

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
GRAND DEMOCRATS
APRIL 27, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Reed at 6:30 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Marty Cohen.

A motion to accept the minutes of the March 23, 2016, meeting as published on the website was made by Sharon Forbes and seconded by Harriet Kahn.

The President gave the Treasurer's report. Checking account balance is \$6,643.64 and Savings account balance is \$1,241.79 for a total of \$7,885.43. We will be using some of these funds to assist candidates in the upcoming elections.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: We currently have 104 members and our Membership Chair, Paula Parkel announced that new members can get a name tag for \$10.00. She also encouraged guests to join. Attendance this evening was 95.

Social: Diane Miller reported good turnouts for breakfast (13) and dinner (23) this month.

Fundraising: Harriet Kahn reported that our fundraiser on April 3 raised \$1,050. The funds expended for the event only amounted to \$100.00. Members of the committee prepared and donated the food along with their time. They are planning another event in November.

Elections: Barbara Nelson thanked members and others for signing petitions for candidates running in the upcoming elections. She explained the need for signatures to get on the ballot as well as collecting \$5.00 to qualify for clean elections money under the clean elections law.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Reed asked for a show of hands from attendees if they received our recent postcard mailing. Most raised their hands.

President Reed recognized Diane Miller for her dedication to the Grand Dems. She regularly attends the Grand Breakfasts and Grand Dinners and encourages attendance to our meetings. She serves as a Member-at-Large and attends Board meetings as such. She arranges for the refreshments at our General Meetings and makes good cookies. Diane was applauded by the audience and given a coffee mug.

President Reed reported that Sun City Grand contributed \$4,815.57 to Kids Grand Hand this past year. This is the total contributed from individuals from Sun City Grand as well as from two groups in Sun City Grand of which we are one. He explained that we have a collection jar at all of our meetings to collect your change for this charity and encouraged participation. Monies go to the Dysart School District for supplies and other needs of children within the school district.

SPEAKER:

Program Co-Chair Roger Rhodes introduced our speaker, Mayor of Surprise Sharon Wolcott.

The Mayor gave us a history of where Surprise was before she became Mayor and where we are going as a city. She encouraged involvement by all residents in Surprise in meetings affecting future decisions about how we will be growing as a city. She stressed attendance at these Council meetings and elsewhere do make a difference in reaching decisions.

She pointed out that the top priority for 2017 is a safe community. This means hiring more police, fire, and emergency management employees. Of course, more staff means more cost and just how these positions will be funded is still an ongoing debate. There are several options on the table at this time and she encouraged residents to express their views to their council members and attend meetings if they could.

There were many questions from the audience from where we now stand in our Bond rating—it is now AA- which is a good rating—to when can we expect to see a CostCo in Surprise—continuing to be on the agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS:

President Reed announced our next Adopt-A-Street cleanup will be Saturday, May 7, 2016. Meet at 7:50 a.m. on the corner of Mountain View and Reems.

Marty Cohen announced that he will be hosting a Meet and Greet for Ann Kirkpatrick, candidate for U.S. Senate, on Saturday, April 30 from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. and passed around maps for interested persons.

President Reed announced that he and Barbara will be hosting a Meet and Greet for Bill Mundell and Tom Chabin, candidates for the Corporation Commission, at their home on Tuesday, May 3 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

President Reed reminded anyone who did not have an opportunity for the 50/50 raffle to purchase their tickets and to also donate to the Kids Grand Hand fund.

The 50/50 raffle collected \$78.00 and the winner of half the monies collected was Sue Norton.

President Reed announced next month our speakers will be Michael Muscato, Candidate for AZ Senate in LD-22; and Manny Hernandez, Candidate for AZ House in LD-22. In June our speaker will be Paul Penzone, Candidate for Maricopa County Sheriff.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Cotton Secretary

