

W3NA Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 1, 2015

Held at: St James United Methodist Church
Present: Bill Crouse, Sandy Miller, Bob Holiday, Carlos Nagel, Jeff Seligman, John Kovacik
Absent: Lois Miller
Guests: Joel Feinman, Hilary Madrid

John Kovacik, President, called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

A. GUEST – Joel Feinman, candidate for Pima County Attorney: Joel is running as a Democrat in 2016. He was born in Tucson, grew up in Phoenix, graduated from UA Law School in 2007, and worked in the Pima County Public Defender's Office for 8 years until he resigned in order to devote all his time to his campaign. He became interested in the position when he realized the Pima County Attorney's office has a lot of power – deciding what crimes should be prosecuted & deciding how to save money in the criminal justice system – more power than judges or individual prosecutors. He thinks there is a lot of injustice, and a lot of money wasted currently. 40% of Pima Co's budget is law & order – police, sheriffs & the justice system. He wants to fix waste in the County Attorney's office.

- *Jeff asked how he would save money.* Joel said he would like to be more selective of cases that go to trial, because trial is the most expensive form of law enforcement. Also, he would like to slow turn-over of prosecutors because it costs money to train new ones and trials are being lost when tried by inexperienced prosecutors. Joel doesn't think we should incarcerate drug addicts, which costs \$45K/yr for jail and \$25K-\$35K/yr for prison. Most Superior Court filings this year were drug cases, and the largest percentage of people in prison are there for drug offenses. Joel would focus on violent crime.
- *Jeff asked what he would do about drug offenders currently in jail, and made the comment that keeping private prisons full was the problem.* Joel explained this is not something over which the County Attorney has control.
- *Bob spoke about the problems with the contract between the state and private prisons and asked Joel how he is going to deal with this.* Joel explained that he would have no control over the contract between the state and the private prisons; his concern is to morally & ethically prosecute only crimes that should be prosecuted. *Bob pointed out that if not enough people are sent to prison, the prisons would sue the state, and the legislature would lower mandatory sentencing standards to put more people in prison.* Joel reiterated that the only power the County Attorney has is to decide which cases would be prosecuted.

- *Jeff brought up the lack of a national health insurance system for drug offenders once they are released from prison. Bob said 90% of people in prison right now are going to be released, and there is a dire need for funding for reentry programs. Joel said the current County Attorney sent a letter advising employees not to hire felons, and this makes it very hard for them. However, the County Attorney has no power over things like health care, or what to do about people already in prison.*
- *Bob talked about how being drunk in public used to be a crime until they decided that treatment was preferable to prison. He talked about why young people abuse drugs (self medicating). Joel said that most violent crimes are caused by alcohol, not pot; domestic abuse in particular.*

In response to the questions about issues over which the County Attorney has no power, Joel mentioned several times that the County Attorney is the gatekeeper who determines who gets sent to prison, and his goal is to slow the rate of new incarcerations. Joel passed around his petition to get on the ballot and invited us to his kick-off party. We thanked him for his time.

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Approval of minutes:** The September minutes had been sent to the board members via email. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the minutes without changes.
2. **Treasurer's report:** Sandy reported a starting balance of \$191.24; 1¢ of interest earned; no expenses; ending balance of \$191.25. John asked if RillitoBend & RHE still need to pay dues to be members for 2015. Sandy said yes. [Sandy determined that RHENA, RillitoBend, Limberlost & Mt View are paid for 2015, and Hedrick Acres is paid for 2015 & 2016.] Hilary suggested sending email to NA presidents. Sandy will do that.
3. **Committee Reports**
 - a. **Program Committee:** John said the League of Women Voters (LWV) has a 38 page PowerPoint presentation for the October 21 Program about the County Bond issues. John will talk to Bonnie Poulos tomorrow about City measures. John will get back to Sandy by Saturday with info for a flyer to go out to the e-list.
 - b. **Communications Committee:** Sandy talked about new W3NA website at w3na.weebly.com. She is having some problems with editing & getting support. She asked for any and all suggestions about CONTENT & LAYOUT. Jeff was confused about the \$14 charge mentioned last month. Sandy explained that she had developed a website for W3NA using Doodlekit, but found that she couldn't upload documents without paying \$14/month. [In response to Jeff's question, Sandy determined that Weebly has unlimited storage, with each file is limited to 10 MB.]

John discussed communication and getting the word out at the GAIN and Mt View events. He spoke about his idea for a “Here’s What We Need – From You” campaign. He mentioned delegation of assignments, but we didn’t get to this.

Bob wants to use the Strategic Plan, because “somebody will more quickly join a project that we’re planning than join a committee.”

- c. **Nominating Committee:** We need someone to head the Nominating Committee (NC). This person would be responsible for recruiting people to run for Board positions by sending email to the e-list, sending Ward 3 a blurb and ask them to forward to NA Presidents and put it in Karin’s e-note, ask the Library to put it in their weekly email, etc. John asked that the job of the NC be redefined be 2-fold: to find candidates for Board positions AND membership development. Sandy disagreed because she feels that combining the two is too much to ask of one person, especially right now. The NC is defined in the Bylaws. We could create another, Ad-Hoc committee for membership development. Bob suggested doing away with “committees” and replacing them with “task forces.” Sandy said she believes this is just two different names for the same thing. Regardless of what we call it or how we organize it, we need to find people willing to run to serve on the Board in January. We need at least 2 people to run to fill 2 positions for board members whose terms are up – John & Bill, but more would be even better. Jeff suggested W3NA have information available in the Ward 3 office, including information about the upcoming election. John asked Bob if he would spearhead this effort to find candidates. Bob said he would do what he could. Sandy reminded that he can (and should) ask other board members to assist him as needed.
- d. **Fundraising Committee:** Carlos reported that we will be doing a fundraising event at BJ’s restaurant on Wednesday 11/4 from 11 am to 11 pm. During that time BJs will give 15% of the cost of food to W3NA for everybody who dines at BJ’s that day and presents the flyer to their server. Sandy will send the flyer to Carlos when she receives it from BJs.
- e. **Bylaws Committee:** At the last meeting it was agreed to change the month of the W3NA Annual Meeting from October to January. While making that change, Sandy found some other things that she thought should be changed. The Bylaws Committee agreed. Sandy presented the list of amendments proposed for the Bylaws. They include:
 - i. change month of annual meeting from Oct to Jan
 - ii. add text about not participating in politics
 - iii. remove mention of membership card & distinction between “Member” and “Voting Member”
 - iv. change number of board members from 5-9 to 5-15
 - v. remove mention of unexcused absences

- vi. remove VP responsibilities for publicity (Communication Comm. does that) and meeting announcements (Sec does that)
- vii. remove Treas. responsibility of fundraising (Fundraising Comm. does that)
- viii. add Program Comm. & Fundraising Comm. to Standing Committees

It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the changes. Once this is finalized, Sandy will send a copy to the board members. Jeff said the Bylaws will have to be re-filed with the AZ Corporation Commission if we change the date of the Annual Meeting. This has not been verified.

4. **GAIN:** Bob said SJUMC will be hosting an event on Oct 15 at the church. This event is only two weeks away. John asked what handouts we are going to provide. Perhaps have a card to hand out with the website URL. Bob suggested having the W3NA website projected on the wall. He also suggested displaying the Strategic Directions document. Bob will create a larger Strategic Direction document for display. John asked that the Vision Statement and a “We Need You” statement be added to the large Strategic Direction document. Sandy will send the GAIN flyer to the e-list, and to Ward 3 & ask them to put it in Karen’s e-note & send to NA presidents. Bob asked if Judith will invite TPD & TFD. Sandy will ask her. And we need to invite all NAs to join us as well, asking them to send a representative. Bob thinks we need to make phone calls. No commitment was made to create handouts or make phone calls.
5. **Presence at Mountain-1st/WMG gathering at Mitchell Park on Sat, Oct 17:** Sandy reported that the event goes from 10:00 to 2:00, and they invited us to join them. If each board member can be there for 2 hours (overlapping time slots) we can have 2 people there at all times. Bill agreed to be there from 9:30 to 11:30; he will provide a table & chairs. John will be there from 11:00 to 1:00. Carlos will be there from 12:30 to 2:30; he will return the table/chairs to Bill. We need one other person to cover each 2-hr time slot.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Secretary position:** John explained that Sandy is willing to take over the position of Secretary now that Lois is chairing the Program & Fundraising Committees. It was moved, seconded and passed to ask Sandy to serve as Secretary.
2. **Other New Business:** John verified with Bob that we can hold future board meetings at the church. Bob will get it put on the church calendar.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 5, 2015, 6:30 pm, SJUMC.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Miller, Secretary