

# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

## GRAND DEMOCRATS

January 23, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Hamilton at 6:30 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 November 28, 2018 General Membership meeting. The minutes were approved as posted on the website.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS** President Hamilton outlined his 2019/2020 Preliminary Grand Democrats Strategy with five major themes He explained the high points under each. He introduced Barbara Nelson who discussed Nadaberg School District and how we have support the District. President Hamilton encouraged members to email their ideas to him at [granddems@gmail.com](mailto:granddems@gmail.com).

**TREASURER'S REPORT** President Hamilton gave the treasure's report with \$927 in checking and \$500 in savings for a total of \$1,427. The balance will continue to grow as memberships come in for 2019 and fund raising activities commence.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Diane Miller, Membership Chair: Due to the large number of member renewals and new member signups at the meeting, the membership committee was unable to provide an accurate report at this time. It will be reported next month.

Social: President Hamilton introduced Pattie Doss, new Social Chair, who discussed several social events planned this year including a spring party on Friday, March 22 with details to be announced, a fall fundraiser and events such as political movie nights and other ideas to build relationships with likeminded people.

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

There was no old business.

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### New Business:

President Hamilton described ways we are investigating to increase our marketing including monogrammed table cloths with the Grand Dems logo among other ideas.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

Susan Lee Walling, Co-Chair for Program Planning/ Public Relations, introduced the first speaker Maricopa County Democratic Party Director (MCDP) of Operations Maritza Miranda Saenz, who stood in for Miguel Medrano, Executive Director (who had a family emergency). Ms. Saenz was born and raised in a Democrat political family, in the SW valley; she is an ASU graduate and has worked on 14 campaigns. She expressed appreciation in knowing that an organization like Grand Dems exists and is engaged. She stated that the MCDP is there to help us and support our work. Ms. Saenz gave some fun facts about the past election including electing the first women from AZ to the US Senate, winning 3 statewide offices (Secretary of State, Superintendent of Education and Arizona Corporation Commission) and picking up 4 seats in the State Legislature. She discussed the different ways Democrats and Republicans frame the issues but they share the same basic concerns for their families e.g. quality schools, affordable and available health care, but just “care about them differently.” She said “We as Dems have a whole lot in common.” We need to start and continue building today for the 2020 election cycle. Build an army, but we have only 11 months to do so. She outlined strategies for things we can do giving a very uplifting talk. During the Q&A period, one member stated “You should run for office.”

Joyce Bergen, Co-Chair for Program Planning/ Public Relations, introduced the second speaker of the evening. Bobbie Kithcart, Chair of Legislative District 22 (LD22). Ms. Kithcart has a Master’s Degree in Health Care Management and worked in the field as well as a small business owner specializing in Strategic Planning. She became active in democratic issues through the special election and 2018 mid-term election campaign. She stressed that this is our LD and we must work together to make it work. In LD 22, we really turned out the vote this election Ms. Kithcart shared statistics with the political representation in AZ, Maricopa County, LD 22 and Sun City Grand. She stressed creating a short and long term game plan. She stressed educating voters and looking at all levels of government, both local, county and state. A Q&A followed. Very important information was shared and appreciated.

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President Hamilton thanked them for sharing their thoughts and gave them a Grand Dems coffee mug as a token of appreciation.

#### 50-50 RAFFLE

The drawing was held for the 50/50 raffle which collected \$84, half of which was won by Howard Neiberg in the drawing. **He generously returned the money to the Club**

**President Hamilton closed the meeting by thanking all members who brought in donations for MCDP to distribute to needy families.**

#### NEXT MEETING

The next Grand Dems General Meeting will be Wednesday evening, February 27, 2019. Our Speaker will be Mr. Clint Hickman. Supervisor, District 4 (includes Surprise) of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Walling, Secretary