

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

GRAND DEMOCRATS

MARCH 28, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Roger Rhodes at 6:36 p.m. with him leading the pledge of allegiance.

President Rhodes welcomed all attendees and explained that he is now serving as President. Former President Bill Shields has accepted an interim position at a college in Michigan where he will serve for the next year to 18 months. At the last Grand DEMS Board of Directors meeting, it was decided that Vice President Rhodes should move into the position of President and Board member Mark Hamilton will move into the position of Vice President. He noted that Bill's leadership will be missed but he will be welcomed back when he returns to SCG.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS** President Rhodes commented on the Grand Dems Election Kickoff Mixer held March 24, 2018. He thanked all those who helped make it happen. About 90 people attended the festive event. He hopes a similar event can be held next year. In addition, attendees celebrated Grand DEMS member Ethel Brown's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with cake.

President Rhodes noted that about 250 Democrats attended Dr. Hiral Tipirneni's rally on Saturday in LD 21 and she has other upcoming events scheduled.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** No corrections or changes were offered to the minutes of the February 28, 2018 meeting. The minutes as posted on the website are approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** President Rhodes gave the treasurer's report on behalf of Paula Wilson, Treasurer. He reported that we currently have a healthy balance of \$5479 in checking and \$2621 in savings for a grand total of \$8100.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Program:** Barbara Nelson, Program Co-Chair, announced upcoming meeting speakers: April 25<sup>th</sup> - candidates for the AZ Corporation Commission; May 23<sup>rd</sup> - candidates for state level offices of Attorney General and Secretary of State; and June 27<sup>th</sup> - candidates for Arizona State Mine Inspector position and the Maricopa Community College Governing Board.

Barbara thanks all those who have been writing postcard voting reminders being sent to registered voters in CD 8 in support of Dr Hiral Tipirneni's campaign.

**Membership:** Vice President Rhodes noted we have a record-setting 200+ members.

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### OLD BUSINESS

2018 Kickoff Event: Reference summary under President's Comments.

### NEW BUSINESS

"Outlaw Dark Money": Mark Hamilton, newly appointed Vice President, has been and continues to gather petition signatures to get a Constitutional amendment to outlaw dirty money on the November 2018 ballot. President Rhodes urged everyone to sign the petition.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKERS

Sharon Levinson, Program Co-Chair, briefly introduced each of the four candidates running for the Arizona Senate and House: Wendy Garcia, Valerie Harris, Teri Sarmiento and Brianna Westbrook. Each candidate was asked to tell, if elected, what they hoped to accomplish, the expertise and experience that qualified them and what it will take to win. Each of the two speakers was given 15 minutes with 5 minutes for follow-up questions. The regular Election Year General Election dates include the August 28<sup>th</sup> Primary with the final vote on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

Frank Reed, LD 22 Chair, announced that there would be canvassing on Saturday March 31<sup>st</sup> from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. for anyone who wished to join in.

### 50-50 RAFFLE

The drawing was held for the 50/50 raffle which collected \$104, half of which was won by Judy Shields.

The next Grand Dems General Meeting will be Wednesday evening, April 25, 2018. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Hodgson, Secretary