24 and 25. We will have booths at both these events.

4<sup>th</sup> of July parades in Rio Rancho and Corrales also need participants for SCFDW.

Reminder about NMFDW meeting in Taos in mid-May.

There was also some discussion of how to approach encouraging municipal ordinances to support campaign finance transparency, no dark money. Sources to consider were Common Cause, and ex-state senator Dede Feldman. A suggested plan was to get info and try to create a draft plan, then discuss with our Secretary of State, Maggie Toulouse Oliver.

Meeting was adjourned after noting that the next meeting would likely be in late summer or early fall, with possibly a social before then.

Carla Clark SCFDW secretary.