

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

GRAND DEMOCRATS

MARCH 27, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Hamilton at 6:31 p.m. President Hamilton led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

President Hamilton welcomed all attendees including new members and guests.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES No corrections or changes were offered to the minutes of the February 27, 2019 meeting. *A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as posted on the website. The motion passed as stated.*

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS President Hamilton shared the 2019/2020 Grand Dems Strategy and emphasized several points. Under "Stay Actively Involved" he noted that the Request to Speak (RTS) state system gives all voters the opportunity to give feedback directly to the State House and Senate to have our voices heard. Fund raising is important in order to have an impact. He announced that the fund raiser held Friday, March 22nd raised \$352. He and his wife Nancy plan to host a fund raiser in early November to kick off the 2020 Election year activities. Under "Charity" the Club has reestablished contact with Valley View Community Food Bank. They are appreciative of all donations received. **Anyone interested in volunteering a couple hours should contact President Hamilton or Vice President Hanson for more information.** Under "Be more Social" President Hamilton noted at the Grand Dems fund raiser, the Club celebrated Club Member Ethel Brown's 101st birthday with her. The weather, food and camaraderie were excellent. Social Committee Chair Pattie Doss thanked all who helped make it an awesome success. The Board is considering a joint holiday party including the Northwest Valley Democrats and possibly LD22. Some other social activities being considered include gatherings at State 48 Brewery, possible book club, attendance at a local comedy club and social games night. **Anyone with other social ideas should contact President Hamilton or Committee Chair Doss.** President Hamilton showed LD 22 Presidential Preference Election/AZ Election Timeline table of planned activities in 2019 and 2020. **He highlighted several upcoming activities in which Grand Dems could be involved in April and May including volunteering to be a PC and voter registration.**

TREASURER'S REPORT President Hamilton called upon Treasurer Paula Wilson to give the Treasurer's report. She reported that currently we have \$3,020.55 in checking and savings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: President Hamilton asked Membership Chair Dianne Miller to give an update. She reported that seven new residents just joined Grand Dems.

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OLD BUSINESS

None to come before the Membership.

NEW BUSINESS

President Hamilton announced that on April 17 at 4:00 p.m. in the Sonoran Ballroom, Nancy Hayden, Surprise City Council member, along with other City Council members, will be hosting a town hall meeting for input concerning development of the Surprise City Center area. **He encouraged everyone to attend and participate in the future of the City of Surprise.**

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKERS

Joyce Bergen, Program Planning/Public Relations Co-Chair, briefly introduced the two guest speakers - school superintendents Dr Quinn Kellis, Dysart Unified School District and Rick Stephen, Nadaburg Unified School District.

Dr Kellis emphasized that Dysart is taking the opportunity with parents and nonparents to look at how the schools and community can serve each other better. Dysart has three areas of emphasis for students: Academics – focus on student academic experience; Arts – focus on creativity and excellence; Athletics – strong academics stressing sportsmanship and character. Dysart participates in West MEC as the pathway to careers with certification for business and industry. A goal for students going on to higher education is for all to be prepared without needing remediation classes.

Mr. Stephen noted that Nadaburg schools are raising expectations, improving students' educational experiences, providing more teacher in-service and helping students become successful. He complimented Grand Dems member Barbara Nelson who volunteers offering her educational expertise to assist students and teachers. Kudos to Barbara! The Nadaburg schools are getting more involved in the community offering a health clinic, Adult GED, student volunteering, and after school programs.

Much of their discussion focused on the greatest challenges facing education: family support, parental education, funding for counselors/social workers and unfunded mandates such as transportation, special education, after school programs. Successful school bonds allow school boards additional dollars for capital improvements, maintenance and repairs, technology and transportation needs.

Both school districts need volunteers. **Everyone was encouraged to consider volunteering as the districts will find a place where each volunteer can assist.**

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President Hamilton thanked each superintendent for coming and sharing their passion of educating the citizens of tomorrow.

50-50 RAFFLE

The drawing was held for the 50/50 raffle which collected \$86, half of which was won by an attendee.

ADJOURNMENT

Before adjourning President Hamilton announced the next Grand Dems General Membership meeting set for Wednesday evening, April 24, 2019. Joe Murphy, Field Director of the Arizona AFL/CIO will be addressing the state of unions today. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Hodgson, Interim Secretary