

Minutes of a Meeting of
Women in South Pasadena Political Action

Saturday, April 9, 2016
Calvary Presbyterian Church
1050 Fremont Avenue, South Pasadena, California

A meeting of the Women in South Pasadena Political Action (“WISPPA”) was held on Saturday, April 9, 2016 at the Calvary Presbyterian Church, 1050 Fremont Avenue, South Pasadena, California. Present at the meeting were the following members: Lela Bissner, Betty Emirhanian, Janet Braun, Ellen Daigle, Gloria Kilian, Ron Rosen, Gary Pia, Dollie Chapman, Marianne Reyes, Becky Thompson, Gail Maltun, Dana Farrar, Connie Wardlow, Vicky Bartlett, Lynda Sullivan and Chiquita Sipos.

President Janet Braun called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. Betty Emirhanian presented the minutes of the March 19, 2016 WISPPA for approval, and Betty clarified changes that had been made to the draft previously submitted to the membership by email. Betty moved to approve the minutes, as amended, and Lela Bissner seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved, with both Gail Maltun and Becky Thompson abstaining as they had not had a chance to review the minutes.

Janet next explained that the purpose of the meeting was for members to review and assess WISPPA’s goals and objectives to determine whether members feel we need to increase or decrease our focus (or keep our focus on the same with respect to any objectives), and to determine whether any of WISPPA’s goals should be deleted or any new goals added. Questionnaires containing WISPPA’s goals and achievements with respect to each goal were distributed, and Janet explained the process. Each member would individually complete the questionnaire and indicate whether she or he thought the focus on each existing objective should be strengthened, kept the same or reduced.

Large poster-board size sheets had been hung around the meeting room with columns indicating “increase”, “keep the same” or “abandon”. After each member completed her/his own questionnaire, each member would be given dot stickers to place on each large sheet hanging on the wall to indicate his/her opinion of that objective, so that we could quickly determine the group consensus based on the grouping of the “dots” after everyone was finished.

Everyone was given ample time to complete their forms and time to place their “dot stickers” around the room on each individual sheet (one goal per large poster size sheet).

After everyone had completed their individual tasks, the WISPPA members present were divided into three groups to review the results of one over-arching Goal and the objectives included therewith. Betty Emirhanian, Lela Bissner and Dana Farrar each acted as a leader of one of the groups, and Janet Braun observed.

After each group had been given 40 minutes to review the data regarding the particular goal and objectives assigned to the group, results were presented by each group leader. The group consensus was to solicit questionnaires from more WISPPA members, summarize the results and present the results at a later WISPPA meeting. Dana Farrar agreed to tabulate the results.

Marina Khubesrian reported on major issues addressed at recent City Council meetings, including information about the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. Gail Maltun, Chair of the Development Committee, reported that, as stated in the South Pasadena Review, the Exclusive Negotiation Agreement between the City and Jonathan Genton for the Downtown Development Project had expired and had not been renewed by the City.

Janet Braun announced that the screening of "Iron Jawed Angels" co-sponsored by WISPPA on March 26 with the NWPC and League of Women Voters, among other groups, was a great success. In addition, several WISPPA members attended the South Pasadena Chinese-American Club Dinner on April 2, 2016 and had a wonderful evening. Betty Emirhanian reported that she was the team captain for WISPPA volunteers at the South Pasadena Eclectic Music Festival on May 14, 2016, and that we needed as many volunteers for the different time slots as possible. Janet announced that the WISPPA Cocktail Party was coming up on Monday, June 20, 2016.

Janet announced that the next meeting of WISPPA would be held on Saturday, May 7, 2016 at 8:30 am. The speaker will be Craig Watson, Director of the California Arts Council.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.