



HSSNM "Members & Friends Meeting" with Billy Garrett, ASCMV Board Chair July 23, 2011

There was good response to the program and guest speaker at our recent "Annual Members & Friends Meeting" with many area animal advocates and reps of local groups in attendance. Representation included ACTion Programs for Animals, Southern NM Basset Hound & Beagle Rescue, Spay-Neuter Action Program, and volunteers with the ASCMV (Animal Services Center of Mesilla Valley/animal shelter). Dolores Connor, City Councilor Dist. 2, and her husband were in attendance. Michael Huerta, who is seeking candidacy for Mayor attended the meeting.

Billy Garrett, chairman of the ASCMV board of directors, was the featured speaker on topic "The Road Ahead". Mr. Garrett outlined a "comprehensive initiative" for increasing lifesaving and reducing intake

at the shelter based on research that follows the success of model No Kill shelters in the U.S. Some of the key programs and services he mentioned to achieve community "No Kill" status (saving 90% of all healthy & treatable dogs & cats, including feral cats) encompasses community feral cat TNR programs (trap-neuter-return) as well as increased high-volume, low cost spay-neuter services, and strong public relations work building community involvement. Mr. Garrett mentioned prospect of a community-wide meeting or summit in the near future, if supported by community members, to begin collaborative work. Cautionary remarks from Mr. Garrett centered on allegiance to a comprehensive strategy vs. allegiance to personal agenda. In summary, Mr. Garrett noted that "building coalitions are necessary" and "systems of accountability need to be established". In closing he said, "We need to do business differently. We can do it. It is within our reach."

Following Q&A time with Mr. Garrett, board members gave reports on HSSNM programs/services including the pet help call line service, foster/adoption program, humane education services, committee work and fundraising efforts.



Billy Garrett, ASCMV chairperson & featured speaker, relaxes before Q&A period.



Dolores Connor, City Councilor Dist. 2, was among the attendees at the meeting.



Frank Bryce, HSSNM president, addresses the audience.



Cynthia Garrett listens to the presentation by her husband, Billy Garrett. Win Jacobs (in background) listens to the guest speaker.



Marilyn Zahler, HSSNM vice-president, makes a point while speaking to the audience.



Animal advocates & representatives of area groups listen to the speaker.