

YVCOG GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
October 18, 2017

PRESENT:

Grandview: Norm Childress
Granger: Maria Gonzalez-M, Lilia Villarreal-A
Harrah: Pat Krueger-A
Mabton: n/a
Moxee: n/a
Naches: Kit Hawver – M
Selah: n/a
Sunnyside: Jim Restucci –M,
Tieton: n/a
Toppenish: n/a
Union Gap: n/a
Wapato: n/a
Yakima: n/a
Yakima County: Ron Anderson - M
Zillah: Janice Gonzales-M

ABSENT:

Grandview: Bill Moore-A, Don Olmstead-PC,
Granger: Hilda Guzman-PC
Harrah: Gracie Wilson-M
Mabton: Sophie Sotelo-M, Arturo De La Fuente – A
Moxee: LeRoy Lenseigne-M, David Roy-A
Naches: Suzi Williams-A
Selah: Russell Carlson –M, Roger Bell -A, Lisa Smith -PC
Sunnyside: Julia Hart-A; DeAnn Hochhalter-PC
Tieton: Matt Johnson – M, Dewane Ashbrooks-A
Toppenish: J. Eligio Jimenez-M, Gabriel Pinon-A
Union Gap: Roger Wentz-M, Mark Carney-A, Sandra Dailey-PC
Wapato: Santos Valdez-A, Goliath Elwell-M, Tim Thompson-PC
Yakima: Vacant-PC
Yakima County: Mike Leita-M, J. Rand Elliott-M
Zillah: Doug Stewart-A, Ardele Steele-PC/A

Note: M=Member; A=Alternate; PC=Planning Commission

Additional Attendees: Grandview: n/a; Granger: Juan Isiordia, Magalie Roman-Estrada, Jose Trevino, Julie Sharp Mabton: Mario Martinez; Moxee: n/a; Naches: Wayne Hawver; Selah: n/a; Sunnyside: n/a; Tieton: n/a; Toppenish: Clara Jimenez, Al Hubert, Lance Hoyt; Union Gap: n/a; Wapato: Jim Gerred, Peggie Gerred; Yakima: n/a; Zillah: n/a; **Others:** Mary Anderson, John Hodkinson, Sandee Hodkinson, Larry Krueger, Dr. Curt Guaglianone, Madelyn Carlson

Speakers: Laura Armstrong and Magaly Solis (La Casa Hogar)

YVCOG Staff: Alan Adolf, Tami Hayward, Lance Larsen, Larry Mattson, and Mike Shuttleworth

CALL TO ORDER
INTRODUCTIONS
ROLL CALL

Chairman James Restucci called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. (Dinner break from 7:05 – 7:35 p.m.) The meeting was hosted by the City of Granger by the Granger Lions Club. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY

It is the policy of the YVCOG General Membership to accept public comment on agenda items at the time the item is being discussed. Public comments regarding items not on the agenda will be heard at the end of the meeting.

WELCOMING REMARKS

Mayor Jose Trevino welcomed everyone to the City of Granger.

**YVCOG NEWS &
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Mattson addressed the recent rumors circulating regarding Camp Hope, which is being run by Transform Yakima Together, a faith-based organization. YVCOG will be addressing the issue of whether or not Camp Hope residents are being required to attend religious services, and if TYT is found to be in breach of their contract, the contract will be terminated.

BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Adolf noted that his name was missing from the list of attendees on the September Minutes. Mr. Restucci requested that the September Minutes be corrected to reflect Mr. Adolf's presence at the September meeting. Mr. Childress (Grandview) moved to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2017 meeting. Ms. Gonzales (Zillah) seconded. The motion carried.

*Approval of Proposed 2018
YVCOG Budget
(Resolution 2017-2)*

Mr. Restucci entertained a motion for approval of the proposed 2018 YVCOG Budget. Mr. Anderson moved to approve the 2018 YVCOG Budget by Resolution 2017-2. Mr. Childress seconded. The motion carried.

This budget is recommended by the Budget Subcommittee and includes a 1% increase.

YVCOG General Membership Meeting Minutes

*A recording of this meeting is available.
October 18, 2017*

PROGRAM

*Immigration & Naturalization:
Yakima Valley Trends – Laura
Armstrong, Executive Director,
La Casa Hogar*

Laura Armstrong, the Executive Director of La Casa Hogar, provided an informative presentation on the services provided to the immigrant populations in our area by their organization. They focus on helping LPR's (Lawful Permanent Residents) through three main services: Adult Education (English, computer literacy, health & nutrition, driver's training, etc.), Preschool, and Citizenship classes.

Pathway to Naturalization: To become a citizen (naturalized) you must first become a Licensed Permanent Resident (green card), but before you can qualify for permanent residency, you must first have a visa. There are many types of visas, but they are very specific as to who can get them.

Once a person has obtained Licensed Permanent Residency, citizenship is a 3 year process if married to a US citizen, or a 5 year process if not married to a US citizen. At the end of that waiting period they can begin to pursue the process of citizenship. La Casa enters into the picture at this point.

It takes about 6 months (two quarters) of classes to be ready for an interview and to submit their citizenship application.

La Casa screens the applicants three times to ensure that they are, indeed, eligible for citizenship.

La Casa Hogar is accredited with the Department of Justice Accreditation and Recognition. They are accredited, as an organization (at their specific address), and have 4 staff members that are accredited. Accreditation prevents people being taken advantage of through Notario fraud.

Some of the benefits of citizenship/naturalization are:

- Increased Income (8.9%)
- Rise in Employment Rates (2.2%)
- Increased Home Ownership (6.3%)

Yakima County has over 11,000 people who are eligible right now to naturalize. A larger amount than any other county in Washington.

Ms. Armstrong explained that DACA affected about 800,000 people. DACA has been misunderstood by a lot of people -- it was actually an authorization to work in the United States, but not an authorization to live here.

www.lacasahogar.com

Funding comes mainly from fund raising, donations, and grants. There is one very small federal grant that contributes to supporting a portion of the citizenship program. Fees collected now contribute around 20% of their annual funding - \$30 registration fee and \$50 application fee.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

Chairman Restucci will reach out to the General Membership, through email, to determine the location for the December 13th meeting.

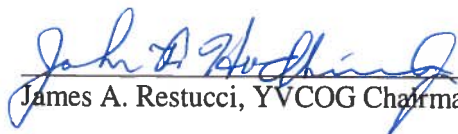
PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURN

With no further business, Mr. Restucci adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Restucci, YVCOG Chairman

Date signed: 12/12/17


Tamara Hayward, Finance Coordinator