

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
GRAND DEMOCRATS
OCTOBER 26, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Reed at 6:30 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Michael Muscato.

A motion to accept the minutes of the September 28, 2016, meeting as published on the website was made by Harriet Kahn and seconded by Jan Aston-Beazie.

The President gave the Treasurer's report stating we have \$2,211 in our checking account and \$1,243 in savings for a total of \$3,454.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Elections: Barbara Nelson alerted attendees to an article in the Surprise Today newspaper. She also thanked everyone involved in making the Rally on October 1 such a success. She received many thank you notes from candidates praising the Grand Dems for holding the event. Barbara reported that members of our Grand Democrats went door-to-door in Sun City Grand distributing information about candidates and the October 1 event. Every house in Sun City Grand was covered and Barbara thanked everyone involved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Marge Clark from the Valley View Community Food Bank reminded the audience that Arizona has just increased the dollar amount available for a tax credit for donations to the Food Bank. If you pay taxes in Arizona, your gift to the Food Bank can be applied toward a \$400 per person tax credit. The amount was \$200 previously. She also stated that on November 19 they will be filling Thanksgiving baskets at the United Methodist Church and encouraged anyone interested to come and help. They filled 5,000 baskets last year.

Election Night Party - Judith Bridges reminded the audience of the party on election night and referred to fliers on the membership table for interested persons to fill out. We have around 50 persons signed up so far. Cost is \$25.00 per person.

Nominating Committee - President Frank Reed is the Chair and he announced that we have several candidates for some of the Board positions; however, we

are still in need of a President. He asked if anyone was interested in the position and no one came forward. He announced that Roger Rhodes has filed for the position of Vice President; Linda Cotton has filed for the position of Secretary; Paula Wilson has filed for the position of Treasurer; and Frank Reed, Harriet Kahn and Diane Miller have filed for Members-at-Large positions. President Reed stated that if we do not have a President, the organization will have to disband and any monies we have on hand will go to LD22. President Reed also announced the need for someone to volunteer to be Program Chair and Public Relations Chair.

President Reed announced the only candidate in attendance this evening was Michael Muscato, running for Arizona Senate, who was acknowledged.

President Reed introduced Mark Leeper, the Senior Field Organizer for Legislative District 22 of the Arizona Democratic Party. Mr. Leeper thanked everyone in the Grand Dems for all of their hard work over the years which in turn has resulted in an office in LD 22 and ultimately his job. He has been very encouraged by all the activity of our organization has invited those in attendance to visit the office at North 83rd and Lake Pleasant Avenue. He indicated they can provide the information necessary for phone banks, door-to-door knocks and get out the vote efforts.

SPEAKER:

Vice President Roger Rhodes introduced our speaker for this evening, attorney Diane Post. Ms. Post has been an attorney for more than 36 years and is currently Chair of Legal Redress for the Maricopa County NAACP, coordinator for the Central Arizona National Lawyers Guild and legislative liaison for State NOW. Her topic this evening was Citizens United. She showed a film which illustrated how the rights of citizens have been eroding in favor of corporations over the years due to Supreme Court rulings. There followed a brief slide show and a question and answer session.

OTHER BUSINESS:

President Reed announced our speaker for next month will be Terry Young, Surprise Police Chief who will speak on police relationship with our community and the role that plays in combating crime. He reminded everyone that the meeting will be held on November 16, the 3rd Wednesday, due to Thanksgiving.

President Reed reminded attendees of our Grand Kids collection and encouraged donations.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Barbara Nelson who donated her share back to the Grand Dems.

No further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Bill Shields and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Cotton, Secretary