



GRANDDEM.ORG

GRAND DEMOCRATS

**Grand Democrats
General Membership Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2023 - 5:45 pm**

- 1. Members and guests began arriving at 5:45 pm enjoying coffee, cookies and conversation.**
- 2. Call to Order:** President Suzi Walling called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.
- 3. Rise to Sing the Star - Spangled Banner, our National Anthem:** Bob Walling led the membership in a rendition of the Star - Spangled Banner.
- 4. Minutes of June 28, 2023 General meeting:** Nancy A. Martin Co - Secretary, asked for comments or corrections of the June 28, 2023 minutes. No one had any corrections , and the minutes were approved by acclamation.

5. President's Remarks: President Suzi Walling welcomed everyone back to the meeting. She remarked that the Grand Dems will set their sights on November 5, 2024 as they work to re-elect President Joe Biden and elect Democrats running for Senate and Congressional seats in CD 8 and CD 9. She announced that Lynne Leonard will Coordinate the Elections Committee and Barbara Nelson will step into the vacant Member - At - Large position on the Board. In local news, Surprise voters will be voting on a one hundred million dollar bond for transportation and public safety. The city has promised that there will be no new taxes. Dues for the Grand Dems membership will increase to \$25.00. Now that the newly designed Grand Dems website is up and running, dues can be paid online. Suzi reminded everyone to bring non-perishable food items for the Valley View Community Food Bank. Finally, we welcome Steven Slugocki and AZ Secretary of State Adrian Fontes.

6. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jim Coffran reported that the opening balance in September was \$2,630.74. The current balance in the Grand Dems checking account is \$3,287.97. The total expenses for August were \$22.25 while the expenses in September equaled \$951.41 which included the final payment to the Granite Web Services.

7. Committee Reports:

a. Community Outreach: Kevin Boivin remarked that the Grand Dems donations are helping people in need. Individuals can also help by posting flyers reminding everyone where their donations can be delivered. Please know that monetary donations are accepted.

b. Elections: Elections Committee Coordinator Lynne Leonard indicated that the newly organized committee met for the first

time tonight. There will be several opportunities for members to support Democratic candidates by making phone calls, texting and post carding. Lynne said that the committee will need help with voter registration and signing of petitions. The committee will also participate in Grand events such as garage sales and Grand Open House Events.

c. Membership: Carol Karsten reported that at tonight's meeting, five new members signed up and there were also seven renewals. Carol encouraged members to renew their membership online.

d. Program/ Publicity: Vice President Bob Walling welcomed tonight's speakers Steven Slugocki, and AZ Secretary of State Adrian Fontes. Our October speakers will be Maricopa County Sheriff Paul Penzone and LD Chair Sarah Tyree. Catherine Nichols, Executive Director of Arizona List will be our speaker in November. Bob is pleased that so many are in attendance tonight and announced that members can RSVP on the Grand Dems website indicating that they plan on attending the meeting. Bob also thanked Barbara Nelson for her support on the Program/Publicity Committee.

e. Social: Judy Shields thanked the social committee for providing refreshments for tonight's meeting. The Grand Dem's breakfast in October will be located at Chef Peters. However, the Blue Breakfast will be looking for a new location in November as Chef Peters will be closing on October 31. The Grand Dem Blue Dinners will remain at Angela's Kitchen. We will be back on the patio in October. The Blue Breakfasts are held on the first Tuesday of every month. The Blue Dinners are held on the third Thursday of every month. However, there will be no Blue Dinner in November due to our wine tasting event and Thanksgiving. Please continue to RSVP when planning to attend the breakfasts and dinners. In addition, the social committee is planning a post-holiday party. The Annual Spring Picnic will be held on April 7, 2024. If you have any suggestions on future events, please see Judy Shields.

f. Fundraising: Ken Kessler announced that the 50/50 and Wine Snob Raffle will take place tonight. On Monday, November 13, 2023, forty eight Grand Dem members will have an opportunity to participate in a fundraising wine tasting event at Cooper's Hawk Winery and Restaurant. An email blast will be sent to members with details of the event.

8. LD 29 Update: LD 29 Chair Sarah Tyree said that the LD 29 Board

is looking for a vice chair who is able to speak Spanish. Voting will take place in October. Currently, LD 29 is in partnership with LD 25. LD 29 is also supporting LD 23; helping them solve problems. Sarah made a plea to those attending tonight's meeting to run for an open school board position. We need school board members who will ensure that our kids have the freedom to read and learn. Please see Sarah if you are interested. She wanted to let the members know that Independents can vote in the primaries. Independents can apply for a Ballot by Mail at Elections.Maricopa.gov. Finally, please support our local candidates running for AZ Senate and congressional seats. "We need to make sure that our Democratic candidates will get elected in 2024".

9. Old Business:

a. Bylaws: Vice President Bob Walling illustrated how to access the proposed by-laws on the Grand Dems website. Members will vote on the proposed changes in October.

b. Website: Bob Walling guided members through a visual presentation of the newly designed Grand Dems website. Several sections were highlighted. Members are able to check their voter status, look up upcoming events, pay their dues and donate to the Victory Fund.

10. New Business: Elections for the Board : Elections will be held in November. There will be an open seat for Vice President. Please step up and volunteer.

11. Program Guest Speakers: Bob Walling introduced tonight's speakers Steven Slugocki and Adrian Fontes giving a short bio for each speaker.

a. Steven Slugocki; Former Chair for the Maricopa County Democratic Party (MCDP) 2015 - 2020. Mr. Slugocki was on the campaign team that helped elect Adrian Fontes in 2020. He encouraged everyone to support the MCDP and help reelect Sheriff Paul Penzone and Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego. “We need to defeat those who want to destroy our democratic republic and support those who will defeat the extremists.” Mr. Slugocki introduced AZ Secretary of State Adrian Fontes.

b. Adrian Fontes ; Arizona’s Secretary of State: Mr. Fontes is unapologetic for his belief in our democratic process for all and of his support of the No Labels Party which makes many democratic organizations unhappy with his choice. As Arizona’s Secretary of State, Mr. Fontes believes in making voting easier for registered voters no matter what their party and is committed to preserving the integrity of our elections. Mr. Fontes is very aware that fascism including threats of bodily harm are “threatening your vote”. Even though he can not actively campaign for any one candidate within Arizona, he travels throughout the country seeking financial donations for Arizona’s Democratic organizations and candidates who will preserve our democratic values. He hopes we all stay engaged in the democratic process and he asked for financial support so he can continue serving the citizens of Arizona.

12. Raffles: The 50/50 raffle raised \$162.00 and the Wine Snob Raffle Raised \$120.00. A winner of the 50/50 and the Wine Snob Raffle was chosen.

13. The next Grand Dems General meeting will be held on October 25, 2023 at 5:45 pm at the Cimarron Center Agua Fria Room.

14. The meeting was adjourned by President Suzi Walling at 7:53 pm. `

Respectfully Submitted by

**Nancy A. Martin
Grand Dems Co - Secretary
September 27, 2023**