

DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, October 15, 2009
12:00 p.m.

Present: Lupe Camacho, Nancy Tongate, Karla Jessen

Lupe Camacho, Disability Program Coordinator, called the meeting to session at 12:10p.m.

Lupe began the meeting by thanking Ms. Jessen for her help in gaining new members for the committee and helping to draw awareness to accessible voting in Yakima County.

The meeting continued with a review of the Primary Election Statistics. Lupe advised the group that the graphs she provided to the members were graphs developed for the Bilingual Advisory Committee but would help in showing participation levels Countywide and by district. The committee members were also informed that the e-Slate, once again, did not get much use during the Primary. Total number of users was two (2). Lupe shared with Karla that in the prior meeting it was discussed that we felt the voters in Yakima County have grown accustomed to the vote-by-mail ballots and feel comfortable allowing their spouses or others to assist them in voting their ballot.

Lupe then distributed a 2010 Election Calendar, informing the committee members that this calendar was provided as a tool for them when they are hopefully sharing information with others.

The conversation then led to the Disability Access Sites and workers. There were three (3) new workers at these sites in the Primary Election. One of those new workers is Josh Garza, who was brought on board by Gracie Sexton and Patrick and Maggie Perez who were brought on board by Corky Mattingly. Lupe mentioned she was very grateful to these workers and to those who brought them on board. The Disability Access Sites will be available Election Day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and continue at the locations of Toppenish High School and Sunnyside Work Source. The Auditor's Office is also a Disability Access Site and is available 20 days prior to any election (October 14, for this election) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day.

In continuing with the agenda, Lupe then discussed the outreach currently conducted by the Auditors Office; which includes high school presentations, inclusion of voter registration forms in senior packets at the high schools and in registration packets at YVCC. We have conducted registration drives at health fairs, resource fairs and will be present at PAC Forums and other parent meetings through the school district.

Lupe also shared with the group that in the prior Disability Advisory Committee the members recommended contacting Fay Fuchs of the Yakima School District. Karla indicated she was familiar with Ms. Fuchs and her work and felt that it was a good recommendation. Lupe indicated she had been in contact with her and expects to hear back soon. There was also a recommendation that our outreach efforts include the Mid Valley and Upper Valley Providers Consortiums. Lupe indicated that we would be at the October 21 meeting to be held in Toppenish. It was also shared that Lupe contacted Madelyn Carlson and requested an opportunity to share our e-Slate with Special Needs Transit Committee which she heads. Lupe will be presenting to this group.

Members will be notified of the next Disability Access Committee Meeting as soon as it is scheduled.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

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