



GRAND  
Democrats

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## **GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

February 26, 2025

6:15 – 8:05 pm

Seating was at tables of 10 with questions to discuss before and during the meeting time: What are the members most urgent concerns, their preferred sources of information and what would they like to contribute to the cause and the club.

### **Call to Order**

President Bob Walling called the meeting to order with the singing of the National Anthem. The order of business was suspended in order to begin with the program speakers.

### **Program**

Our speakers were three representatives from the Maricopa County Democratic Party: Chair, Patti O'Neil, Executive Director Eric Limbs and Data Guru Emily Watson discussed the results of the 2024 Election and the strategies for increasing voter participation in 2026. A short description of the election: "We lost, We didn't show up, There were more of them. "

Now we have to start at the bottom with motivated PC's who will make contact with their Democratic neighbors, keep them informed and involved. We have to recruit candidates to run and support their campaigns. Party leaders will be meeting with Legislative Districts In Listening Tours to share concerns and strategies.

Sherry Douglas and Kathy Wyse followed the speakers with a report on their Advocacy Project that sends out weekly emails with the explanation of an issue, a script and legislators to call.

### **Round Table Discussions**

From Suzi Walling's *Report to the Board*:

There were eight tables facilitated by Carole Gontko, Mike Gontko, Edra Jandro, Sherry Douglas, Karen Manning, Kathy Wyse and Clay Lattimer.

- Most participants like the group discussions but would prefer smaller tables and more space because of the noise. Nobody left early and there was a lot of energy in the room.

- In general, our members are aware and concerned about political happenings but would like more information on issues, both national and state, simple explanations of the political processes and clear definitions of the terminology/acronyms that are used.
- It is a real problem to sort out the trustworthy sources of news from the overwhelming number of news outlets, substacks, and organizations.
- There was little response to questions about joining the club committees or finding a president for 2025.
- Conclusion: we will have the round tables again in March and a new set of questions to discuss after the program. Bob will limit the number of emails we send out to avoid adding to the overload.

The meeting adjourned after the drawings for 50/50 and Wine.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Parnell, Secretary