



GRAND  
Democrats

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## **GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**October 23, 2024**

6:30 – 7:50 pm

### **Call to Order**

President Bob Walling welcomed Democrats, Republicans and Independents, then led in singing the national anthem.

### **President's Remarks**

Bob introduced the candidates making their final appeals before the election:

- Greg Whitten, running for the congressional seat in District 8, called on everyone to do everything in their power to get out the vote...donate, distribute fliers, send post cards, call and, especially, talk to anyone among the 16% of voters who are still undecided. He thanked the Grand Dems for their encouragement and financial support that resulted in knocking on 30,000 doors, airing 300 spot ads and sending mailers to 70,000 voters. His campaign raised over \$500,000.
- Quacy Smith, running for the Congressional seat in District 9, cannot understand why the race is so close, when the opposition insults minorities and uses language that should turn off voters. With just 13 days until the election, keep campaigning on behalf of "liberty and justice for all" because there is no do-over on November 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Tanairi Ochoa-Martinez, candidate for one of two LD29 seats in the House of Representatives, thanked those in the audience who gave her the \$5 contributions needed to run her clean election campaign. She is concerned about the number of propositions on the ballot that came from the legislature in order to get around a veto by the governor.
- Bernadette Greene, manager of Greg Freeman's campaign to become Maricopa County Assessor, emphasized the importance of electing a candidate who will correctly assess the taxes that support our schools, rural fire departments, Sheriff's office, community colleges and other vital services.

### **Program**

Jim O'Connell introduced his Players' Group who presented "It Can't Happen Here...Again", an homage to the 1936 production warning voters against the rise of fascism in America and updated to reflect the equally momentous 2024 election.

### **Election Update**

- On behalf of Lynne Leonard, Kathy Wyse and Ken Kessler, Sherry Douglas thanked the many volunteers who wrote 13,000 postcards, left the Golden ticket at 3000 homes and made untold calls to left-leaning independent voters.
- For those who have not yet voted, there is information about the various propositions and judges at Civic Engagement Beyond Voting ([www.CEBV.us](http://www.CEBV.us)) and a voter guide at [www.granddems.org](http://www.granddems.org).
- Bob directed anyone interested in making phone calls to get the contact information from him for LD28 phone bank or for the Harris/Walz campaign.
- Jim Coffran is taking names of voters who need rides to the polls and names of volunteers to drive. Contact him at [melacatuna@aol.com](mailto:melacatuna@aol.com).
- For other events and volunteer opportunities, go to [www.Mobilize.US](http://www.Mobilize.US).

### **Secretary's Report**

The Minutes of the August 28, 2024 General Meeting were approved as posted on the website.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The financial report as of 10/19/2024 was accepted as sent out to all the members.

### **Nominations Report**

Suzi Walling announced the proposed slate of officers for 2025. The election will take place at the November 13<sup>th</sup> General Meeting when other nominations can be made from the floor.

- President: Bob Walling
- Vice President: Ken Kessler
- Secretary: Carole Parnell
- Treasurer: Karen Manning
- At-Large Member Clay Latimer (Portfolio: Publicity Chair)
- At-Large Member Carol Karsten (Portfolio: Community Outreach Chair)
- At-Large Member Sherry Douglas (Portfolio: Elections Co-Chair)

Bob is taking on a second term as President but will not run again in 2026, another important election year for the state.

### **Fundraising**

Thanks to the generosity of our members through their dues and donations, Grand Dems gave a record \$13,000 to candidates and legislative districts in 2024. Tonight's auction of three campaign-related shirts and a book by Quacy Smith raised another \$195 added to the receipts from the 50/50 and Wine Snob raffles. Donations are still being accepted because "fundraising never ends" according to Suzi Walling, who is taking over as chair of that committee in 2025.

### **Adjournment**

The next meeting will be two weeks early on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Come to celebrate the results of the election and share some cake promised by Social Chair Judy Shields.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carole Parnell, Secretary