

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

GRAND DEMOCRATS

JANUARY 24, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Shields at 6:36 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was led by President Shields.

President Shields welcomed all attendees and asked new members and guests to stand. He apologized for starting the meeting late; however, he noted he was thrilled because the room dividers needed to be opened so additional chairs could be added for the overflow crowd.

No corrections or changes were offered to the minutes of the November 15, 2017 meeting and a motion to approve the minutes as published on the website was made by Barbara Nelson and seconded by Sharon Forbes. The minutes were approved.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS President Shields relinquished making his comments in order that the guest speakers have more time for their presentations.

President Shields introduced Barbara Nelson, Co-Chair of Programs, to comment about the involvement of SCG Dems in the 2018 Women's March in Phoenix. She thanked the 50 people who rode the chartered Grand Dems bus to participate in the very uplifting march. President Shields thanked Barbara for all her efforts in coordinating the trip.

TREASURER'S REPORT President Shields gave the treasurer's report on behalf of Paula Wilson, Treasurer. He reported that we currently have a healthy balance of \$6900.62. He reminded everyone that it is membership renewal time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program: Sharon Levinson, Program Co-Chair, announced upcoming meeting speakers: February 28th - candidates for US Senate including Kyrsten Sinema; March 28th - candidates for the Arizona State Legislature; and April 25th - candidates for the AZ Corporation Commission. President Shields thanked both Barbara Nelson and Sharon for their exemplary work in program planning for Grand Dems.

Membership: Paula Parkel, Membership Chair, reported on Grand Dems extraordinary growth: 2014 had 154 members; 2015 had 123 members;

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2016 had 116 members; and 2017 had 200 members, nearly double the year before. She reported that already as of this early 2018 date, Grand Dems has 141 members. Paula announced that she will be retiring as Membership Chair which she has been for the past 5 five years. She encouraged anyone interested in serving in that capacity to come forth.

OLD BUSINESS

Candidate Questionnaire: President Shields reported he has sent out the Questionnaire to all Democrats running for state and US Congressional offices, both House and Senate. Their responses will be compiled and made available in a newsletter format to all Grand Dems by the end of next month.

NEW BUSINESS

2018 Kickoff Picnic: March 24th will be the 2018 Election Year Kickoff Picnic at the Sonoran Lakeside Pavilion from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. President Shields noted this will be an opportunity “to get on the same page” as we move forward to get out the vote and elect the best candidates to represent Arizona at the state and national levels.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKERS

Barbara Nelson summarized the unique status of elections taking place this year. Because AZ Representative Trent Franks resigned early from his US Congressional District (CD) 8 House seat, there will be an early special election to fill that vacancy until the 2018 Fall General Election in November. Special election dates to note include the February 24th Primary with the Election on April 24th. The regular Election Year General Election dates include the August 28th Primary with the final vote on November 6th.

Candidates running for the CD 8 seat include: Bob Musselwhite, Bob Olsen, Hiral Tiperneni and Brianna Westbrook. Hiral and Brianna are running in the upcoming Special Primary Election. Barbara asked each candidate to tell what they hoped to accomplish in the US House if elected, what experience they have and how Grand Dems can assist. Each of the four speakers was given 10 minutes with 5 minute follow-up questions. A robust discussion followed.

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

ARIZONA DEMOCRATIC PARTY: UPDATE ON CD 8 ELECTION & BEYOND

President Shields introduced Frank Reed, LD 22 Chair, and asked him to update everyone on what has been transpiring in the Legislative District to “get the vote out” for the upcoming elections. Frank announced that an LD 21 and LD 22 election office will be opened at the corner of 99th Avenue and Bell Road in Sun City. The Arizona Democratic Party has committed to funding about half of the \$60,000 needed to open the office for the election period with the rest of the money coming from individuals, clubs and benefactors. The work of this office will be to get new voters registered; registered voters out to vote, and promote the Permanent Early Voting List. Frank introduced two individuals very involved in this effort: Felicia Rotellini, possible incoming Chair of the Arizona State Committee and Jon Sutton, Field Staff of the Arizona Democratic Party. Both made comments describing their goals for CD 8 including getting the resources to make this office effective. With the Democratic National Committee investing in Arizona, everyone must help with contributions of time, energy and money.

50-50 RAFFLE

The drawing was held for the 50/50 raffle which collected \$108, half of which was won by Barry Bridges.

The next Grand Dems General Meeting will be Wednesday evening, February 28, 2018. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. with the mantra “Let’s go elect Dems!”

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Hodgson, Secretary