

Indivisible – Whole Group Meeting
Sat, March 25th, 10am – 12 noon
Durango Public Library

No attendance taken because too many people – (double room is full, estimate 100 people).
Committee Chairs finishing up meeting in the back while people coming in to room.

10 am Start:

1. Introductory Remarks Patty Dione, Chair Yesterday, House Republicans delayed vote on Health Care Bill – YAY!! Everyone turn to your neighbor and thank them for helping defeat this bill. New Zealand and the whole world are watching us.

2. Announcements/Upcoming Events:

a) Dean Brookie running for re-election to City Council, wearing a pink ‘pussy’ hat. (see attached photo). So much work at the local level with deregulation and de-funding happening at Fed level. The coming years will be shaped by what we do during this time to protect things we care about.

b) Mike Johnston will be here April 3rd – running for governor at Library, 5:30 pm.

c) Susan Atkinson – volunteers April 29th Climate Change March – poster making party at your house. Starts at Train Station at 10 am, Line up at 9:45 am.

d) Fluoride – Sharon Beale – running campaign to keep fluoride in the city water – protects kids, and older citizens. Vote No on 1A.

e) LPEA – Werner Heiber on SASCO Board – getting progressive candidates on LPEA Bd. Tri-State Energy is 64% coal based, 4th dirtiest in US. \$7 mill out of county to Tri-State in electricity. Switch over to renewable energy would keep this money in our area. Keith Carlson buying out of Tri-State, C.O. presentation on April 12th. Get renewable by 2025, will keep rates low. Tri-State wants to double rates, discouraging energy efficiency. Guinn Unger Running for LPEA Board in District 4. City of Durango is District 3: Racheal Landis, District 2 (Ignacio) is Kim Martin. Bob Lynch in Pagosa. MAKE SURE YOU VOTE, and get your friends to vote. Ballots out by April 21st, have to return by May 1st. Give donations to San Juan Citizens Alliance (Tax Deductible). San Juan County – who to vote for there? (ask Guinn Unger)

f) Passing Baskets to pay rent for this room today – suggest \$1 or 50 cents donation per person.

3. Quick Recap of Indivisible Durango, noting 20+ people are here for first time:

Bonnie Schmidt/Cabrera. If you have questions, please jot them down; we’ll have Q&A at the end. -We’re 109 days old, 3-1/2 months. 670 members. 14 committees. 424 of members have chosen to be on committee, have sign-up sheets in foyer you can sign up afterwards. 29 Chairs and Co-Chairs. Everyone volunteer, non-partisan, coalition of progressive activists. Not formally a non-profit, genuine grassroots. Mission Statement is up on screen; can change if we all want it to. Started after elections, because Patty wanted to do luncheons once/month. Dec 6th, 25 women came to meeting, decided to be issues and action based. Debbie came up with wheel chart. Outreach to local groups. 11 on the Leadership Team facilitators– we “keep the trains running”. Jan 2017 decided on Indivisible format. Feb 18th Meeting got committees going. This March Meeting – we want to hear from committee chairs what their 3-5 top priorities are. It’s your committee, do what you want, you don’t have to track legislation. Great “marriage” between national and local Indivisible Groups, for example, the Methane Rule change. National Indivisible recommended asking all your Federal Legislators to do local Town Halls while on legislative break.

We'll be conducting a Survey; 11 of us Facilitators need to hear back from committees: what should be our functions and focused – what should we be doing – please fill out survey. This is a relay race and marathon; this group has to last 2-4 years minimum to cover next elections. To prevent burnout, we need to be able to cycle in and cycle out. We each have something to do, even if only one phone call. We love our country and want to take good care of it.

4. Committee Reports: All 14 committee chairs come up front. Each get 3 minutes.

Note: MOCs = Members of Congress (both Senators and House of Representatives).

A. Lisa Hlavinka, National Security – take national issues and make them local. Film screening, website – get MOCs to Durango. War on Syria, Travel Ban, 67% U.S. supports investigation into Russian Interference. Europe, South China Seas. Veterans Issues.

B. Guinn Unger, Health Committee – yesterday's victory was #1 priority, many did phone calls and emails. Battle isn't over, Republicans want Healthcare to crash. #2 Drug prices – put pressure on both Senators, want to buy from Canada: ½ the cost. #3 Universal Health Care system. Bernie Sanders may be introducing bill into Senate for this. Health Committee meets 2x/month. Next meeting is this Wed at 5 pm Dem HDQ. 65 people showed up (signed list) at Tipton Rally last Tues at noon.

C. Karen Pontius, Civil Rights Committee – suggest every rally has lists to sign, give to MOCs. Priorities: #1 Opposing Neil Gorsuch. Roe v Wade, religion Hobby Lobby, Aid in Dying, Repro Rights, Voting Rights, no experience in world affairs - - Call Bennet to oppose. Call to Action to oppose already, will have another. Mon, April 3rd – SW Center for Independence (physical disabilities), 9th and Main. Noon-1pm. "Anti-Flash Mob". Food Insecurity.

D. Carol Shur, Gun Safety Committee – went to Women's March on Washington in January, inspiring. Priorities: Support and engage with other groups, reduce gun violence locally, CO, US. Had 2 meetings, have done 2 calls to action. Veterans' 2nd Amendment Protection Act – if suicidal or threat to others, records passed on to instant background check. Appeals available. Congressional Review – Republicans already passed House, went onto Senate. Concealed Weapon Reciprocity Act – lets any person in any state carry guns into our state. House version worse than Senate, allows guns in schools and bars. Will be sending out calls to Action. Every day in US, 33 people murdered, 53 fatal gun accidents, including mass shootings. This doesn't include self-defense. NRA wants to make it easier to get silencers for guns. Work with other local and Nat'l groups – active group in Denver, would like to start group in Durango. Joint meeting of Gun Safety committee with "Moms for Action" (don't have to be a Mom to join). Reached out to Pagosa Springs, gun education in schools.

E. Peter Tregillus, Income Equality Committee – 7 members: Economy, Taxes and Your Money. We've signed up for Fed and State Bill notifications. Priorities #1 Health Care (economic aspects), Liza is co-chair of this committee. John Whitney of Senator Bennet's office invited us to meet, told us best way to work with their office is to keep our ears to the ground, provide stories regarding bills. Priority #2 Tax Reform Bill, #3 Working Families. We respond to other committees' Calls to Actions. Next Meeting 1st Monday in April, we do all call-in meetings; Peter can give phone number. We'll review Tax Cut Bill thoroughly, go thru and come up with bullet points for you.

F. Mandy Winn, Women's Rights - Sexual and domestic violence absorbed into, but want to subdivide back out because these are really separate issues. Committee had 3 people, 2 have burned out. Inviting new members to this group. Happy Bday to Gloria Steinam, 83 years old today. Future depends on what each of us do today. A movement is people moving. One small step makes next steps easier, for example, when everyone marched up the stairs to Rep Tipton's office. With yesterday's [health care bill delay] also didn't defund Planned Parenthood, or hurt other women's issues. They meet every other week Tues Pm, Sat am, Powerhouse – place for kids. Quick Calls to Action – questionnaire to group what to focus on, local as well as national – reach out to local groups, like SASO and Planned Parenthood – how we can assist. Action Items go out to their 1200 members. These local groups are so big, need 1 liaison person for each local group. Goal - Reach a more diverse crowd, younger crowd, have movie night, send mailer. Break down feminism paradigm, because affects men too. Appreciate men showing up for today's meeting.

G. Lynne Bruzzese, Climate Change and Environment 40-60 members. Focus: facilitate what other local groups (and Nat'l) are doing. Don't reinvent wheel. Divided up, made list of local groups to coord with. Climate events and action items: Citizen's Climate Lobby – march on April 29th. Contact Susan or Lynn. LPEA election, Lots of scary National Legislation – don't get alarmed until gets out of committee. Prioritize calls to action.

Bonnie Schmidt/Cabrera explained at this point, a “Call To Action” email is either asking people to contact their MOC (phone calls or email), or an upcoming Event.

H. Anne Swisher, Education Committee, 5th grade teacher. Their committee's Common Belief: Education is the foundation of democracy; need free public education for all. Priorities: #1. two seats open on 9-R school board – get candidates' stand on education vouchers. 9-R immigration session. Dgo Education Assoc work with 9-R on workshop strategies. #2. Higher education – Betsy DeVos thinks it “brainwashes” students into becoming liberals. Privatization of school loans. #3. Activism to stimulate CO funding for education. Gallager and Tabor amendments – get hospital fee out of mix, more funding for education. CO Educ - - latest state legislation.

“ALEC” is a non-profit, BUT sponsored by Koch brothers; there's a Bill Moyer documentary on this. Liaison, Katie – 8 pieces of legislation – 2 in committee: HR 99 – terminate Dept of Education, HR 610 dismantle 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act; would eliminate funding. Obama signed bill _ for specialized education for advanced placement students, education for minorities, also for special needs students. Upcoming bills propose to abolish Nutritional Act of 2012, standards for school lunches. Teachers need students with full bellies, who can pay attention. Call Bennet to oppose Gorsuch who opposes Special Ed.

I. Kristen Anderson, Co-Chair. Government Process 30 members, solid core of 10 members at meetings. Priorities: Ethics/Transparency reform – understand financial relationships of MOCs. Protect our Constitution amendment at State level. Could become template for other Indivisible groups. Campaign Finance Reform – HUGE – numerous bills for ‘sunshine laws’; seeking positions of State Officials. NM looking at similar issues. 5 states in US have already addressed, NM doing now, CO may be next. Would like to hold local “Civics 101 class”, help us all understand. Gerrymandering: MIT & Princeton students created computer program showing how to draw good district lines. Goal: CO District 3 ‘goes blue’ in 2018.

Bonnie: Whoever wins 2018 in Colorado will do redistricting for 2020 Elections. Do road trips to 27 counties in Colorado; reach out to all left parties. Swing Left – National Non-Profit targeted our region as needing redistricting.

J. Ilyse Gold, BLM, Co Chair of Public Lands Working with Forest Service and BLM; this is an active and emotional committee. Congressional Review Act: inundated with bills and proposals attacking Federal Lands daily. 40 members. 2 priorities: #1 Bear's Ears National Monument. Protect Antiquities Act. Protect Arctic Nat'l Wildlife Refuge. Environmental Nat'l Policy Act. Coordinating with local groups: Mary Moro Trails 2000, Cynthia from Great Old Broads, San Juan Citizen's Alliance. Conservation CO, Lisa Poole. May 20th is CO Public Lands Day, Colorado is 1st State in US to have this. Durango's event will be in Powerhouse at 6 pm. Need volunteers to help Lisa put this event on; contact Lisa T. 608-220-1928, or Ilyse. Trying for good Wilderness Society. Committee Bills exist 'under the radar' that are attacking public lands. NM made it easier for congress to transfer public lands to private sector – can't consider O&G revenues. HR #5. Eilene Lyon, Co-chair working with Committee on Natural Resources, Rod Bishop. Senate Bill to expand _____ wilderness study area to become wilderness area.

K. Sherri Libby, Freedom of Press John McCain "Dictators get started by suppressing the media." What are the facts? Fake News? Suppression of Information – what can we do? How do ordinary citizens help journalists? Susan Anderson's Class: when write letter, don't send snail mail, send email. Durango Herald will print only 4x/week: M, W, F, Sun. In Letters to Editor, state clearly what you're talking about, don't ramble, keep to 120 words or less. Snail mail to MOCs takes 1 month. Group needs more members; 6 people currently coming to meetings. Need the people who signed up on these committees to come to meetings. Next meeting is April 6th, 9 am at Dems office, 1911 Main Ave. Gag orders on press are totally wrong; need ideas on how to get around these.

L. Philip Riffe, Senior Issues Soc Sec, Medicare, Medicaid, Housing, Public Employees Retirement. County Rep talked to group. Elizabeth Salkind next meeting, housing issues. Did Internal Call to Action (only within group), Sen. Cory Gardner – Thanked him for protecting seniors. In future, call 5 people not in Indivisible, ask them to call 5 friends. Co-ord with Health Committee. Next Meeting is April 8th at 1 pm. 1911 Main, North meeting room (not Dem HDQ room).

M. Ann Emigh, MOC Monitors Some Indivisible leaders work 20-30 hours/week to organize our Whole Group. MOC Monitors track Fed Legislation that committees identify as important – Websites are like fire hoses. Depend on committees to reach out to other resisting organizations to understand what is most urgent. Send info to committee chairs – what is most important legislation. Maintaining a current Spreadsheet on-line – the liaisons update – committee chairs have viewing access. Liaisons keep spreadsheet up to date, then committee chairs issue Calls to Action. Need more help, good for those who like to work behind scenes.

N. Cathy Barrett – subbing for Luana and Olivia, Immigration Since Feb 18th have met 3x, have 28 members, 6 visitors. Numerous ways to support (ten) local groups who support immigrants. Had co-meeting with ACLU legal advice, Court Companion Ally program – but other things took priority. Rotating facilitator, Consensus decisions. For 4th meeting, parliamentary procedure proposed – still a work in progress, will work out. Meet for 2 hours, 1x month. Call to Action – Community Volunteer work with local groups. Education Sessions – spread word. Know Your Rights, Immigraton 101, How get through process, Movie showing. UU church and Sacred Heart on this committee, assist immigrants. Advocate CO Bill – greater drivers license access, committee will support Road Safety Bill – Barbara McGlaughlan supports, also McCorum. Prominent ICE arrests are not of "criminal dudes", but are driving violations, true nationally also. Need young people on this committee: give child care to get young people to come. Everyone (both parents) work now, Sat meetings with childcare should be priority for Whole Indivisible.

Bonnie – all these committees' actions have happened in the past 5 weeks. Several groups have met 3x. Sign up for a group. Most of Calls to Actions have come from Committee Chairs.

Question and Answer Period:

Q. Trump controls media and public opinion; covering up Russia collusion with other issues. Will this get into independent committee? This is important for democracy. A: keep our eye on Putin in the future also. Calls to Action – will send one more. Keep calling MOCs, including Bennet. Bonnie – tech problems; some Calls To Action emails bounce. Survey – what topics do you want to hear about? Committees can also do internal Call to Action.

Q. When is next Whole Indivisible Group meeting? Bonnie – should Whole Indivisible meet every 2 months? (General consensus in room was that once per quarter is not frequent enough.) Environmental committee holds meetings via “Doodle” software. Next committee chair meeting is Thurs at 5:30 pm at SJCA office, will talk about next Envir Committee meeting.

Q. Hunting in Arctic vs. Gun Lobby? Trophy Hunters kill bears and wolves in dens, shoot grizzly bears from airplanes; this is a crime. Gun Safety committee wasn’t able to co-ord with Envir committee before this legislation passed recently. NRA spending \$1 million for ads for Neil Gorsuch. Confirmation Hearing – Supreme Court overturned Gorsuch decision on son not getting good education. Gorsuch supports “diminimus” education, this is not good enough.

Q. Would be useful for General Membership to access on-line when meetings are for each of the 14 committees, be able to view but not edit Chair On-Line Calendar.

Q. Tipton up for election in 2018 – Is Gov’t Process Committee getting a good candidate now to oppose him? CO District 3: Jean Walters, Chair of La Plata County Dems: working hard to get Gail Schwartz to run again. Another candidate could be a 2 term State Senator in Pueblo County, which is biggest population in Dist 3, Senator Garcia. Shauna Agnew has contacted every County District chair in Dist 3 on this.

Q. Tipton passed HR 69, which overturned Fish & Wildlife protections. Senator Cory Gardner next, because has already passed house. Dan Parkinson wrote big horn sheep letter to editor, stop people from grazing domestic sheep on public lands because giving infectious diseases to wildlife.

A. A number of bills being introduced (under interesting names) against Endangered Species Act. Calls to Action for Wildlife – there is still time to make a difference on these.

Bonnie – have to be out by noon, so please write down questions and we’ll give to appropriate committee chair.

Q. Media Relations – CH tell Kathleen - Herald printing wrong meeting times/information.

Q. Anna Moran, who is present, gets a round of applause for all her campaign work for us.

Q. Mandy Winn is an Event Coordinator, does big fundraisers, offers her help to committees. (Is also Chair of Women’s Rights committee.)

Q. Need more Minorities, ie Southern Utes, people of color, bring into group.
2nd focus for Women’s Rights. Grassroots committee work

A. Immigration – Women’s March, Jan 21st was organized entirely by women of color.

Q. Trophy Hunting Bill number? House Resolution 69 – flew threw. SB#___ will come.

Q. Herald give more info re issues we're working on – congress, president. Herald is silent. Trump has mental issues. Durango Herald is a powerful voice.

A. Talk to new Editor, ask how can we help you? After City Elections will have more time and space in paper. Get more people to subscribe to the Herald – we need to support them financially, then can tell what issues want them to report. Write Letters to the Editor.

Q. Send out email contact for heads of committees to whole membership?

A. Committee chairs agree it's OK to share their email addresses with whole group. Whole group should use discretion so don't overwhelm committee chairs with email requests. Leadership gets 100s of email requests. If interested, join committee. Send info to committee, instead of requests. Can also send to Indivisible Durango who will forward to appropriate committee.

Q. Nice to see so many 'troublemakers' in this room

Meeting adjourns at 12 noon.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn Hunter, Secretary for Indivisible Durango

Leadership Team Present: Patty Dione, Margaret Martin, Margaret Fretwell, Ann Emigh, Deb Meyers, Julie Daugherty, Bonnie Schmidt/Carbrera, Jeff Karraker, Kathleen Adams, Shauna Agnew, Carolyn Hunter.