

La Plata County Thrive! Living Wage Coalition  
Sept 14, 2015  
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Terri Reherman, Nancy Fisher, Mia Carrasco-Songer, Sharon Scott, Lynn Griffith, Greg Felsen, Pat Rustad, Mike Rustad, Maureen and Paul Maliszewski.

**Bold text indicates action items.**

5:30 – 6:00 **INTROS & UPDATES**

Completed

- 752 endorsements. Sharon, Terri & Pat will each get at least 10 more endorsements
- TERP update. We have five new applications. Mo will discuss with Brooke idea of doing a round of certifications prior to the scheduled time in November. A press release soon re 50 certifications and one prominent business will be good marketing tool.
- Mo met with Colorado Center on Law and Policy and with & 9 to 5 on Aug 17
- Thrive! is officially an Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ) Affiliate
- Pre-Labor Day Picnic Aug 30 was a success – great weather, good turn out and discussions by low-wage workers. Some of those workers are getting involved with Thrive!, setting up house parties for low-wage workers
- Grant application submitted to UUA Fund for a Just Society Sept 9. That application and the one to Ben & Jerry's focus on public policy work in 2016.
- 2016 budget drafted by Sharon Scott. Will be submitted to the Steering Committee for approval at October SC meeting
- Mo tabled Sept 3 at FLC where many clubs had information tables set up. TRIO works with low-income students to help them succeed with college. Mo shared info about Thrive! with student leaders.
- Local First Coupon completed (see email attachment)
- SC approved:
  - Adding medical insurance as a qualifying basic needs benefit for TERP certification (0.57/hr)
- Fundraiser at Red Snapper

Pending

- External Certification - La Plata County Economic Development Alliance did not get to this at their July or August Board meetings. Mo contacted Southwest Sustainability Alliance which is considering doing the external certification. If that doesn't work out, San Juan Citizens Alliance is another possibility.
- Living Wage rate – Hopefully Region 9 Economic Development District will have a press release announcing the new living wage rate in September.

Upcoming

- Tabling – Thrive! will have a table at Apple Days Oct 4 in Buckley Park, 11AM – 4PM. Nancy (after 12) and Greg volunteered. Bayfield Heritage Days Sept 25, 26 – no volunteers yet. **Please Contact Maureen if you can volunteer.**

- Mia will give a presentation about Thrive! at the Durango City Council meeting Tuesday Sept 15. The meeting begins at 5:30 and will be televised. Thrive! supports encouraged to attend. Mo will have blue bandanas for Thrive! folks to wear.
- Thrive! was invited to attend a day-long planning retreat in Denver Sept. 30 regarding outreach for the proposed 2016 ballot measure to increase the state minimum wage. **Mo plans to attend and would welcome someone to join her. It would also be helpful if someone could offer lodging in Denver for the night of September 29 and 30.**
- Thrive! will host Green Drinks Sept 24

#### 6:00 – 6:30 **POTLUCK DINNER**

#### 6:30 – 7:30 **DISCUSSION AND PLANNING**

- Financial Report by Sharon. We need to raise about \$2500 for the remainder of the calendar year. **Supporters are encouraged to give a monthly donation of any amount to help us continue our work and to pay the Employer Recognition Program Coordinator. It is easy to donate on our website – [www.thrivelaplata.org](http://www.thrivelaplata.org).** There are a few grant applications out which we should find out if we will receive funding in October and November. We are hoping that the fundraiser at the Red Snapper will be a big success.
- Some local employers have indicated that low wage workers are students who do not need a living wage because they don't have expenses. We have not yet been able to get data on the demographics of low-wage workers in La Plata County (age, gender, ethnic/racial identity, family composition). There was support for the idea of doing a local study to obtain this data and to find out what expenses working students have (the assumption is often that it is just beer and skiing).
- Thursday Oct 29 Fundraiser at Red Snapper 5-7PM. Bob & Mo will be bartenders. We will get tips and ½ of intake from the signature drink. Shannon Orndorff will be designing a poster. Brainstorming re name for drink Scary wages? We would like to offer a non-alcoholic version of the specialty drink. Costumes? Theme? Lynn, Pat and Terri are the team working on this fundraiser. **Thrive! members encouraged to secure donations for the silent auction – contact Terry at [terrigoes@gmail.com](mailto:terrigoes@gmail.com)** if you have something to donate or an idea for a donation.
- Roundtable discussion on growing inequality following Pope's visit to U.S. There didn't seem to be much enthusiasm about this. Mo will contact the Coalition of Caring Communities to see if there is interest there.

Next meeting: Monday, October 12