

Fuerzas Unidas Caucus Membership Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2023

Meeting was opened and hosted by Treasurer Felice Garcia.

Election Updates: Secretary Christina Serna spoke. Election deadline for self nominating is April 29, 2023. Positions available are Vice Chair Rural, Secretary and all Rural Representative positions. Election information including dates, nomination form and position descriptions and requirements can all be found on the website FuerzasUnidasNM.com

Presenters:

Ray Lara, District 34 Representative Spoke of several bills that he sponsored, both that passed and didn't pass.

Passed:

HB 182- Camino Real to be official Spanish language newspaper

HB 533- Allows school districts to pay up to 80% of insurance costs to employees who make less than 50K per year. Other percentages allowed for different income tiers as well.

HB 389- No fee for issuance of Identification cards for homeless community.

HB 4- Voting Rights Protections-some highlights are a permanent absentee voter list, automatic voter register when getting a driver's license, the eligibility to vote and register to vote upon release of an inmate of a correctional facility.

HB 306- Make it a crime for one person to purchase a firearm for those persons who do not qualify to purchase one.

HB 9- Making it a crime if firearms are not kept in a safe place that is not accessible to minors.

Not passed:

HB 436- Biodiesel Tax Credits

HB 426- Clean Fuel Standard Act

Senator Jerry Ortiz Y Pino

Passed:

SB 310- Crisis Triage Centers-provides authorization for peace officers to bring individuals in crisis to a crisis triage center to be evaluated and treated instead of being taken straight to jail.

Not Passed:

SB 113- Equal Education Opportunity Scholarship

SB 355-SNAP Benefit Transitional Support

SB 8- Geothermal Resources Development

Senator Ortiz y Pino also spoke about plans to keep things going after oil and gas were gone.
-Investing in Early Childhood and Service Tax funds growth

-Spend to solve problems with schools, mental health, homelessness etc, now, so that we will save money in the future not having to spend then.

-Diversify investments into things that have great promise such as ceramic/silicon chips, clean energy, and geothermal development (gap between earth and wind, we have “hot rocks”).

Brief Announcements:

SCC meeting Saturday, April 23, 2023

Next Membership Meeting: Thursday, May 18, 2023, 6:00-7:00 pm