

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

GRAND DEMOCRATS

FEBRUARY 28, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Roger Rhodes in the absence of President Bill Shields at 6:36 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Vice President Rhodes.

Vice President Rhodes welcomed all attendees and asked new members and guests to stand. He thanked all in attendance.

No corrections or changes were offered to the minutes of the January 24, 2018 meeting. The minutes as posted on the website are approved.

VICE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS Vice President Rhodes cited a recent *Time* magazine article noting the extraordinary number of women running for state and national offices. He attributed the higher number to the Women's Marches and newly formed grass roots groups such as ***Indivisible***.

TREASURER'S REPORT Vice President Rhodes gave the treasurer's report on behalf of Paula Wilson, Treasurer. He reported that we currently have a healthy balance of \$5400 in checking and \$2600 in savings for a grand total of \$8000.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program: Barbara Nelson, Program Co-Chair, announced upcoming meeting speakers: March 28th - candidates for the Arizona State Legislature; April 25th - candidates for the AZ Corporation Commission, May 23rd - candidates for state level offices; and June 27th - candidate for Arizona State Mine Inspector.

Membership: Vice President Rhodes shared information from Paula Parkel, Membership Chair. Currently, the Club has reached a record-setting 150 members.

OLD BUSINESS

Candidate Questionnaire: Barbara Nelson reported that responses from our questionnaire are coming in from Democrats running for Arizona and US Congressional offices, both House and Senate. Their responses will be compiled and made available.

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2018 Kickoff Event: March 24th will be the 2018 Kickoff Event at the Sonoran Lakeside Pavilion from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Vice President Rhodes noted this will be a “mixer” and an opportunity “to get to know each other” as we move forward to get out the vote and elect the best candidates to represent Arizona at the state and national levels. The deadline to RSVP Carol Hodgson (bearcataz@yahoo.com) is March 21st.

NEW BUSINESS

“Outlaw Dark Money”: Mark Hamilton, Board Member at Large, discussed the statewide effort to gather petition signatures to get a Constitutional amendment to outlaw dirty money on the November 2018 ballot. He noted major campaign contributors would have to disclose anyone spending more than \$10,000 to oppose or support candidates or ballot measures. He urged everyone to sign the petition and to take petitions for friends and neighbors to sign.

CD 8 Matters: Frank Reed, LD 22 Chair, announced the newly opened LD 21 and 22 campaign office located at 9163 West Union Hills Drive, Suite 112, Peoria. He urged members to go and get involved or call Luis Joy Perez at (787) 613-9580 for more information.

Antonia Scatton, representative from Up Rise, spoke about the various volunteer opportunities to become involved in the 2018 election at the grass roots level from writing postcards to the electorate, hosting house parties for candidates, monitoring tables at public events, etc. Members can become involved by emailing her at Antonia@uprise.org or calling her at (202) 487-0187.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKERS

Sharon Levinson briefly summarized information about the four Democratic candidates for Jeff Flake’s US Senate seat: Deedra Abboud, Dale Christopher Russell, Richard Sherzan and Kyrsten Sinema. Deedra and Richard were in attendance. Representative Sinema was unable to attend since the US House is in session so was represented by a video presentation. Each candidate was asked to tell, if elected, what they hoped to accomplish, the expertise and experience that qualified them and what it will take to win. Each of the two speakers was given 15 minutes with 5

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minutes for follow-up questions. The regular Election Year General Election dates include the August 28th Primary with the final vote on November 6th.

Vice President Rhodes thanked each presenter and gave each the Grand Dems coffee mug.

50-50 RAFFLE

The drawing was held for the 50/50 raffle which collected \$149, half of which was won by Paula Wilson.

The next Grand Dems General Meeting will be Wednesday evening, March 28, 2018. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Hodgson, Secretary