

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING**  
**GRAND DEMOCRATS**  
**OCTOBER 25, 2017**

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

The pledge of allegiance was led by President Shields.

No corrections or changes were offered to the minutes of the September 27, 2017, meeting and a motion to approve the minutes as published on the website was made by Marty Cohen and seconded by Sharon Levinson. The minutes were approved.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:** President Shields welcomed everyone to our meeting and asked any new members to please stand. There were four new members. He also asked guests to please stand and we had 9 guests.

President Shields then stated that he had no further comments to make this evening as a result of Senator Flake's and Senator McCain's comments this week.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Paula Wilson reported the income for October was \$80.00 for memberships and the expenses were \$294.00 for room charges. We currently have a balance of \$3,004 for checking plus savings. The report was approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**PROGRAM:** Sharon Levinson, Co-Chair, announced our upcoming meeting on November 15 will bring Steve Farley, candidate for Governor in 2018. She reminded everyone that our meeting will be held the 3rd Wednesday due to Thanksgiving.

Our January 24, 2018, meeting will feature candidates running for Trent Frank's position in the House. February will bring candidates running for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Jeff Flake. We are hoping for an acceptance from Krysten Sinema.

We will continue to invite candidates running for offices in 2018 as we can to help inform our members and the community.

MEMBERSHIP: Paula Parkel, Co-Chair, announced we currently have 216 members.

FUNDRAISING: President Shields reminded everyone of our fundraising event on November 12 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$25.00. Additional fliers are available at the membership table for anyone who didn't receive one and is interested in attending.

OLD BUSINESS: Frank Reed, LD-22 Chairman, gave a brief report on the October 16 Paint the West Valley Blue PC Recruitment and Training event. He reported there were 70 attendees and everyone felt it was very worthwhile. Plans are to have another similar event in the Spring. He informed us that there are 48 precincts in LD 22 and 36 of those now have precinct committee persons (PCs). Work continues to acquire more PCs as we gear up for elections next year.

President Shields thanked Frank for all his hard work this year and congratulated him on the results he has been able to accomplish.

President Shields reminded everyone of the SCG Garage Sale, November 4, and the Fall Fest on November 11. He thanked all those who volunteered to help with these events.

Club Elections will take place next month. President Shields announced the names of the candidates for the four open positions. The three candidates for At Large Board Members are: Jan Ashton-Beazie, Mark Hamilton, and Linda McKean. For the position of Secretary, Carol Hodgson has submitted her candidacy. President Shields asked anyone interested in any of these positions to please contact him as soon as possible since actual elections will be held at our November 15 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: President Shields reminded the audience of the club sponsored Candidate Rally we held in 2016. We had over 325 attendees.

Candidates who attended were very pleased with the event and indicated it was the best that they had attended. Plans are underway to hold another Candidate Rally in 2018. We have reserved the Sage Brush Ballroom for September 29, 2018. This will occur after the August primary. We will need lots of help with this event and he encouraged all members to please volunteer when the call goes out.

SPEAKER: Sharon Levinson, Co-Chair, introduced our two speakers for this evening. They are: Kathy Hoffman and David Schapira. They are running for the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Kathy Hoffman currently works in the Peoria Unified School District at a Title I K-8 elementary school. She is a dedicated educator who is committed to improving educational achievement for all Arizona's students. Kathy told us she believes we must have educators in politics if we want to improve education in our State and country. She believes Arizona's future starts in our schools. Three important goals should be investment in our students, inclusion of all students, and competitive pay for our teachers. Kathy is running as a clean election candidate and asks for our support and \$5.00 to get on the ballot.

David Schapira is a career educator. He has also served in the AZ House of Representatives and as the Minority Leader in the State Senate. He served on the Education Committee during his time in the legislature. He is currently a high-school administrator at the East Valley Institute of Technology in Eastern Maricopa County. David explained how he worked the legislature when he was there. He said it is important to know when and how to build bridges and when and how to throw stones. He told us of his successes using these methods. He believes there is an intentional effort to dismantle public education in Arizona and he will fight to keep public education. He believes that education is the bootstrap to help people pull themselves up. Davis is running as a clean election candidate and asks for our support and \$5.00 to get on the ballot.

Questions from the audience ranged from how can you win running a clean election when opponents have corporate sponsors to what do you think about SB1042 allowing uncertified teachers to teach in our schools. Both candidates responded.

President Shields thanked our candidates and presented them with coffee mugs.

The drawing was held for the 50/50 raffle which collected \$108.00. The winner of half was Georgia Cutburth.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Cotton, Secretary