

Grand Dems General Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2022

1. **The Call To Order and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Bill Shields at 6:30 p.m.**
2. **Approval of the minutes:** The minutes of the October 26, 2022 General meeting were approved.
3. **President's Comments:**
 - a. Bill asked "What happened to the Red Tsunami? I think it hit the giant blue wall and turned into a red trickle. What an election to celebrate!" The last time Arizona had a Democratic governor and a secretary of state was in 1991, when Rose Mofford was Governor and Richard Mahoney was Secretary of State. Bill said that he was proud of the role that the Grand Dems played in this 2022 midterm election. The Grand Dems participated in a successful candidate rally, a massive voter guide project and donated \$5,000.00 to candidates.
 - b. Bill recognized Rachel Howard who was in attendance. She is a graduate student from the University of Chicago who is doing research on retirement communities.
 - c. Bill recognized Barbara Nelson who has been one of the most active members of the Grand Dems. After many years, Barbara is stepping down from some of her responsibilities. At tonight's General meeting, Barbara graciously accepted a citation as a life time member of the Grand Dems club.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Nancy Hamilton reported that expenses for the month of October totaled \$535.00, and the balance in the Grand Dems checking account equaled \$3,060.00. In addition, the Grand Dems received a total of \$524.00 during the month of October.
5. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Adopt - A- Street:** Dressed in Adopt - A - Street gear, Carol Karsten indicated that the next clean-up effort will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2022.
 - b. **Membership:** Carol reported that the Grand Dems had six new members in the month of October. One hundred and twenty-five members have renewed their membership for 2023. The Grand Dems have one hundred and forty-three current members that are paid up through 2022.

- c. **Social:** Nancy Hamilton reported that the Blue Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, December 6, at Chef Peters, at a new time: 9:15 a.m. Please take note that the Blue Dinner will be held on Wednesday, December 14 as Thursday, December 15 was unavailable at State 48.

6. **New Business:**

- a. **Election of new Board members in 2023:** Bill recognized and introduced each Board member candidate and they each gave a short biography of their life and what factors influenced their decision to become a member of the Grand Dems.
 1. **Kevin Boivin:** He was born and raised in Chicago. He has had a career in the insurance industry and is also a massage therapist. Kevin's parents were involved in Democratic politics in the west side of Chicago, and that led him to become a lifelong Democrat. Kevin has been a Grand Dems member since 2020. During this past year, he and Nancy have lived for part of the year in France and Portugal. This will be Kevin's second year on the Board.
 2. **Annie Banton:** She has been a Sun City Grand resident since 2017. Annie has an educational background in science and music. This has led her to be an active member of the Sun City Grand Drama Club, where she is currently the Chair of the Main Stage Play Selection Committee and a regular director of drama club performances. Annie has had an appreciation for the immigrant experience as she communicated with migrant workers in the 1960's.
 3. **Ken Kessler:** He moved to Sun City Grand from the state of Hawaii in 2020 and soon thereafter became a member of the Grand Dems. Ken was born and raised in California. He took an active role in helping Mark Hamilton and Bob Walling coordinating volunteers to distribute the Voters Guide.
- b. **Election of officer candidates in 2023:** Bill recognized each club officer candidate and they gave a short summary of their life's journey and how experiences led them to the Grand Dems.
 1. **Co-Secretaries:**
Nancy Martin: She was born and raised in the south suburbs of Chicago. Nancy was a teacher for thirty-five years in the Chicago

area. She understands the plight of the immigrant as she talked with her Polish immigrant grandparents about their struggles to assimilate in a new country. She is also a supporter of the unions as her dad was a lifelong member of the meat cutters union and Nancy herself was active in the teacher's union. She and her husband bought a home in Sun City Grand in 2009 and Nancy became a member of the Grand Dems in 2013. She has been on the Grand Dems Board since 2020 and has just completed her first year as secretary.

Serene Matthews: Serene and her husband moved to Sun City Grand from the state of Idaho in 2019. She is glad to be in the state of Arizona where Democrats have had more influence than in Idaho. She has a background in education, and as a kindergarten teacher, she remembers saying the Pledge of Allegiance with her kids and how the words "with liberty and justice for all" made such an impact on her vision for inclusion for all within the United States. She is so glad that she found the Grand Dems and became a member when they moved to Sun City Grand. Serene was the secretary of the Grand Dems in 2020 - 2021. She remained a member-at-large in 2022. In 2023, Serene will be a fulfill the role of co-secretary.

2. **Jim Coffran:** He was born and raised in New York City. He has a degree in Business, has served in the National Guard and has had a career as a social worker. He moved to Sun City Grand in 2005 and became a full-time resident in 2015. Jim's parents were democrats and proud union workers. His father always emphasized how important it was to help people. As a result, Jim realized that it was important to answer the call to join the Grand Dems as the 2023 treasurer. Jim is a lifelong democrat!
3. **Bob Walling:** Bob indicated that he is very excited to fill the role of Vice President on the Grand Dems Board. Jim grew up on a farm in Illinois. He has a bachelor's degree in education. He has been a music teacher, school administrator and financial aid officer. Most recently, Bob volunteered as a Board member of LD 29. He emphasized how proud he was of Scott Podeyn and David Raymer for making a run for the Arizona state House and Senate and thought they should be proud of the many votes they received even if they did not win their election. Bob said that he is so happy that Arizona will have a Democratic Governor and Secretary of State. He said that the Grand Dems need to stay involved in future elections. Finally, Bob helped to coordinate the Voter's Guide distribution effort.
4. **Susan Walling:** Suzi was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. She was a college administrator and director of student activities at the college level. While living in Michigan, she was Director of United Way. Suzi is a lifelong Democrat and a longtime member of the Grand Dems; in fact she used to be a Board member in the

Grand Dems. At the end of the year, she will be completing a term as a chair in Legislative District 29. Suzi volunteered to be the President of the Grand Dems in 2023, because she feels that it is very important for the Grand Dems to continue their work in the Democratic Party in the West Valley.

- c. **Election of Board candidates:** The members in attendance at the November Grand Dems General meeting, voted unanimously through affirmation to elect the new members of the 2023 Grand Dems Board.
- d. **Election of Officers:** The members in attendance at the November Grand Dems General meeting voted unanimously through affirmation to elect the new Board Officers to the 2023 Grand Dems Board.
- e. **Other:** Lynn Peters, treasurer of LD 29, reminded those in attendance that the LD 29 Board elections will be held on November 30, 2022. She pleaded for someone to volunteer and fill the roles of program director and secretary for the LD 29 Board. She asked interested parties to get in touch with her, Suzi or Bob Walling if they are willing to become a member of the LD 29 Board. Lynn Indicated that the speaker at the Nov. 30 Board meeting will be Julie Gunnigle who ran for Maricopa County Attorney in the 2022 midterms.

Nancy Martin thanked Bill Shields, Mark Hamilton and Paula Wilson for the long years of service on the Grand Dems Board.

7. **50 - 50 Raffle:** \$38.00 was awarded to a member of the Grand Dems.

8. **The Grand Dems General meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.**

9. **The next General meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 25, 2023**

Respectfully Submitted by
Nancy A. Martin
Grand Dems Secretary