

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
GRAND DEMOCRATS
JUNE 28, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Roger Rhodes at 6:30 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Vice President Rhodes.

No corrections or changes were offered to the minutes of the May 24, 2017, meeting and the minutes were approved as published on the website.

Vice President Rhodes announced our President, Bill Shields, is out of the country on a cruise and will be back for the September meeting. Vice President Rhodes welcomed all in attendance and requested any new members or guests to please raise their hand. About 1/3 of the audience raised their hands. Vice President Rhodes then gave a brief report on the “We the People” Summit at the Phoenix Convention Center. He said the purpose of the summit was to get people involved and to learn how to get our messages out. Participants from many different groups including “Turn Arizona Blue” and “Indivisible” attended. Attendance was around 1500 people who broke out into interest groups such as “People Power”, “The Recall Process”, etc. The next Summit will be in October and Vice President Rhodes encouraged audience members to go to the website for more information. **A member of the audience asked whether this information could be provided to members on our website and Vice President Rhodes said “yes” he would ask our webmaster to do so.** Vice President Rhodes then reiterated to everyone the importance of getting involved at rallies, phone calls, letters, etc.

Vice President Rhodes then intruded Sue Rhodes who announced a celebration of the 97th Anniversary of Votes for Women. The celebration will be help on Saturday, August 26 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at North High School Auditorium, 1101 E. Thomas Road in Phoenix. She passed out flyers with all the information and encouraged all to attend.

Vice President Rhodes then mentioned an article in The Atlantic by David Frum entitled “How to Build An Autocracy”. He said this is recommended reading for everyone.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Vice President Rhodes gave the Treasurer’s report stating we have \$1,104.41 in our checking account and \$3,616.28 in savings for a total of \$4,720.69.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Committee: Barbara Nelson reported our September speaker will be David Garcia who has announced he is running for Governor in 2018. October we will host David Schapira and Kathy Hoffman who are both candidates for State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Our November speaker is not yet confirmed.

Fundraising Committee: Judith Bridges announced our Fall fundraiser will be November 12 at the home of our President and his wife. She said a “Hold the Date” message will be coming out to all members very soon. She encouraged anyone not yet a member to please join our club so they can attend this event. She promised an enjoyable evening providing donations to our club, great food, and conversations with like minded persons.

OLD BUSINESS

Vice President Rhodes announced we have our updated brochures available at the membership desk and encouraged everyone to take one.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice President Rhodes informed the audience that we will be supporting numerous candidates for the elections in 2018. As a result of this, we are in the process of developing questions for candidates to answer to help us to better assess our support.

SPEAKER: Barbara Nelson introduced our speaker for the evening Katie Hobbs. Ms. Hobbs has announced her run for the Arizona Secretary of State in 2018. She is a native of Arizona has an extensive background in

social work. She is currently in the Arizona legislature and serving as the Minority Leader of the Arizona Senate. She believes the current Secretary of State is not doing enough to guarantee everyone the right to vote and is not working with County Recorders to make voting easier for everyone. Ms. Hobbs said her goal is to do everything within her power to protect every citizen's right to vote and bring competency back to the office to restore confidence in Arizona's elections.

Ms. Hobbs had nomination petitions available for members of the audience to sign to get her placed on the ballot. Her campaign staff member was circulating her petitions. She thanked everyone for inviting her and opened the session for questions from the audience. There were numerous questions about voting by mail, voting machines, voting centers, etc. She was most gracious in responding.

Vice President Rhodes thanked Ms. Hobbs and presented her with a Grand Dems coffee mug.

Vice President Rhodes reminded everyone that we do not meet in July or August. He then conducted the 50/50 raffle. The raffle collected \$76.00 and the winner of half was Jan Ashton-Beazie.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Cotton, Secretary

