

**POST CONVENTION COMMITTEE**  
**Second Floor, Joeten Dandan Center**  
**Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**September 14, 1995**

The Post Convention Committee met on Thursday, September 14, 1995, at the Post Convention Office, Joeten Dandan Commercial Center, Saipan.

Acting Chair Esther S. Fleming presided. Post Convention Committee members present were Acting Chair Fleming, T. Aldan; D. Maratita; F. Nogis; and J. Quitugua. Also present were M. Aldan-Pierce; B. Seman; L. Ada; D. Siemer, and H. Willens. Absent were Chair H. Guerrero and Secretary Gonzales, and were excused from attending the meeting.

Having established a quorum, Acting Chair called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The adoption of minutes for the September 7th meeting was suspended because the Secretary was not available to submit the minutes due to an emergency medical trip.

**REPORTS**

Acting Chair Fleming reported that she and other members of the Committee appeared on MCV to record the English and Chamorro versions of the Constitution for public education program made possible by MCV. Those who attended the recording were T. Aldan, D. Maratita and J. Gonzales. Acting Chair Fleming recorded together with T. Aldan the English

version moderated by P. Mathis, and T. Aldan moderated the Chamorro version with D. Maratita and J. Gonzales.

She also reported that F. Nogis and J. Lifoifoi will be doing the Carolinian version moderated by J. Elameto.

Acting Chair Fleming reported that the Senate has not acted on the legislation before them regarding the ratification of the amendments and it looks as though the amendments will be presented to the voters at the November election. She emphasized that time is of the essence and the Committee should begin gearing up for the public education program aimed at government employees; large companies employing majority of local people, such as Duty Free Shoppers and Joeten Enterprises; large associations, such as the Rotary; PTAs for the schools on the island, and most especially, the village meetings.

Ms. Fleming also reported that she, T. Aldan and F. Nogis appeared before the Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, September 6th, and presented the Constitution, as amended, to the members of the Chamber. Acting Chair said that the members were receptive to their presentation.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Discussion focused on how to present the amendments to the voters on election day. Mr. Willens and Ms. Siemer presented several options to the members. One option is to come up with a booklet and have all the amendments on the left hand side with an explanation and the Constitution, as amended, on the right hand side and to have the amendments will be on an Article-by-Article presentation. T. Aldan is of the opinion that maybe it would be best to do it on a section-by-section case.

Ms. Siemer informed the members that they have initially met with Counsel for the Board of Elections and that another meeting has been tentatively set for Tuesday, September 19th; therefore, both counsels have requested direction from the Committee as well as obtaining approval for them to meet with the Board of Elections on the amendments.

It was unanimously agreed by the members that Mr. Willens and Ms. Siemer meet with the Board of Elections counsels and members and discussed how best to present the amendments to the voter and act professionally on behalf of the Committee. Ms. Siemer requested that the Committee meets on Tuesday afternoon so that they can report back to the Committee the outcome of the morning's meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**None**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Acting Chair Fleming informed the Committee that she and Pamela had worked out a proposed schedule for the public education program and felt that the schedule, as prepared, looks very good and workable. At the same time, she advised the Committee that it is equally important to work together and start conducting the public education program. She also informed the members that counsels have provided a form letter to this effect and that she has already written to the Governor requesting his assistance in this effort. Copies of Acting Chair's letter to the Governor was provided to the members.


It was unanimously agreed that the matter will be further discussed at the Tuesday's meeting.

Ms. Fleming also informed the members that Representative Heinz Hofschneider has introduced legislation at a House Session on Wednesday, September 13th, providing for a special election to consider the proposed amendments to the Constitution. She also informed the members that similar legislation is in the Senate to be introduced by Senator Villagomez, but the Senator is currently off-island and there is little chance that such legislation would go through; therefore, it is important that the Committee focused its attention in the public education program and put extra effort in educating the public about the amendments because there is little hope that the legislation to provide for the special election will not go through.

Acting Chair Fleming also informed the members that Ms. Mathis has made arrangements with the Tribune to begin publishing the "President's Column" beginning Monday, September 18th. The column will be discussing Article-by-Article as amended during the Convention.

There being no further matters to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
ALICIA DLG/LEON GUERRERO  
Recording Secretary