

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
GRAND DEMOCRATS
MARCH 22, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Shields at 6:32 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was led by President Shields.

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2017, general meeting, as published on the website, was made by Judy Neigoff and seconded by Sharon Forbes. The minutes were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Shields welcomed all attendees and asked any new members or guests to please stand. Almost half of the audience stood. President Shields then spoke on the increased interest we are seeing in participation in activities of the Democratic Party and encouraged all to keep up the momentum. He stated that numerous forces are working against many of our values and diligence to counter those attacks will continue to be necessary.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer was unable to attend so President Shields provided the report. Currently we have \$895.60 in our checking account and \$3,285.31 in our savings account for a balance of \$4,180.91.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Program Committee: Co-chair Barbara Nelson reported our speakers for the April 26 meeting will be Tom Chabin and Bill Mundell who will be speaking on what is happening at the Corporation Commission. The May 24 speaker will be Cloves Campbell, publisher of the Arizona Informant, and member of the AZ Commission on African American Affairs. Our June 28 speaker will be Katie Hobbs who has just announced she is running for Secretary of State in the 2018 election.

OLD BUSINESS:

President Shields reported that the two training sessions for Precinct Committeepersons (PCs) were a great success. He thanked Frank Reed, Sharon Levinson and Barbara Nelson for their participation in the training. There were 30+ attendees at the first session and another 24 at the second session. Some attendees were already PCs and others submitted applications to become PCs.

Frank Reed, representing our Legislative District 22, stated we now have 65 PCs and expect to increase that number. We can have 176 within the district. Many areas are not represented at all and need to be solicited for PCs.

President Shields reported that discussions are still underway about a Newsletter at this time. Our Brochure, however, is being updated and will hopefully be available soon.

The Volunteer Areas of Service Survey passed around at our February 22, 2017, meeting resulted in 42 responses. Nine of those were interested in becoming PCs and have received the training and submitted their paperwork. The names of those expressing an interest in other activities have been forwarded to the appropriate committee chairs who should be contacting you.

Judith Bridges thanked everyone who brought non-perishable food for our donations to the Valley View Community Food Bank this evening and reminded attendees again of this important charity.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Shields introduced Kathy Hoffman who has decided to run for Superintendent of Public Instruction in the 2018 election. She resides in Legislative District 22. She introduced herself and asked for signatures on her petition.

Manny Hernandez introduced himself and told the audience he also plans to run in 2018 for the AZ House of Representatives.

SPEAKER:

Co Chair, Programs Committee, Sharon Levinson introduced our speaker, Mary Jo Pitzl, Legislative Reporter from the Arizona Republic. Ms. Pitzl joined the Arizona Republic in 1980 and has reported on the legislature and all things political. She spoke on numerous pieces of legislation being introduced this year at the legislature and gave some predictions on ones that might get to the Governor's desk. She was very well received and answered questions from the audience at the end of her presentation

Ms. Pitzl ended her presentation by encouraging attendees to subscribe to and read the Arizona Republic and other REAL news sources. She will be back in the Capitol tomorrow to continue to follow happenings there.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Sharon Forbes.

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Cotton, Secretary