



granddems.org

GRAND DEMOCRATS

General Meeting Minutes October 25, 2023

Call to Order: The Call to Order was made by Vice President Bob Walling at 6:30 pm. President Suzi Walling was not able to attend. Bob led the attendees in singing our national anthem.

Bob welcomed Grand Dems members and those in attendance who are members of LD 29. He introduced, and welcomed, LD29 Chair Sarah Tyree. Bob also introduced LD29 candidates Eric Stafford (running for state senate), Scott Podyne and Dave Raymer (both running for state representative). All five CD8 candidates for US Congress were present, or represented, and welcomed. CD8 candidates Marc Lewis, Steven Sawdy, James Holmes, and Greg Whitten were present. Bernadette Greene Placentia was represented by her daughter, May.

Minutes of September 27, 2023 General Meeting: Secretary Serene Matthews asked if there were any corrections or comments on the September 27, 2023 minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jim Coffran presented his report explaining income and expenses for September through the current date in October. Of note was the final payment for our new website. There are on-going expenses for Mailchimp, Tockify, and room rental to Grand. There are fees associated with using Act Blue but donations and renewals are made easier for members and the board. The October 1, 2023 balance was \$2937.54. As of October 25, 2023, the Grand Dems balance is \$3741.96.

Vice President's Remarks: Bob reported that Representative Debbie Lesko is not running for re-election which opens up an opportunity for one of the five democrats running in the primary for CD8. He highlighted Nancy Pelosi's comments that progressives deliver progress, while republicans deliver chaos. Bob detailed our evening agenda with speaker Paul Penzone, the CD8 candidates, and Sarah Tyree.

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Committee Reports

Elections: Committee Chair Edra Jandro reported there will be a table for signing petitions at the Grand garage sale on Nov 18. She asked for volunteers. Grand Democrats will also have a club table and another for the LD candidates.

Fundraising: Committee Chair Ken Kessler reminded attendees of the wine and 50-50 raffles. He spoke about the Cooper's Hawk Wine Tasting Fundraiser. There is a private space at the back of the restaurant where the event will be held. The cost is \$80 per person. The club will net about \$1000 if all 48 tickets are sold. To sign up, access the event through the calendar section of the website.

Membership: Chair Carol Karsten reported that we had 13 renewals for 2024 this evening. Fifty-nine members have renewed for 2024. Current membership for 2023 and/or 2024 is 226. Seventy-two people were last active in 2022. There were no new members tonight.

Program/Publicity: Bob Walling reported the next general meeting will be held November 15, 2023. Bob reported that the speaker for next month will be Dr. Catherine Nichols from Arizona List. She will be speaking about the abortion issue. We will also hear from ASU student Francesca Martin representing the Keep Arizona Blue Student Coalition and their focus on getting more students registered to vote.

The January general meeting will feature the Democratic CD8 Candidates.

Social: Chair Judy Shields said the November 7 Blue Breakfast will be held at Richi's Diner. There will not be a Blue Breakfast in December. Judy said there would be a Grand Dems Holiday Dinner at Angela's on December 5 instead of the regular Blue Dinner. It will be similar to a Blue dinner but the social committee will provide decorations, prizes and dessert. There may be a small fee but that is to be determined. Watch for future information about the Holiday Dinner.

Old Business:

Proposed Bylaws: Bob Walling reminded the membership that the proposed bylaw changes have been posted on the website as required. He explained some of the changes included in the proposed new bylaws. One change involves those who belong to the club but don't live in Grand. They were previously called Donor Friends and would now be referred to as Guest Members. As before, only Resident Members are allowed to vote and hold office.

He explained some minor changes in naming related to Sun City Grand becoming The Grand. There are also provisions to change officer duties outside of a future bylaw changes.

After a reminder that only resident members are allowed to vote, a motion was made by Roger Peterson to accept the bylaw change. The motion was seconded by Edra Jandro. Resident members voted unanimously to accept the bylaw changes.

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Program:

Sheriff Paul Penzone – Bob highlighted many of Sheriff Penzone's accomplishments as Maricopa County Sheriff over the last seven years during his introduction.

Sheriff Penzone thanked the community for the opportunity to serve saying the most gratifying thing was the renewed emphasis on the people doing the job instead of the focus on the sheriff as it was with his predecessor.

He reported there have been very difficult events during his tenure but if they do the job appropriately, they are not noticed. That is what is so different from eight years ago and is what he is most proud of.

Sheriff Penzone is not running for re-election for the good of his family and because he believes there are good people in the office who are interested in running. His new position will be in the private sector and is one that invests in the community.

Since Sheriff Penzone will leave his position before his current term is over, his chief deputy will serve as an interim. A decision will be made on how and when to appoint a democrat to replace him until the next election.

There was a period of questions and answers.

U.S. Congressional District (CD8) Candidates - We have five candidates running in the CD8 democratic primary. Speaking briefly to introduce themselves were Jim Holmes, Marc Lewis, Greg Whitten and Steven Sawdy. Bernadette Greene Placentia was represented by her daughter.

Sarah Tyree – Chair of LD29 gave a brief treasurer's report for LD29. She then gave a presentation called Bridging the Gap that highlights goals to decrease the voter and representation gap related to age and racial backgrounds within the new LD29. After redistricting, the new district includes more working families and people of color. She emphasized that LD29 is winnable stating that the district went from bright red to pink in just two cycles.

New Business:

Slate of Candidates – President Bob Walling introduced the current slate of candidates for consideration at the next general meeting. Current board members running for re-election include Treasurer Jim Coffran and Members at Large Kevin Boivin, Ken Kessler, and Barbara Nelson. A new candidate, Carol Parnell is running for Secretary. The board still needs a Vice President candidate.

Raffles: 50:50 and Wine Snob – Ken Kessler conducted the drawings for both raffles. The club collected \$90 on its share of the 50-50 raffle.

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Next Meeting – The next meeting will be held on November 15th at 5:45pm in the Agua Fria Room at Cimarron Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22.

Submitted by,

Serene Matthews

Grand Dems Co-Secretary

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