

# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

## GRAND DEMOCRATS

February 27, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Hamilton at 6:31 p.m. President Hamilton led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

President Hamilton welcomed all attendees, including new members and guests, and asked them to stand to be recognized.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** No corrections or changes were offered to the minutes of the January 23 General Membership meeting. The minutes were approved as posted on the website.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS** President Hamilton introduced Board members present. He stated a need for Fund Raising chair and requested a volunteer. "Ditch Mitch" is a new fund raising campaign announced to raise funds for a Democratic candidate to run against Mitch McConnell. From the LD 22, the Request to Speak process was highlighted with further information to come. He introduced Roland Winters, Vice Mayor of Surprise as a dignitary in attendance.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** President Hamilton introduced Paula Wilson, Treasurer who announced that the balance is \$2,611.48, will continue to grow as memberships come in for 2019 and fund raising activities commence.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: President Hamilton introduced Dianne Miller, Chairperson who reported current membership at 263 with 10 new members in January.

Social: President Hamilton introduced Pattie Doss, Social Chair, who announced a Happy Hour social on March 7 at State 48 Brewery starting at 4 pm. The spring party on Friday, March 22 "Celebrate the Blue Wave" will be held from 1:30-5:00 p.m. The cost is \$10 for current members and guests and \$15 for noncurrent members and guests. Attendees are requested to bring a side dish to pass. 27 people signed up for the party at the meeting. An eBlast will be sent out so that members can sign up and send their payment via US mail. Also, people can pay at the party on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Program Planning/Public Relations: The Co-Chair for Program Planning/ Public Relations, Joyce Bergen and Susan Lee Walling introduced our program speakers for the evening later in the program.

### OLD BUSINESS

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Ken Hanson, Vice President, provided background on Valley View Food Bank which has been selected by the Board as a charity project. Food will be collected each General Meeting for the remainder of the year to support the food bank.

New Business:

President Hamilton declared there was no new business.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

Susan Lee Walling, Co-Chair for Program Planning/ Public Relations, introduced Mr. Clint Hickman, Maricopa County Supervisor of District 4 which includes the Sun Cities. Mr. Hickman, a Republican, said that this was the first time he had been invited to speak at a Democratic Club. Being Vice President of Hickman Family Farms, Arizona's largest egg producer, he joked the he "brought eggs" in case we had tomatoes.

A fourth-generation Arizonan, he described his role as being similar to a County Commissioner which many people are familiar with. His presentation presented facts about Maricopa County (4<sup>th</sup> largest in the US) and the services the County Supervisors oversee including public health, flood control, law enforcement, judicial, parks, libraries, and more. Most services are in unincorporated areas of the county where city government services are not available.

The Board of Supervisors is comprised of four Republicans and one Democrat. He stated that they work with each other stating "a pothole doesn't know if it's Democrat or Republican." They just have to get the job done every day. He discussed the 2018 election issues with voting sites, wait times and lengthy vote counting. He agreed that it was important that every vote counts and that upgrades in the voting technology is important.

He described cities annexation of unincorporated land as a big issue the county faces as unincorporated developments depend upon the county to provide services. He described himself as "pro-growth,"

A lengthy Q&A followed with issues like mass transit funding, elections, water, tax payer funding of services, state legislature, school boards among others. He recommended inviting state representatives to question them on their positions and to pay very close attention to School Boards.

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President Hamilton thanked him for sharing his thoughts and Susan Lee Walling gave him a Grand Dems coffee mug as a token of appreciation.

President Hamilton introduced Joyce Bergen, Co-Chair of the Program Committee, who announced that the March 27, 2019 speakers would be Dr. Quinn Kellis, Superintendent of Dysart Unified School District, and Mr. Rick Stephen, Superintendent of the Nadaburg Unified School District. They will share their views on the greatest challenges to public education, how legislation can better serve the needs of students; what role bonds play in public education; challenges related to enrollment, teacher recruitment and retention; and how we can support public education in our community.

#### 50-50 RAFFLE

The drawing was held for the 50/50 raffle which collected \$82, half of which was won by Howard Neiberg in the drawing who donated his winnings to the Grand Dems.

**President Hamilton closed the meeting by thanking all members who brought in donations for the Food Drive.**

#### NEXT MEETING

The next Grand Dems General Meeting will be Wednesday evening, March 27, 2019.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Hamilton, Acting Secretary