

# **Civic Participation Advisory Group**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **April 18, 2005**

#### **ATTENDEES**

Janine Adkins	Dr. Steve Helfgot	Greg Reents
Stacey Ayers	Maria Hesse	Paul Roddy
Albert Celozza	Herschel Jackson	Linda Rosenthal
Chad Douwstra	Sandy Kaszeta	Dana Salsbury
Cynthia Dunham	Chris Mims	Kona Scholes
Charlie Freer	Alberto Olivas	Jeffrey Schrade
Jan Gdovic	John Oyler	Greg Stanton
Michael Greene	Kristi Passarelli	Julie Wechsler
Stan Grossman	Tammy Patrick	

#### **Welcome & Introductions**

Linda Rosenthal and Steve Helfgot began the meeting with a welcome and asked everyone to introduce themselves to the group. Review of the minutes of the last meeting and they were accepted.

#### **Great Moments in Democracy – Jury Duty Janine Adkins Experiences**

Janine has been called to jury duty each year in the same month. The prospective jurors were behaving poorly. There were other educators in the jury pool and they gave weak excuses or not being on the jury. Examples of reasons to not be on jury: surgery coming up, interrupts schedules, long drive to court. Jury service is important. It protects against abuse of government. It is a public voice; a collective judge of the facts. A point of history: in 1941, it was constitutional to not include women on juries. Potential jurist names are taken from tax lists, driver's license lists, phone books, government assistance lists and voter registration. There are a number of websites describing how to get out of jury duty.

#### **Arizona Issues**

The recent Immigration forum was discussed. The MCCD students involved did very well. The forum will be televised on PBS later in the year. Greg Stanton is going to Washington D.C. for the next round of forums on immigration. The topic of the next AZ Issues forum is the Four Year Baccalaureate Degree and Community Colleges. It will be filmed and is invitation only. Possible Fall topics include the Economic Impact of Non-Profits and Diversity in our Communities.

#### **SPPF**

The SPPF students recently returned from their trip to the National legislative Summit for Community Colleges. The SPPF'rs were overwhelmed with the city and government.

They came back with a great deal of energy. A new Alumni group was started – the Network For Change. Next year, an advisory committee will be instituted for the SPPF program. The program is looking at improving the learning aspect of the activities. This summer, a curriculum will be investigated to allow SPPF'rs to be more involved at several levels. More team building experiences will be incorporated.. Sending students to alternative conferences has been suggested. The students articulated themselves well during the visits to Congressional offices. Chad Douwstra was thanked for his leadership of the SPPF program.

### **Voter Outreach**

A handout regarding the Voting Rights Act that will expire in 2007. Also discussed was the effect of Prop 200 on Voter registration. Many agencies are waiting for clarification on how Prop 200 will be enforced and how to register new voters. This uncertainty could be affecting the upcoming elections. There is no uniformity in the system at this time. Many 501 c 3's are having their Voter registrations returned. There is a concern that there will be more attempts at restricting voting rights. Two important sections of the Voting Act that will expire unless they are ratified again are the language assistance that offers assistance in other languages and the preclearance that is a review of issues by the Federal government. Members asked what will be the consequences if the Act is not ratified again. Many organizations liked the Civic Tool Box distributed at the Civic Expo. Tribes are extremely interested in service learning for tribal students.

### **Community Partners Updates**

#### League of Women Voters

The office hours for the League in Tempe have changed to 12 noon to 5 p.m. weekdays.

#### Leadership Centre

A copy of a conference registration will be distributed to the members concerning mobilization and HOA's. The afternoon session of the conference will have experienced mobilizers in a discussion setting.

#### Maricopa County Elections

Why are voters getting their registrations back? Two main reasons are not having a citizen's ID and not having the registration form completed correctly. Under Prop 200, the forms are returned to the registrant. The Voter registration form is not updated as of this report. The old registrations cannot be used. They must be discarded. 80% of the new registrations were rejected. Please have new registrants use a current Driver's license. This is the best source of ID. Voting Poll workers can be hired as young as 16 years old. More than 1/3 of voters are independents. The bi-lingual Board worker program has been expanded to 150 more sites in the County.

#### Institute of Cultural Affairs

Right now, the Institute has 20 people from 13 countries in an intensive Train the Trainer program. The focus of the training is on participatory democracy. There are opportunities for reduced rates for a workshop on May 5-6, 2005. From May 9-11, there will be

practicum workshops with 3 skilled international facilitators. The results of the recent refugee forums will be sent to the CPAG office for distribution.

### Kids Voting

The agency is expanding its programs to tribal elections. This was requested by tribal leaders. There is also more high school outreach, but less than in elementary and middle schools. The program is also expanding to include voting for more than just President. They are developing a special curriculum for after school programs for the Boy and Girls Clubs. Two years ago, 47, 00 kids voted. In the last election, 127,00 kids voted online with 145,00 in the November election.

### AZ Foundation

There is a civic mission in public schools and it seems we need to get back to it. AZ Civics Coalition handouts were distributed. The Coalition has been functioning for six months. One of the forms is to register as a Coalition partner. The other form explains the organization.

### Campus Updates

#### Mesa CC

Red Mountain Campus had a Cleanup program with 50 people involved. An Into the Streets program will happen at the end of the month. The Student Government Elections were held but no online. Couldn't get the program on early enough.

#### Chandler – Gilbert CC

The college had speakers on homelessness, Prop 200, etc. with several classes involved. Their Model UN team is in San Francisco as of this report. A Generations prom was held. Magnetic ribbons were sold to benefit the Pat Tillman Initiative. A campus discussion was held on the topic of Taxes.

#### Estrella Mountain CC

The campus held a silent auction and clothing drives for the homeless. A hygiene products drive was held for a local Domestic Violence shelter.

#### Phoenix College

A Dialogue Days program was held with Dr. Glasper and Dr. Solley. In March, a Women's History program was held. A MECHA conference was on campus that involved high school students. Model Un was held earlier in the month. Two weeks ago, Model UN team was in California.

#### Rio Salado

In the monthly Governor's talk, she discussed the future AIMS testing. Next week, there will be a Employers Against Domestic Violence walk. The Governor is the Honorary Chair for the walk.\$500 was raised for Cancer research with a chili cook off. Another \$550 was raised with a shoe shining program. Rio Salado college placed third in the nation for 1200 PTK chapters for Top Ten awards for service to the community.

### South Mountain CC

One campus project was a cash and carry drive with St. Mary's food boxes selling at a reduced rate. This drive was for 200 families in South Mountain Village. The drive is also happening again on May 26. On March 29<sup>th</sup>, the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Water Days was held for 1200 first graders. Maricopa County has one of the highest rates in the country for child drownings. A national tournament for wheel chair basketball was held on campus. In march, a Community Career Fair was held for students and citizens. At South Mountain Village, Mayor Gordon gave a talk on the State of the State. There will be a naturalized Citizen ceremony on campus on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Center Update

The Center has held more forums that have brought in more operating dollars. We held 40 forums for the Aging 2020 Program for the Governor's office. The last of the forums was held on the Hopi reservation. We will also be undertaking forums for ABEC on High School Reform. For the Office of Tourism, we will be undertaking forums on the future educational needs of Tourism in the workforce. In the future, we will be training Non-Profit organizations to hold their own forums. All of these forums are held at community colleges throughout the State. The colleges are safe, neutral spaces to hold events.

### Plus / Delta

- + - The information given today was good.
- + - there were several good reports
- + - Good attendance

Next meeting on November 7, 2005 at Rio Conference Center