

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
GRAND DEMOCRATS
MARCH 23, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Reed at 6:36 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Joe Williams.

A motion to accept the minutes of the February 24, 2016, meeting as published on the website was made by Judith Bridges and seconded by Paula Wilson.

The President gave the Treasurer's report. Checking account balance is \$5,836.65 and Savings account balance is \$1,241.58.

The President mentioned that we will be adding to those balances with the upcoming fundraiser. Funds will be used to assist candidates in the upcoming elections.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: We currently have 91 members.

Social: Diane Miller reported good turnouts for breakfast (16) and dinner (23) this month.

Fundraising: Judith Bridges reminded attendees of the upcoming fundraising event on April 3. She passed out flyers for interested persons and reported we have 40 persons signed up so far. She said most of the funds collected for the event will go into our Treasury for elections this year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Reed announced our Garage Sale scheduled for April 9, 7:00a.m. to 12:00 noon. A clipboard is being passed around for volunteers to help staff our space with 2-hour shifts. We will not be selling items but encouraging people to register to vote and to sign up for PEVL (permanent early voting list). Several candidates will be dropping by our space to gather signatures on petitions.

President Reed recognized Ethel Brown for her untiring volunteerism over the years for the Grand Dems. She has been a Precinct Committee person, worked our membership/greeting table at meetings and made more phone calls in the previous general election than anyone else. Ethel was applauded by the audience and given a coffee mug.

SPEAKER:

Program Co-Chair Lee Askern introduced our first speaker for the evening. Susie Ratley is the Adult Education Director at the Dysart Community Center. Ms. Ratley gave us an in-depth review on all of the activities of the Center. The Center first opened in 1962 as a clinic for migrant workers and has evolved since then to include many other functions. They provide ESL classes (1 on 1); Citizenship classes, GED classes and

many youth programs. She encouraged attendees to come by the center for a tour and to please consider volunteering with the center.

President Reed thanked Ms. Ratley and gave her a Grand Dems coffee mug.

President Reed then introduced our next two speakers: Tom Chabin and Bill Mundell. They are candidates running as a team for the Arizona Corporation Commission. There are three vacancies up for election this year and Mr. Chabin and Mundell hope to occupy two of those positions.

Mr Chabin and Mr. Mundell spoke about how the APS uses money we pay for our electricity to help fund their “dark money” influence in elections. They also said that APS, along with other electric utility providers in the State, are trying to kill solar in Arizona.

Mr. Chabin and Mr. Mundell believe the future of energy and solar will be with individuals using batteries in their homes to provide and store their own energy without using APS or other utilities. They want to look to the future for energy production and not stay with old ways.

Both Mr. Chabin and Mr. Mundell asked for our support and encouraged us to tell friends and neighbors about their positions. They are eager to present their ideas to any group to get the word out. Both are running for clean elections.

President Reed thanked both gentlemen and provided them with Grand Dems coffee mugs.

President Reed then introduced several candidates present at the meeting and gave them each several minutes to address the audience.

First introduced was Michael Muscato who is running for State Senate for Legislative District 22. Mr. Muscato thanked us for our interest by signing his petition and donating the \$5.00 for clean elections.

Next was Manny Hernandez who is running for the State House of Representatives from Legislative District 22. Mr. Hernandez also thanked us for our interest by signing his petition and donating the \$5.00 for clean elections.

The next person was Matthew Lewandowski, who is on LD-22 Board and running to be a delegate to the DNC for Bernie Sanders. He passed out a data sheet to those interested.

Our final presenter was Jim Biundo, currently our City Council Representative and running to be re-elected to that position. Mr. Biundo informed us that our District #2 has the highest voter turnout in the area. He is also currently serving as Vice Mayor.

OTHER BUSINESS:

At the conclusion of our candidates statements, President Reed reminded attendees of the Grand Kids donations which go to the Dysart School District and our 50/50 Raffle.

The 5050 raffle collected \$75.00 and the winner of half the monies collected was Joe Williams.

No further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Nancy Williams and the meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Cotton, Secretary