

# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

## GRAND DEMOCRATS

June 26, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Hamilton at 6:30 p.m. He led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Hamilton welcomed all attendees including new members and guests. He also recognized two special guests needing no introduction.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** No corrections or changes were offered to the minutes of the May 22, 2019 meeting. The minutes are approved as circulated. (Attached)

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS** President Hamilton noted the importance of the "outlawing dirty money" campaign. Last year's petition drive was unsuccessful so this is a *new petition drive* to get the Outlaw Dirty Money initiative on the ballot in 2020. This is a critical issue that must be addressed because of all the "outside" money coming into Arizona to influence our elections. He had extra petitions for anyone wishing to obtain voter signatures. He noted the Arizona Primary in 2020 has been moved up to August 4 which accelerates the activities.

President Hamilton summarized some of the most recent national news including the useless testimony of Hope Hicks before a Congressional committee, a near-war with Iran, new revelations of treatment of children at the border, the upcoming Mueller testimony, new allegations of sexual assault by the President, a Twitter war with the US Women's Soccer team, and the absurdity of the recently awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom to Arthur Laffer.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** President Hamilton called upon Treasurer Paula Wilson for the Treasurer's report. She reported we have \$3,015.37 in our accounts.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Dianne Miller, Membership Chair, reported that Grand Dems have a record 287 members plus two new members who just joined.

Social: President Hamilton reminded everyone that "game night" is Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at his home. Also, there will be a gathering of Grand Dems at State 48 Brewery on July 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4:00 p.m.

### OLD BUSINESS

None to come before the membership.

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### NEW BUSINESS

None to come before the membership.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

President Hamilton introduced Founder and President Jesse Ramirez Sr. of Valley View Community Food Bank, a non-profit charity, located in and serving the local Surprise, El Mirage, and Sun Cities in the Northwest Valley through its food pantry and thrift store.

Mr. Ramirez stressed over and over that we must show respect for those who, due to hard times, need to put food on the table for their family. He has been in this industry for 34 years so understands the crisis that Arizona is the fifth largest “food-insecure” area in the Nation. Valley View serves the community 24 hours a day as needed because they recognize that hunger knows no hours. Not only is food available, including fresh vegetables and fruits, but also some limited services are available to assist with prescriptions and doctor co-pays in emergency situations. Often Valley View is a last resort for people/families so every effort is made to assist however they can.

There are many ways for Democrats to assist Valley View in serving its clientele: volunteer at the Pantry or at the Thrift Store in SCW; use the Arizona tax credit against your state tax liability; and sign on Fry’s Foods Stores “community rewards” program.

Several people in the audience spoke of the positive impact of Valley View including Marge Clark, Chair of the Board. President Hamilton will get out an email with detailed information on making donations.

President Hamilton thanked Mr. Ramirez and gave him a Grand Dems coffee mug in appreciation for coming to share with Grand Dems.

### 50-50 RAFFLE

The drawing was held for the 50/50 raffle which collected \$44, half of which was won by Frank Reed who in turn donated his share to Valley View Community Food Bank.

Grand Dems does not meet in July and August. However, various social events such as Blue Breakfasts, Blue Mondays, Game Night, State 48 Brewery gathering, and more will continue throughout the summer. The next Grand Dems General Meeting

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will be Wednesday evening, September 25, 2019. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Hodgson, Interim Secretary