

Thrive! Living Wage Coalition Aug 10, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Present - Hollie Wall, Brooke Frazer, Kathy Tonnessen, Paul Maliszewski, Nancy Fischer, Steve Krest, Pat Rustad, Mike Rustad, Mike Larson, Maureen Maliszewski. Special welcome to Hollie, Kathy T. and Mike L., attending a Thrive! Coalition meeting for the 1st time.

Announcements:

Gwen Lachelt, nominee for Thrive! Steering Committee was unable to attend the meeting tonight due to meeting about the recent Gold King Mine spill.

Employer Recognition Program applications can now be completed electronically on the Thrive! website – www.thrivelalata.org.

Fundraising Committee – Pat R. – The committee is planning a fund-raiser in October at the Red Snapper. For 2 hours we will sell drinks including a special Thrive! drink. We will receive the intake for the special drink and tips at the bar. At the same time we will have a silent auction in a separate room. Coalition members are requested to line up items for the silent auction and think of a catchy name for the Thrive! drink - Contact Pat Rustad at 749-9756 re both (silent auction items and catchy drink name) or if you want to help otherwise with this event. We may also be able to have a fund raiser at the Rochester Hall in the future.

Wage Policy – Maureen is going to meet with Colorado Center on Law and Policy and 9 to 5 Aug 17. If anyone would like to attend these meetings, call Maureen at 903-0957. She is driving to Denver on Saturday Aug 15 and returning Monday August 17 after the meetings.

Steering Committee

- Approved External Certification – We will request La Plata Co. Business Development Alliance to do the external certification. Proposal will be presented to their Board Aug. 30.
- Decided to adopt a new methodology for calculating the living wage rate, in alignment with Region 9 Economic Development District. Region 9 will have a press release in Sept
- Kathy Tonnessen's nomination for the Steering Committee was approved at the Coalition meeting however Kathy contacted Maureen afterwards and felt that she does not have enough time to commit to the Steering Committee right now.

Outreach-

- Meeting with City Council – Mike Todt and Maureen will get together to make a plan
- Picnic Aug 30, 2-6 PM Santa Rita Park. Publicity underway.

Pot Luck Dinner was Wonderful. Thanks for plenty of nutritious food. No deviled eggs this time.

Discussion:

- Picnic Poster – 2 posters were done and the group decided on one to be distributed.
- Volunteers – Hollie suggested tabling at Fort Lewis as the new semester kicks off. Maureen will give her a call to make arrangements
- Supporter forms – everyone is asked to get endorsements of the Thrive! Living Wage Principle: “All workers should be paid a living wage”. We have 710 endorsements and are aiming for 1000 by the end of the year. This is a great way for all us to grow the discussion about living wages in our community. Call Maureen if you need Supporter forms and when they are completed. You may also scan and email them to Maureen at maliszewskimaureen@yahoo.com.
- Local 1st - Coupon Book. Steve had the idea of having our living wage employer acknowledgement cards as a coupon in the Local First Coupon Book. There was discussion about cost vs benefit. As a member of Local First we will also be able to have an electronic coupon which local first puts out by email. We discussed having a coupon which would provide a discount by Living Wage Employers. The deadline for the coupon book is now, so that would have to wait until next year. Maureen will contact Local first to set up the coupon.
- Coalition members agreed to add health insurance as a qualifying basic needs benefit in the criteria for Living Wage Employer certification. Employers paying toward health insurance will be allowed to apply \$0.57/hour toward the living wage rate (\$12.40/hr) in order to qualify for certification. This was calculated using the Connect for Health Colorado subsidy for one person making the LW rate (\$103) and the cost of insurance per Self Sufficiency Standard for Colorado 2015 (\$96).

TERP breakout session – Brooke presented information on contacting businesses regarding TERP certification and coalition members volunteered to contact some of the targeted businesses.

Maureen will email Steering Committee for approval of:

- Adding health insurance as a qualifying basic needs benefit;
- Approval of the Red Snapper fundraiser.

NEXT MEETING Septmeber 8. 5:30PM. Commons Building Conference Room.