

Highlights - Nov. 11th NW Abq PAG Meeting

Facilitators: Karl Horak & Jeff McConaughy

Welcome:

- Welcome to new member: Rafael Lecuona DePiero
- Welcome to return member: Marian Gardner (the 1st person who responded to the initial Next Door post that resulted in this group)
- Welcome to Precinct Chair #185: Terry Storch

Jeff McConaughy - Door to door for Tim Keller:

- Canvassing has been encouraging, somewhat less so in NE Heights.
- Almost no one states they were voting for Lewis; although some just don't say for whom they're voting.
- This matches information from Marie Lobo, who has been doing phone work for Keller.
- Marie Lobo was one of those polled by Abq Journal. It was thought surprising and noteworthy that the Journal endorsed Tim Keller.
- Keller campaign using phone app, "Minivan," which is working very well for tracking volunteer contact data. (Karl notes that he and Terry Storch are working on a texting app for future use.)
- Campaigning to continue up until election day. (News report notes that results in Virginia election strongly influenced by grass roots/volunteer effort.)

Karl Horak - "Was the Tax Bill Written Specifically Tailored to Donald Trump's Needs?" Handout (<https://nwabqpoliticalactiongroup.files.wordpress.com/2017/11/tax-bill-written-specifically-tailored-to-donald-trump.pdf>)

- Losers: Elderly (medical expenses deduction lost)
- Losers: Teachers (school supplies deduction lost)
- Losers: Students (stipend plus tuition waiver lost)
- Losers: West coast & NE states (State, Local, Property Tax deductions lost or reduced)
- Losers: Everyone due to increased national deficit caused by the bill
- Marie indicates she will send her story (re homeowners tax deduction enabling her to complete her degree and own a home) to our MoC's.

Karl Horak & Trish O'Connor - "Breaking News: The News is Broken" Handout (<https://nwabqpoliticalactiongroup.files.wordpress.com/2017/11/fakenews.pdf>)

- Trish teaches English Composition at CNM, including how to evaluate information sources. She has been collecting documents and information re fake news.
- Example: busses driving through Austin photographed and a blogger said, "Are these people going to an anti-Trump rally?" This was ultimately reported in social media as a fact story, which had absolutely no basis in the truth.
- Example: photo of Trump inauguration, which was cropped to make it look like more people attended than actually did, as evidenced when panning back to see empty areas on the mall.
- "Beware the online filter bubbles" worthwhile TED talk.
- Jeff comments that he does still read Palmer Report; although it is clearly biased toward

the left and sometimes histrionic, but also presents well-written articles.

- Marie mentions source called “Investigate Russia.org” started by respected people from left and right viewpoints.
- Karl mentions “confirmation bias” concept.
- Trish notes that a story is likely fake news if it makes you feel self-righteous.
- Diana mentions it’s too bad the course Trish teaches isn’t being taught at high school level.
- Nelly brings up false advertising related to oxycontin being reviewed and included as articles in pseudo-medical journals -vs- respected medical journals.
- Marie mentions that students who are assigned to write articles on an issue only want to do research using articles and sources that support the position the student already holds.
- Nelly mentions using issues debates based upon facts to encourage people gain insight into their own and others beliefs and positions -vs- facts.
- Discussion of Roy Moore story and the fact that one of his defenders used the argument that “Mary was a teenager and Joseph was an adult, so it’s ok” behavior. Shocking!
- Nelly mentions that Civics is no longer taught in high school.

Karl Horak - “North Korea in Five Minutes” Handout

(<https://nwabqpoliticalactiongroup.files.wordpress.com/2017/11/northkorea5minutes.pdf>)

- Not discussed in any detail due to time constraints

Nelly Blacker-Hanson - Adopt a School in Puerto Rico

- Effort to get schools in mainland USA to adopt a school in Puerto Rico for providing supplies.
- Nelly will seek additional information in this regard and we can revisit this effort.

Immigration Pod (Nikki Mann, Bob Jones, Nelly Blacker-Hanson, Nate Smith) Presentation

- Nikki - DACA (See Handout - <https://nwabqpoliticalactiongroup.files.wordpress.com/2017/11/daca.pdf>)
- Bob - Answers to Questions posed by Dottie Wood (See Handout - <https://nwabqpoliticalactiongroup.files.wordpress.com/2017/11/immigration.pdf>)
- Nelly/Nate - Immigration Talking Points & Roll Play (See Handout - <https://nwabqpoliticalactiongroup.files.wordpress.com/2017/11/immigration-responses.pdf>)

(NOTE: These highlights do not include excellent comments and discussion among attendees as part of the Immigration Pod presentation. Because of time constraints at the meeting, there was not as much of the role playing as we would have liked and we plan to revisit this idea of including issue specific talking points and roll play at future meetings.)

- Nikki mentions that Immigration Pod members are doing lots of volunteer work assisting immigrants. Other NW Abq PAG members are encouraged to join in on these very worthwhile and rewarding activities.

- Nelly reports that the Immigration Pod is planning another movie night soon. More to follow.

- Caro mentioned currently playing movie, “Dolores.” Documenting the life and efforts of Dolores Huerta, who was co-founder with Cesar Chavez of the National Farmworkers Association. The movie has been getting excellent review - now playing at the Guild.

December Pot Luck:

•December 9th - 11:00-1:00 @ Friends Meeting House

- People with last names beginning:

 - A - H - Savory Dishes

 - I - Q - Desserts

 - R - Z - Salads/Fruit/Bread

- Nikki and Bob will bring paper goods

- Bring soft drinks for selves - non-alcoholic beverages

- Meeting House will provide coffee/tea

- Caro & Karl will bring ice (not ICE)

- Diana to invite Emma and Robert (folks in sanctuary)

- Lupe to provide CD of her music (so she can join the party instead of perform)

- Everyone is encouraged to bring interested guests. Just be sure they come with you or you provide their names in advance so we can add to the list for the folks who monitor the door to Meeting House.

- Caro & Karl will bring NW Abq PAG brochures to give to any interested guests.

January Meeting:

- Beth Redstone, Facilitator

- Nate Smith, Facilitator

- Environment Pod to provide mini-seminar

- Diana to reserve Meeting House for January & February

Treasury Note: \$109 in Petty Cash

Upcoming Events: Writing Workshop with Marie Lobo - for Letters to Editor, Op Ed pieces, letters to MoC's. We still need to work out the logistics for this event. To

accomplish that, we need two or three people to volunteer to spearhead that effort.