

Grand Democrats
General Membership Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2023 - 6:00pm Mesquite Room/Sonoran Plaza

- 1. Members and guests started coming together at 6:00 P.M. enjoying Cookies, Coffee & Conversation**
- 2. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:** President Suzi Walling called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M. Suzi Walling and Vice President Bob Walling led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. Minutes of February 22, 2023 General Meeting:** Nancy A. Martin, co-secretary, asked for comments or corrections of the minutes. Nancy told the attendees that they can find the minutes on the Grand Dems website. No one had any corrections and the minutes were approved.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Jim reported that the February balance was \$3,920.95 and that the adjusted balance for February and March equaled \$4,510.10. The total expenses for February were \$353.10 Political contributions in the amounts of \$750.00 were made to the Maricopa County Democratic Party and \$500.00 to the Arizona Democratic Party.
- 5. President's Comments:**

Suzi Walling welcomed new and renewed members. She announced that Dwight Moore and Terry Goddard are tonight's speakers. She also told the members that there will be no vote to change the By-laws since further discussion will be necessary.

Suzi reported that on May 4, 2023, there will be a joint meeting of several Legislative Districts and Dems Clubs hosting Secretary of State Adrian Fontes and Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richer to discuss the voting process in Arizona. The discussion will take place at Rio Vista Recreation Center in Peoria, AZ. Grand Dems are encouraged to attend.

Bob Walling indicated that Democratic candidates would have several opportunities to run for local political offices in 2024. There will be one seat open in the Arizona Senate and two seats open in the Arizona house. He indicated that we need Democrats to run for these positions. There will also be two seats to fill on the Arizona Commission Board. Bob encouraged those attending tonight's meeting to step up and join the Grand Dems voting committee. Our club needs to engage registered Sun City Grand Democratic voters and encourage them to vote up and down the ballot. Finally, Bob told members that the updated Grand Dems brochures are available at tonight's meeting.

6. Committee Reports:

- a. Membership:** Carol Karsten reported that five new people signed up tonight to be Grand Dem members; two of which are brand new members. That brings the total of Grand Dem members to one and seventy two. Bob indicated that Suzi sent out forms to past Grand Dem members hoping that they would either update their Grand Dems membership or at least donate to the club.

- b. Program/Publicity:** Bob announced that the April speakers will include Clint Hickman, chairman of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, and Laura Metcalfe, candidate for the Maricopa County Superintendent of Public Schools in 2024. In addition, Ally Cline, District 2 Councilperson for the City of Surprise will speak to our group in May. Bob is also hoping that a member of Bikers Against Addiction will be available to speak to our members in June. Bob encouraged members to step up to become program chair or give him a suggestion for future speakers.
- c. Fundraising:** Ken Kessler was not in attendance and no report was given at tonight's meeting.
- d. Social Activities:** Judy Shields thanked Annie Banton for bringing the cookies to tonight's meeting. New location for the Blue Breakfast is Biscuits Cafe in Surprise. Twenty people attended breakfast in March. Attendees thought that the quality of food was better than at Chef Peters. Judy asked for members' comments as to whether we should continue breakfasts at the Biscuits Cafe. Blue Dinners are held at Angela's Kitchen in the Grand. Feedback from members indicated that the location is good and that they like the happy hour. Judy said that it is imperative that they let her know if they are unable to attend once they have sent in their RSVP. Judy reminded members that the Annual Spring Picnic will be held at the Grand Pavilion on Tuesday, March 28th at 1:00pm.. Walk - Ins are welcome. Tickets cost \$10.00 for members and \$15.00 for nonmembers.

7. Old Business: None

8. New Business: None

9. Program Guest Speakers: Bob Walling introduced tonight's Speakers: Terry Goddard and Dwight Moore

- a. **Dr. Dwight Moore: Chairman Emeritus of Arizona End- of -Life Options:** Dr. Moore addressed the two bills that have been introduced in the Arizona legislature related to Medical Aid in Dying. The bill gives Arizona residents an opportunity to choose their own end of life options. Currently, eleven states have adopted the "Death with Dignity Law" and the law provides specific guidelines for individuals who choose this option. When an individual receives a diagnosis of a terminal illness, they need to contact two physicians within fifteen days of the diagnosis and be administered a competency test. Two witnesses and two physicians need to agree that the individual's terminal diagnosis is accurate and that they are of sound mind and body. The patient decides when to pick up the medication and it's up to the individual to administer the life ending drug.

b. **Terry Goddard: Board President of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District: CAWCD:** Mr. Goddard declared that Arizona has a water crisis! The Central Arizona Project is a 336 mile canal that brings water from the Colorado River to Central and Southern Arizona. However, the climate crisis is contributing to drought, rising temperatures and reduced water levels of the Colorado River, Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Mr. Goddard indicated that CAWCD has a tiered action plan to address the continuing water shortage including communication with the agricultural community to reduce their water consumption. The Colorado River supplies water to seven states including Arizona and representatives from all seven states will be meeting in Phoenix this month to discuss the water shortage. On another topic, Mr. Goddard thanked members for supporting Prop 211. Its passage will bring transparency to campaign finance.

10. 50/50, Wine and Painting Raffle: The 50/50 raffle raised \$45.00 for Grand Dems. Tickets continued to be sold for the Wine and Painting Raffles.

11. The next Grand Dems General meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. at the Cimarron Center Aqua Fria Room.

Respectfully Submitted by

**Nancy A. Martin
Grand Dems Co-Secretary
March 24, 2023**

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