

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
GRAND DEMOCRATS
NOVEMBER 15, 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.

President Shields welcomed all attendees and asked for any new members or guests to please stand. Around 15 people stood.

No corrections or changes were offered to the minutes of the October 25, 2017, meeting and a motion to approve the minutes as published on the website was made by Doisey Landry and seconded by Frank Reed. The minutes were approved.

President Shields then introduced Barbara Nelson, Co-Chair of Programs, who introduced our speaker, Steve Farley, candidate for Governor of Arizona in 2018.

Mr. Farley began by telling us that the Democrats have tripled the Precinct Committee persons in Arizona since November 2016. He believes this is the key to helping inform the public and getting them to vote. He encourages everyone to get involved in one way or another because this is a year of opportunity to get our message across and win for Democrats in Arizona and across the country.

Mr. Farley has spent 6 years in the Arizona House of Representatives and is currently in his 5th year in the Senate. He is a Member of the Appropriations, Joint Legislative Budget and Ethics Committees. He has made it a point of his legislative career to focus on bringing good paying jobs, spurring economic development, ensuring a first class education, and world class transportation choices to Arizona.

He expanded on his ideas and informed us of legislation he sponsored or co-sponsored in the past which did not pass but which he would be seeking to see reintroduced and pass when he becomes Governor.

After his presentation, Mr. Farley opened the meeting to questions from the audience and there were several which helped the audience have a better understanding of his positions on a variety of issues from religion to gun control. A question of “How can we help you get elected?” was answered by giving us his website: farleyforarizona.com to donate or volunteer to help with his campaign. He is not running a “clean campaign” meaning he will need lots of money to run against the candidates being supported by the Koch machine. He told us at this time money is most important and encouraged contributions to come in before January if possible. Also, getting signatures on his petition and house parties are happening now. Beginning next year there will be opportunities to help with phone banks, door-to-door knocks, etc. He encouraged everyone to spread the word by word of mouth. This will be a people powered campaign and we can all be a part of it.

President Shields thanked Mr. Farley and presented him with a Grand Dems coffee mug.

President Shields then began the business portion of our meeting by introducing our Treasurer, Paula Wilson, who reported that we currently have a balance of \$3,323 without the proceeds from our fundraiser. He then introduced Judith Bridges, Chair of our Fundraising Committee, who reported the fundraiser, with 85 paid participants plus the silent auction sales made \$2,771. President Shields informed the attendees that most of these funds will go toward assisting candidates in 2018.

Judith Bridges thanked President Shields and his wife for hosting the fundraiser in their home.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PROGRAM: Barbara Nelson, Co-Chair, announced the January 24, 2018, meeting will feature candidates for our congressional district who are running against Trent Franks. They are, Bob Musselwhite, Hiral Tiperneni and Brianna Westbrook. She also brought attention to the petitions for signatures by various candidates available at a side table.

MEMBERSHIP: Paula Parkel, Chair, reported our membership for 2017 was 200 members and so far we have 51 new or renewed memberships paid for 2018. Membership payments can be made now for 2018. The year begins January 2018.

OLD BUSINESS: President Shields reported that all of the events held this month were a success. We had at least 50 volunteers from the Grand Dems participating in the Garage Sale, Newcomers Coffee, Fall Fest and Veterans Day Fundraiser and he thanked everyone involved. He said candidates who attended the Garage Sale and Fall Fest were most appreciative of the opportunity to acquire signatures on their petitions and gather \$5.00 for those running clean campaigns.

President Shields announced that we would not be holding a Holiday Party this year since we just had the Fundraiser. However, we are considering holding an Election Year Kickoff in early 2018. This could be a party or another fundraiser. More details will be forthcoming.

President Shields then asked for a show of hands from the audience concerning our mailing of postcards to announce our speakers. The cost of mailing these to all Democrats in LD-22 is around \$800.00 and we are seeking their feedback as to its effectiveness. The majority of the audience raised their hands so we will continue with the postcard mailing. A suggestion from the audience was that we also mail our postcards to registered Independents to reach more potential voters. That would probably increase our costs to double or more.

Club Elections were held after a solicitation for any nominations from the floor. No nominations were received and a motion to accept the nominations presented at the October meeting was made by Judy Bender and seconded by Carol Parnell. The candidates were elected and those attending were introduced to the audience.

The new Board for 2018 are: President, Bill Shields; Vice President, Roger Rhodes; Treasurer, Paula Wilson; Secretary, Carol Hodgson; and the three

Members-at-Large are Jan Ashton-Beazie, Mark Hamilton and Linda McKean. Ex-Officio member is Frank Reed.

President Shields then expressed, on behalf of the club, grateful appreciation to Linda Cotton for her excellent work as club secretary and to Harriet Kahn and Diane Miller for their commitment as outgoing board members.

President Shields announced the need for Committee members and Chairs for Fundraising, Membership and Social Committees. He asked members to please consider joining one of these Committees and to contact him with their interest.

President Shields announced our January 24, 2018, meeting will be held in the Pima room at Sonoran Plaza. He informed the audience that unless our attendance is near the capacity of a given room we are reassigned to a smaller room. We will continue to pursue our interest in keeping the Agua Fria room at Cimarron with CAM and he encouraged members to please keep up their attendance to help in this pursuit.

The drawing was held for the 50/50 raffle which collected \$100.00. The winner of half was Carol Parnell.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Cotton, Secretary