

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
GRAND DEMOCRATS
FEBRUARY 22, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Shields at 6:30 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Ethel Brown.

President Shields welcomed new members and guests and introduced Programs Co-Chair, Barbara Nelson, who introduced our speaker, recently elected Maricopa County Recorder, Adrian Fontes.

Mr. Fontes is a former U.S. Marine. He received a bachelor's degree from Arizona State University and a JD from Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver. He became a prosecutor with the Denver District Attorney's office and later with the Maricopa County Attorney's office and the Arizona Attorney General's office. He entered private practice in 2005.

Mr. Fontes began by thanking everyone who voted for him and worked so hard to aid in his election campaign. He said his motivation to run for the office of Recorder was a result of seeing so many people not being able to vote due to the long lines during our Primary in 2016.

Mr. Fontes explained the role of the County Recorder's office and how he is reorganizing it to be more responsive to the citizens of Maricopa County. He said he would be using data rather than politics to make decisions about adjustments in precinct lines and resource expenditures.

Mr. Fontes challenged the audience to become involved in small, local elections by bringing our skills and expertise to roles such as campaign manager,s finance managers or publicity managers to assist Democratic party candidates with their election campaigns. By assisting in these roles in the upcoming Fall elections for school boards, etc. we can gain valuable experience for the 2018 election cycle.

Mr. Fontes took numerous questions from the audience and provided informative responses. One question about how long it takes to count votes was answered by Mr. Fontes saying they needed more volunteers to

help with this. A web site “getinvolved.vote” will take you to a page to sign up to help with elections.

President Shields thanked Mr Fontes for his excellent presentation and Mr. Fontes agreed to stay for any further audience questions after the meeting.

Program Co-Chair, Barbara Nelson, then introduced Sue Dolphin, President of the School Board for the Nadaburg School District, who thanked the Grand Dems for making the Nadaburg School District one of our charities this year. Ms. Dolphin briefly told us about programs in the School District for which they are seeking volunteers from the public. These include a new GED program and help with reading and math. Interested persons should contact Ms. Dolphin at the Nadaburg School District.

Ms. Dolphin informed the attendees of the Tax Credit available for donations to the school district. Couples can get a \$400 credit and individuals can get a \$200 credit. These funds go directly to the school and are a dollar for dollar tax credit on your State taxes. She also mentioned the National Education Foundation which provides scholarships to teachers.

President Shileds thanked Ms. Dolphin and announced a break.

After a 10 minute break, the meeting resumed at 7:50 p.m.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Paula Wilson reported our current cash balance is \$4,459.74.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Paula Parkel announced we have 61 new members or renewed members from prior years for a total of 140 members so far this year. She also announced that she will be placing an order for name badges for anyone interested in having one. The cost is \$10.00.

Programs: Sharon Levinson, Co-Chair, announced the March 22 speaker will be Mary Jo Pitzl, Legislative Reporter for the Arizona Republic who will be speaking on activities in the Arizona legislature. The April 26 speakers will be Bill Mundell and Tom Chabin who will be speaking about the Arizona Corporation Commission, APS and solar. May 24, our speaker will be Cloves Campbell Jr., Co-Publisher of the Arizona Informant newspaper and a leader in African American activities in Arizona. Ms. Levinson encouraged the audience attendance for these speakers.

NEW BUSINESS: President Shields called on Barbara Nelson to explain an upcoming event called "Ides of March". This is an effort to send a message to the White House on March 15 via post card to let the President know your thoughts. Simply stating that you like the Affordable Care Act and don't like the talk about repealing Medicare or cutting Social Security. The post cards were available for interested persons along with the addresses of the White House and our Senators and Representative. The idea is to send all of these cards on the 15th of March. Many attendees took the postcards and address sheets. We will be communicating more of these types of activities as time goes on.

President Shields referenced our meeting last month where we set out some ideas for our priorities for this year and received suggestions from the members. The Board met and discussed these suggestions.

Number one is getting more Precinct Committee-persons (PC's). He announced that there will be two training sessions for interested persons as well as current PCs on March 11 from noon to 2:00 pm. and March 21 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Locations for these have yet to be determined but will be posted when available. These two sessions will provide the same training so you only need to attend one of them. He encouraged everyone to consider becoming a PC. We have numerous vacancies within Sun City Grand Precincts.

President Shields stated that we need volunteers to accomplish goals. He passed out a Grand Dems Volunteer Survey and asked members to please look these over, complete, and turn in at the end of the meeting.

The survey form included:

- Become a Precinct Committee-person
- Work on Grand Dems Newsletter
- Help with Publicity
- Help with Fundraising
- Help organize Mail-Ins, Phone-Ins, E-mails to public officials
- Participate in rallies and marches
- Assist in distributing meeting announcements

President Shields introduced Grand Dems Vice President, Roger Rhodes, who gave us information about coordinating with other Democratic groups. Some of them include: “Indivisible”, “The Huddle” and “The Town Hall project.com”. To find out what these groups are doing, just google the name, provide your zip code and events in your area will appear. For “The Huddle” you must first go to “Women’s March” and then find “The Huddle” on that site. Other groups to join are the ACLU, The League of Women Voters (which is non-partisan) and our LD-22. He encouraged members to get involved.

A member in the audience announced Earth Day for Science is April 22 and there will be organized events for this.

The 50/50 Raffle was won by Paula Wilson.

There was no further business. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Cotton, Secretary

