

**Indivisible General Meeting**  
**Saturday, September 9, 2017, 10 am- 12 noon**  
**Durango Public Library**

10 am start. Anne Markward leading this meeting, assisted by Deb Meyers.

**1. Recap of Town Hall** – Anne M. On August 4<sup>th</sup>, with 24 hrs notice, Pruitt, Gardner and Tipton held a Q&A session at the La Plata County Admin Bldg. Gov Hickenlooper was also present. Over 400 citizens came; not everyone could get inside building. Guinn Unger’s question, “Why on earth did you vote for the Republican Health Care bill?” was picked up by nationally syndicated news organizations, and became lead line for other Town Halls across the US in August.

**2. Candidates who have visited** – Anne M. Jerrod Polis (candidate for Gov), Mike Johnston has been here in the past. Donna Lynne will be here, Former State Treasurer will come, Ginsberg\_\_\_\_\_, 2 of the 5 Attorney Generals, Michael Dougherty and Phil Wieser have both visited Durango. Other candidates will be coming in Sept-Oct.

**3. Current and New ID work** – Like a football game, we’ve been playing “defense” so far: over 100 people for Tipton office visits, not allowed for Gardner, we’ve also held Rallies, Parades, Street Protests, and done Calls To Action.

**4. Repeal and Replace Tipton** - Now we need the football “offense”: Indivisible National has 5800 chapters. CO District 3 has 29 counties, 25 of these counties have ID chapters. ID Durango is working with these 25 ID chapters to show how Tipton legislation is affecting his counties. Write Letters to Editor. Get input from Craig, Pueblo. Bonnie: Sign up sheet for helping this. Need humane politicians. Asked for a show of hands, majority of room raises hands, interested in elections. Data, research, MOC Monitors. Tally Tipton’s legislative votes, let 29 counties know his voting record. A letter to editor can show up in 20 counties. Phone calls to other Indivisible CO (D-3) groups. Primaries – 3 or more candidates running against Tipton. Do you want info on these candidates? Majority of room interested in getting info. Indivisible has 2 email addresses:

- [indivisibledurango@gmail.com](mailto:indivisibledurango@gmail.com) – Use this for emails about Elections/Candidates
- [indivisiblegocom@gmail.com](mailto:indivisiblegocom@gmail.com) – Use this for emails about Committees / Topics

**5. Announcements:**

**Treasurer’s Report:** Margaret Martin: Our last ID General Meeting was in May - \$750 contributed. We bought a banner, paid for general meeting rooms, got Mail Chimp, helped committees with printing hand-outs. \$842.78 currently in cash funds; can cover expenses through end of year. Thank you for donating money and time. Baskets for contributions are on the table in foyer.

**Lissa Ray from Durango Energy Future:** we have good people in City Council. Support petition (in paper last weekend) transition Durango to 100% renewable energy fully by 2050. 80% renewable, locally produced by 2030. We can do this. If you live in City limits, sign petition. Businesses can sign on. Volunteers canvass downtown to get business support. Council on the Town – next Tuesday Councilors will be at different locations in town. Online survey – priorities for Durango. Prefer City Residents for Survey. Not just for city facilities, but residents, businesses etc.

Donated 60 copies of book on Health Care “The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, *Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care*” by T. R. Reid – still 20 free copies at Maria’s Bookstore.

Forum on Mon, Sept 25<sup>th</sup> at FLCs Noble Hall, Room 130, League of Women Voters “Putting a Price on Carbon Emissions”. See Susan Atkinson.

**Other Upcoming Events:** Shauna Agnew – (Shauna has been with the ID Coord Committee since last December, will be 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair in Dems Election efforts.)

Today’s events:

1 pm Demonstration for DACA – Santa Rita park

2:45 pm Chris Kennedy (running against Tipton) GJ City Council. Rotary Park.

6 pm Donna Lynne at Dem HDQ – running for Governor (current Lt. Gov)

Sept 10<sup>th</sup> 6-8 pm, Mancos United Methodist Church: candlelight vigil for Rosa Sabido, her 100<sup>th</sup> day of sanctuary at the church – she faces threat of deportation.

Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 5 pm – Cary Kennedy – Rochester Hotel

Sept 16<sup>th</sup> 11am – 2pm Edgemont Picnic, Dem Fundraiser, Gov candidates Cary Kennedy, Dianne Mitch-Bush A-M bring dessert, N-Z bring vegetables/side dishes. Live auction: Cartoon of Tipton, Photo, Pies.

Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> Joe Salzar 6 -7pm at Library, 7-8 pm Q&A, also Joe Lefsog (sp)

**6. Fake News Break** Photoshopped images from G-20 (NOT true!)

Pres Marcon make-up, Celebrate Repeal Obamacare with Bud Light – both are true!

**7. Committee Work Review** Deb Meyers – Julie also on Committee Support team. Not giving reports today, Committees do submit reports, we post on website, IndivisibleDurango.co.

Guinn Unger, Health Care: daughter saw him on TV. Presented on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 50 people attended, will do again, want to talk to local groups. Get info out there. Set up movie showings “Now is the Time” documentary comparing us to Canada. Ongoing education through community talks.

Jerry Samson – Environment – sending out CTAs, there will be more. Did survey to ask if want to get more emails. Film at end of Sept. Mon, Sept 11<sup>th</sup> next committee meeting.

Margaret – Immigration – Luana is co-chair. Danny Quinlan, Exec Director of Compañeros, cannot be member of ID. DACA: on Tues, Trump announced discontinuing. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals = deferred sentence in a court case, is NOT the same as amnesty, is NOT path to citizenship. DACA people can’t get Healthcare, can’t buy health insurance on exchange. Jeff Sessions not speaking true facts. DACA people DO get 2 yr. work permit, renewable until now. Danny has dealt with people who have renewed several times. DACA people DO get Social Security number – once you get one, it’s yours for life, even if you lose your work permit. CO has SB 251 – allows undocumented workers to get driver’s license. Show proof of “Iten”. IF have Soc Sec. #, can’t get Iten, therefore can’t get driver’s license. Nearly 800,000 people in US have DACA. DACA protects ONLY people under 15 yrs old who crossed over border before 2007. Guessing 150-200 people in this area, many college graduates who have starting working as medical assistants, and in our local schools.

Dream Act – has been introduced many times, never fully implemented – WOULD provide a path to citizenship, give a permanent status. Bi-partisan interest. Both CO Senators support. Rep Tipton hasn’t declared if supports or not. Republicans are going to put conditions on passing a Dream Act – ie Paul Ryan wants to trade for Border Wall, or ICE funding. When do CTAs, tell them you don’t want any conditions.

Qs: great rally at FLC on Tuesday. Herald today – poll – against DACA. Important for everyone to get real facts – get to rallies, talk to folks interested in learning. Herald polls – some people vote many times. Nationally, 90% support Dream Act, Including 72% of Trump Voters.

Sun eve Mancos Church – candlelight vigil for woman living in church. Caravan at 5:15 pm.

Q. Will always be some compromise, wouldn't it be better to support Dream Act regardless?

A. Border Wall is not necessary. Ask for a 'clean' bill – better negotiating position.

**8. Fake News Break** – Sinclair broadcasting merger – affects 72% TV households.

**Video:** can get John Oliver's video about this merger on U-tube. [Tech trouble] Will sneak into local news stations, not like Fox news.

**9. Freedom of the Press Presentation:** “Where the press is free and every man is able to read, democracy is safe”.

Bliss Bruen, one of the threats to freedom of press is evident here in Durango. Bliss introduces Amy Maestas, Editor with 21 yrs at The Herald. Amy was recently a Mike Wallace fellow at U. Mich., Ann Arbor, where she researched the digital disruption of newspapers, including its effect on community newspapers. She has also been involved with the Center for Innov & Sust Local Media, Int'l Center for Journalists, Turkey, Armenia, and Uganda.

Local News Matters: Fellowship at Univ of Michigan. Digital disruption in last 10 years, biggest threat is to local newspapers – becoming “news deserts”. Research how people get news, study after election. “Parachute journalism”: send in reporters from coastal newspapers for a short time, hard to get real local flavor. Even large non-coastal city newspapers are threatened, ie Dallas, TX. Education, Grants to local newspapers. Dangers of losing local newspapers. Track newspaper ownership- most in US owned by investment companies – only interested in revenues, not content. Own many newspapers, use same model for all, no local customization. Ann Arbor News bought by NJ company, laid off ½ staff, publish 3x/week, MI.com, then find Ann Arbor to get local news. 130,000 population, with U Michigan. Troubling to see this happen in larger, educated community. Largest 25 media companies own >1/2 daily newspapers in US. Public newspapers and private (Herald), very small ownership. Majority of newspapers in US have circulation <60,000. Pew Research Center – 20,000 papers gone. Staffing < 1970s levels. Decisions based on finance only, not impact to communities – impacts democracy. If one newspaper fails, others suffer. For 200 years, newspapers have protected democracy.

Herald went through big changes this spring – 4 days/week. Rumors that The Herald will go out of business are not true. Online reading doesn't give revenue. Printed ads declining because digital ads are cheaper. The Ballantines are very committed to Herald as ongoing voice of community, for 65 years now. It is our only source of local news. Newsroom staffed 7 days/week. Durango has needed The Herald's coverage for this year's Lightner Creek Wildfire, Townhouse fire.

Herald online readership is growing fast. 260,000 users/month, now reach 300,000 people. Have more than one audience – print audience, online, social media, different interests (politics, sports) “Thirsty for the Truth” campaign – The Herald was selected by Knight Foundation for study. Reach out to readership, public radio stations, News from CO Capitol.

Fake News: is deliberate, a hoax, not verifiable, a kind of satire. It is NOT unintentional, opinion, fact-based, or info you disagree with. Headlines don't match story. Internet links can take you to apparent trustworthy sources, but are unrelated to them. Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> presentation in Durango Library, how to spot fake news, what to do. Oct 26<sup>th</sup> SKA Brewery – Fake News Night Trivia Game.

**10. Fake News Break**

Bonnie presented a few news items and asked us raise hands if accurate, false, or we didn't know. Items included German police stopping a father and son in Austria and discovering contraband of 6,000 Trump-shaped Ecstasy tablets (true), and a man stuck in a Bank of America ATM machine who slipped a “Help Me” note outside through the ATM's slot (also true).

## **11. Income, Taxes and Your Money Presentation** from members Carolyn Hunter, Lynne Sholler, Anita Rancatti, Bliss Bruen and Jim White, Peter Tregillus, Darren White

Carolyn recommended that we follow the slides with our handouts. She covered slides 1 through 7, pointing out that Trump's budget proposal reflects *his* priorities, rather than the budget reflecting the priorities of the American people. Only a small part of our national budget is discretionary spending, and spending in one place must be balanced by funding cuts in other areas. There are no 'separate pots' (Slides 1 & 2).

Trump's budget priorities are defense, immigration control/deportation, construction of a border wall, and tax cuts for the wealthiest families & corporations. He has effectively reversed Obama's priorities – increasing our ability to get into war, while decreasing our ability to avoid war (Slide 3). His proposal includes \$64.4 billion in cuts across 17 federal agencies. Most of this would fund expansion of his 3 favorite agencies, Depts. of Defense, Veteran's Affairs, and Homeland Security. (Slide 4). Slide 5 expands upon Slide 4, showing the areas of biggest funding cuts and his 3 largest increases of 6, 7 and 9 percent.

Carolyn pointed out that that a 6% increase for Defense is no small number. She expanded on this in Slide 6 and noted that 59% of discretionary budget spending would go to defense, in addition to that already provided by mandatory budget spending.

Despite his frequent self-description as a "job creator," Trump's cuts would eliminate federal programs that support business innovation and job creation. Sixty-six federal programs would be eliminated (Slide 7); see a list of these programs near the back of the handout.

Lynne, an employment and labor lawyer, discussed specific proposed cuts to the Dept. of Labor, including NLRB and its employee protections, elimination of job and training programs for low-income seniors and disadvantaged youth, and an inexplicable merger of the vastly different EEOC and Federal Contract Compliance Program, which would decrease both entities' effectiveness (Slide 8).

Anita covered some of the crippling cuts to healthcare (in addition to repeated assaults to the ACA) and only 2 funding increases of \$500M for treatment of opiate addiction and an unknown amount for disease outbreaks (Slide 9). She commented on the dismantling of the EPA, the 3200 jobs lost there, massive cuts to research, and elimination of over 50 programs including Energy Star, grants, and cleanup programs such as the Superfund program. The idea is to transfer "responsibility" from the federal govt. to local communities. In other words, Silverton, just handle your environmental crisis yourself (Slide 10).

Bliss and her husband Jim Jones, both former educators, covered Slide 11 and discussed big cuts to the Dept. of Education. She mentioned the items on the slide as well as a K-12 cut of \$2.3B to eliminate Title II, to train, prepare, and recruit good educational staff for reaching every student in class.

Carolyn spoke again on Slide 12 and the proposed elimination of agencies for public broadcasting (a loss of NPR and KSUT's reliable news programs), NEA, and NEH.

Peter Tregillus covered deep cuts to HHS programs that provide crucial daily support for millions of people, including cuts to Medicaid, disability, SNAP, Meals On Wheels and Senior Ctr. funding, and job training (Slide 13). He described our situation as two clashing visions of the federal govt., one that sees it as a tool to respond to people's needs and another that would remove that tool by having the federal govt. turn away from human needs (Slide 14). He urged us that now is the time to let our MOCs know our feelings on this.

Darren ended with the last 2 slides and by recommending that we find our section of passion to talk about to MOCs and to tell our personal stories to them. He listed some recommendations for effective calls (Slide 15). He told us to look for a CTA at the back of the handout and urged us again to call, write, and email our MOCs about the material listed in the handout.

**Q&A fielded by Bliss:**

A woman read to not send letters, only postcards, due to anthrax concerns and wondered if this is true. Susan Atkinson responded that anthrax screening can delay letters getting to MOCs' by up to a month.

One member commented that despite his "job creator" promises, there will be an estimated loss of 100K to 200K jobs.

How to contact the FCC about the merger? Go to [fcc.gov](http://fcc.gov) or google FCC.

Sweetie Marbury commented that the Durango City Council is "working for you" by sending individual emails to MOCs regarding their concerns about proposed budget cuts.

Anne Markward noted that Tipton didn't/won't vote on hurricane relief

**12. Environmental Committee** – Fashion Show: all thrift store or borrowed clothing: - Film Sept 26<sup>th</sup> : Ave American throws away 79# of clothing/year. Clothing industry is 2<sup>nd</sup> largest polluter, behind O&G.

The Al Gore movie "An Inconvenient Sequel" is showing at the Gaslight Theatre for one more week.

**13. Closing – next meetings: Oct 21<sup>st</sup>, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Hunter, Secretary – with gratitude to Pat Roach for taking minutes from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Fake News break, through item #11, and providing good information for the rest of these minutes.