**Grand Dems General Meeting Minutes**
**November 16, 2022**

* 1. **The Call To Order and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Bill Shields at 6:30 p.m.**
	2. **Approval of the minutes:** The minutes of the October 26, 2022 General meeting were approved.
	3. **President’s Comments:**
		1. Bill asked “What happened to the Red Tsunami? I think it hit the giant blue wall and turned into a red trickle. What an election to celebrate!” The last time Arizona had a Democratic governor and a secretary of state was in 1991, when Rose Mofford was Governor and Richard Mahoney was Secretary of State. Bill said that he was proud of the role that the Grand Dems played in this 2022 midterm election. The Grand Dems participated in a successful candidate rally, a massive voter guide project and donated $5,000.00 to candidates.
		2. Bill recognized Rachel Howard who was in attendance. She is a graduate student from the University of Chicago who is doing research on retirement communities.
		3. Bill recognized Barbara Nelson who has been one of the most active members of the Grand Dems. After many years, Barbara is stepping down from some of her responsibilities. At tonight’s General meeting, Barbara graciously accepted a citation as a life time member of the Grand Dems club.
	4. **Treasurer’s Report:** Nancy Hamilton reported that expenses for the month of October totalled $535.00, and the balance in the Grand Dems checking account equaled $3,060.00. In addition, the Grand Dems received a total of $524.00 during the month of October.
	5. **Committee Reports:**

		1. **Adopt - A- Street:** Dressed in Adopt - A - Street gear, Carol Karsten indicated that the next clean up effort will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2022.
		2. **Membership:** Carol reported that the Grand Dems had six new members in the month of October. One hundred and twenty five members have renewed their membership for 2023. The Grand Dems have one hundred and forty three current members that are paid up through 2022.
		3. **Social:** Nancy Hamilton reported that the Blue Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, December 6, at Chef Peters, at a new time: 9:15 a.m. Please take note that the Blue Dinner will be held on Wednesday, December 14 as Thursday, December 15 was unavailable at State 48.
	6. **New Business:**

		1. **Election of new Board members in 2023:** Bill recognized and introduced each Board member candidate and they each gave a short biography of their life and what factors influenced their decision to become a member of the Grand Dems.

			1. **Kevin Boivin:** He was born and raised in Chicago. He has had a career in the insurance industry and is also a massage therapist. Kevin’s parents were involved in Democratic politics in the west side of Chicago, and that led him to become a lifelong Democrat. Kevin has been a Grand Dems member since 2020. During this past year, he and Nancy have lived for part of the year in France and Portugal. This will be Kevin’s second year on the Board.
			2. **Annie Banton:** She has been a Sun City Grand resident since 2017. Annie has an educational background in science and music. This has led her to be an active member of the Sun City Grand Drama Club, where she is currently the Chair of the Main Stage Play Selection Committee and a regular director of drama club performances. Annie has had an appreciation for the immigrant experience as she communicated with migrant workers in the 1960’s.
			3. **Ken Kessler:** He moved to Sun City Grand from the state of Hawaii in 2020 and soon thereafter became a member of the Grand Dems. Ken was born and raised in California. He took an active role in helping Mark Hamilton and Bob Walling coordinating volunteers to distribute the Voters Guide.
		2. **Election of officer candidates in 2023:** Bill recognized each club officer candidate and they gave a short summary of their life’s journey and how experiences led them to the Grand Dems.

			1. **Co-Secretaries:
			Nancy Martin:** She was born and raised in the south suburbs of Chicago. Nancy was a teacher for thirty five years in the Chicago area. She understands the plight of the immigrant as she talked with her Polish immigrant grandparents about their struggles to assimilate in a new country. She is also a supporter of the unions as her dad was a lifelong member of the meat cutters union and Nancy herself was active in the teacher’s union. She and her husband bought a home in Sun City Grand in 2009 and Nancy became a member of the Grand Dems in 2013. She has been on the Grand Dems Board since 2020 and has just completed her first year as secretary.
			**Serene Matthews:** Serene and her husband moved to Sun City Grand from the state of Idaho in 2019. She is glad to be in the state of Arizona where Democrats have had more influence than in Idaho. She has a background in education.and as a kindergarten teacher, she remembers saying the Pledge of Allegiance with her kids and how the words “with liberty and justice for all” made such an impact on her vision for inclusion for all within the United States. She is so glad that she found the Grand Dems and became a member when they moved to Sun City Grand. Serene was the secretary of the Grand Dems in 2020 - 2021. She remained a member-at -large in 2022. In 2023, Serene will be a fulfill the role of co-secretary.
			2. **Jim Coffran:** He was born and raised in New York City. He has a degree in Business, has served in the National Guard and has had a career as a social worker. He moved to Sun City Grand in 2005 and became a full time resident in 2015. Jim’s parents were democrats and proud union workers. His father always emphasized how important it was to help people. As a result , Jim realized that it was important to answer the call to join the Grand Dems as the 2023 treasurer. Jim is a lifelong democrat!
			3. **Bob Walling:** Bob indicated that he is very excited to fill the roll of Vice President on the Grand Dems Board. Jim grew up on a farm in Illinois. He has a bachelor’s degree in education. He has been a music teacher, school administrator and financial aid officer. Most recently, Bob volunteered as a Board member of LD 29. He emphasized how proud he was of Scott Podeyn and David Raymer for making a run for the Arizona state House and Senate and thought they should be proud of the many votes they received even if they did not win their election. Bob said that he is so happy that Arizona will have a Democratic Governor and Secretary of State. He said that the Grand Dems need to stay involved in future elections. Finally, Bob helped to coordinate the Voter’s Guide distribution effort.
			4. **Susan Walling:** Suzi was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. She was a college administrator and director of student activities at the college level. While living in Michigan, she was Director of United Way. Suzi is a lifelong Democrat and a long time member of the Grand Dems; in fact she used to be a Board member in the Grand Dems. At the end of the year, she will be completing a term as a chair in Legislative District 29. Suzi volunteered to be the the President of the Grand Dems in 2023, because she feels that it is very important for the Grand Dems to continue their work in the Democratic Party in the West Valley.
		3. **Election of Board candidates:** The members in attendance at the November Grand Dems General meeting, voted unanimously through affirmation to elect the new members of the 2023 Grand Dems Board.
		4. **Election of Officers:** The members in attendance at the November Grand Dems General meeting voted unanimously through affirmation to elect the new Board Officers to the 2023 Grand Dems Board.
		5. **Other:** Lynn Peters, treasurer of LD 29, reminded those in attendance that the LD 29 Board elections will be held on November 30, 2022. She pleaded for someone to volunteer and fill the roles of program director and secretary for the LD 29 Board. She asked interested parties to get in touch with her, Suzi or Bob Walling if they are willing to become a member of the LD 29 Board. Lynn Indicated that the speaker at the Nov. 30 Board meeting will be Julie Gunnigle who ran for Maricopa County Attorney in the 2022 midterms.

		Nancy Martin thanked Bill Shields, Mark Hamilton and Paula Wilson for the long years of service on the Grand Dems Board.
	7. **50 - 50 Raffle:** $38.00 was awarded to a member of the Grand Dems.
	8. **The Grand Dems General meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.**
	9. **The next General meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 25, 2023**

**Respectfully Submitted by**
**Nancy A. Martin**
**Grand Dems Secretary**

**Grand Dems General Meeting Minutes**
**October 26th, 2022**

1. **The Call To Order and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Bill Shields at 6:30p.m.**
2. **Approval of the minutes:** The minutes of the September 28, 2022 General meeting were approved.
3. **President’s Comments:**

Bill said that his concerns about the future of our club were alleviated when two members of the Grand Dems stepped up and offered to serve as President and Treasurer. Bill recognized:

**Suzi Walling** who will be the Grand Dems President in 2023. She has been a long time member of the Grand Dems and will soon be completing a term as the chair in Legislative District 29.

**Jim Coffran** who has volunteered as the Grand Dems Treasurer is a relatively new member of the Grand Dems. Jim is a life-long Democrat from New York and has been a full time resident in Sun City Grand since 2015.

In addition, Nancy Martin and Serene Matthews will be co-secretaries:

**Nancy Martin** has been a member of the Grand Dems since 2013. She joined the Board in 2019 and has been the Grand Dems Secretary for the past year.

**Serene Matthews** has been a resident of Sun City Grand for the past three years. Within a short time of joining the Grand Dems, Serene volunteered to step in as Secretary and has remained on the Board during this year.

Bill announced that Bob Walling will be stepping into the role of Vice President of the Grand Dems in 2023.

**Bob Walling** has also been a long time member of the Grand Dems and most recently, he helped to coordinate the Voters Guide distribution effort.

Bill exclaimed, "The Grand Dems are whole again! Maybe we should have a celebration in November at our next General meeting". Bill reminded attendees that due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the next General meeting will be held on November 16
4. **Treasurer’s Report:** Mark Hamilton indicated that expenses for the month of September totalled $1,524.00. Responding to a question about the cost of the Zoom account, Mark said that the cost for Zoom is $14.99 per month. Mark also gave an itemized list of other expenses which included $263.00 for the Aqua Fria ballroom, (For the Candidate Rally), $42.00 to Eagle Laser Engraving for name tags, $10.67 for the Mail Chimp account, and a $1,000.00 cashed check by a political candidate who received a donation from the Grand Dems. Mark said that the September balance in the Grand Dems checking account equaled $3,071.00. The Grand Dems received $660.00 from membership dues, $60.00 from the 50-50 raffle, $100.00 in donations and $24.00 for purchased name tags. The Grand Dems received a total of $904.00 for the month of September.
5. **Committee Reports:**
	1. **Adopt-A-Street:** Carol Karsten said that the next Adopt- a -Street clean up effort will be on Saturday, November 19, 2022. Carol exclaimed, “No experience needed”.
	2. **Membership:** Carol indicated that the Grand Dems added four new members and ten Grand Dem members renewed their memberships at last night’s General meeting. A total of one hundred and fifteen members have renewed their 2023 memberships. Two hundred and twenty seven members have not yet renewed their 2023 membership as of this date.
	3. **Program:** Barbara Nelson was unable to attend tonight’s meeting, Bill gave the report and indicated that there would not be speakers for the General meeting in November since the meeting will be devoted to the election of new officers and board members.
	4. Bill also reminded those in attendance that the next two Blue Dinners will take place on Thursday, November 17 and Thursday, December 15 at State 48. The next Blue Breakfast is scheduled for next Tuesday, November 1st at 9:00 at Chef Peters.
6. **Old Business:**

**Voter’s Guide Report:** Mark thanked the twenty eight volunteers who distributed the Voters' Guide to two hundred and twenty two homes. He mentioned that many volunteers used the minivan app as a guide to locate homes in each of the neighborhoods. Bob Walling also received applause for his efforts. Dems member, Ken Kessler, also assisted in managing the effort. Between volunteers from the Grand Dems and other Democratic organizations, five thousand homes received the Voters’ Guide.
7. **New Business:**

	1. **Report of October 11th Board Meeting:** At the October 11th Board meeting, the Board developed a check list of the necessary steps to dissolve the Sun City Grand Dems if such were needed. The Board agreed that if it became necessary to dissolve the club, the balance of the Grand Dems financial resources and property would be donated to other Democratic organizations, most likely LD - 29. Fortunately, members did step up and the Grand Dems will remain a strong Democratic club in Sun City Grand and in the West Valley.
	2. **Preparing for Club Elections in November:** As per the Grand Dem by-laws, club elections take place at the November General meeting. Since the Board positions are uncontested this year, there will be no elections as such. Therefore, officers and Board members will be approved by acclamation. Several members have volunteered to chair club committees. The by-laws state that committee chairs are appointed by the club president. Bill said that he and Suzi have agreed to review the list of people, and Suzi will contact those who have expressed an interest and assign them a committee.
	3. **Other: An introduction of the Board members:** Three Grand Dem members have agreed to serve as members of the Board:
		* **Kevin Boivin** has been a Grand Dem resident since 2020. This year, Kevin and his wife have lived for part of the year in France and Portugal. This will be Kevin’s second year on the Board.
		* **Annie Banton** has been a resident of Sun City Grand since 2017. She is active in the Grand Drama Club, where she is currently the chair of the Main Stage Play Selection Committee and a regular director of drama club performances.
		* **Ken Kessler** moved to Sun City Grand in 2020 and is a relatively new member of the club having come to Sun City Grand from Hawaii in 2020. He took an active role in helping Mark Hamilton and Bob Walling coordinating volunteers to distribute the Voters’ Guide.
8. **Program Speakers:**

	1. **Tina Mollica:** Tina is running for the Dysart School Board: Tina is a parent and former educator from Illinois. Since moving to Arizona twenty one years ago, she has been a substitute teacher, volunteered in classrooms and she is most proud of being a scout leader. Tina stated that she believes in public schools.

	In the time that she has lived in Surprise, Tina has seen the city grow and has observed the need for early childhood education and social work intervention to address social and emotional needs for the Dysart student body. She is very concerned about class size, teacher’s pay, school funding and the interference of Dysart’s current school board.

	Tina stated that in the Dysart Public Schools, there are nine open social work positions. Currently, there is one social worker for every fifteen hundred students. To date, there are twenty four open teacher positions that have yet to be filled in Dysart. She sees that the current School Board has a political agenda that has certified teachers and social workers leaving the district. Several members on the school board support cutting staff, and driving a conservative agenda which is adversely affecting the curriculum.

	Tina is also against school vouchers which are defunding our public schools and rewarding private schools where no accountability is expected. She believes that if school boards continue to defund public schools, our Arizona kid’s future will be in jeopardy.

	Tina has talked with teachers who are afraid to teach because certain books and materials may be deemed inappropriate by the current Board. Tina has run several book fairs and there are teachers who question whether the books are appropriate to sell because they might be deemed to liberal by the school board. In another instance, permission slips were sent home so a teacher would be able to have the students read Shakespeare. Tina wants to get on the Dysart School Board to stop the banning of books by an out of control school board.

	The most disturbing development occurred this past May when the Dysart School Board removed the Superintendent in a closed executive session. No reasons have been given for accepting his resignation. This egregious move has cost taxpayers approximately $500,000.00.

	Tina asked those attending tonight’s meeting to text their friends to get out the vote for her and William Coniam. She also thinks that it is important to join the Save Our School movement and participate in the activities in the Dysart district.
	2. **T. William Coniam:** William is running for the Dysart School Board. He is an Independent who has lived in Arizona since he was eight months old. William is a product of the public school system and graduated from Arizona State University. He believes in community service and joined the United States Marine Corp. He is a devoted husband and father. Both of his children attend the Dysart Public Schools. William is proud to coach his children’s sports’ teams.

	William does not believe in pushing a political agenda and wants to keep partisan politics out of the schools. He is running for the school board seat, because he is tired of extreme right conservatives on our current school board setting the agenda for the Dysart Schools.

	William believes that the right wing agenda of the Dysart School Board culminated in the firing of the superintendent last May. . He described the Superintendent as a quiet but hard working man who had a 90% approval rating by staff, parents and students. Prior to being removed by the Board, he received an award from the mayor of Surprise for his outstanding achievements in the Dysart Schools. William and others in the district wanted the Board to have an open meeting where parents and staff could participate in a discussion before they accepted the superintendent’s resignation. However, the school board went behind closed doors in an executive session to ultimately decide the fate of the superintendent. When the Board was asked to give a reason for his removal,they refused. This is when William Coniam decided to run for the open seat on the Dysart School Board. We are constantly talking to voters about the current school board wanting to turn our kids into right wing extremists. In other words, they are indoctrinating our children.

	William believes that we need to change the balance of the Dysart School Board and right the ship. He said, “If you work for Dysart, you should advocate for Dysart.” If he and Tina are on the Board, they will advocate to get rid of school vouchers. He described how school funding works in Arizona. In wealthy districts, proportionately more money comes out of the property taxes. However, in poor school districts where fewer dollars come from property taxes, the students rely on the General fund controlled by the Arizona State legislature. However, the $7000.00 vouchers awarded to a child for a private school education comes out of the General fund. This severely hurts our kids who come from less wealthy districts.

	If elected to the school board, he will stop those who want to micromanage teachers, support literature that teaches kids about diversity and support funding our public schools.
9. **50 - 50 Raffle:** $69.00 was awarded to a member of the Grand Dems.
10. **The Grand Dems General meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p. m.**
11. **The next General meeting will be held on November 16, 2022 in the Agua Fria room at the Cimmaron Center.**

Respectfully Submitted by

Nancy A. Martin
Grand Dems Secretary

**Grand Dems General Meeting Minutes**
**September 28th, 2022**

1. **The Call To Order and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Bill Shields at 6:30p.m.**
2. **Approval of the minutes:** The minutes of the June 22, 2022 General meeting were approved.
3. **President’s Comments:**

	1. Bill Shields asked all new members to stand and be recognized.
	2. Bill said that the Blue Breakfast survey indicated that the respondents prefer that the breakfast begin at 9:00 a.m. rather than at 8:00 a.m. The next Blue Breakfast will take place at Chef Peters on Tuesday, October 4th at 9:00 a.m. As a reminder, the Blue Dinner at State 48, normally held on the third Thursday of the month, will be changed to Wednesday, October 19th.  In addition, the LD 29 meeting will also take place on October 19, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.
	3. Bill gave a shout out to those who made the Candidate Rally a huge success. He introduced the planning committee: Barbara Nelson, Jonita Bigalow, Nancy Martin and Marilyn Schultzee. He thanked Mark Hamilton for his behind the scenes management of the Zoom delivery for those who were not able to attend the Candidate Rally in - person. Nine individuals attended the Candidate Rally on Zoom. Finally, Bill thanked the captains, ushers and those who decorated the Sagebrush ballroom.
	4. Bill reminded those attending tonight’s General meeting that he has repeatedly asked for volunteers to step up and volunteer for any open Board position. Bill has made appeals at the last two Grand Dem General meetings and in two e-blasts. He indicated that the club is especially in need of members who are willing to sign up for office positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.  Bill discussed the voting process. Board members and Club officers are voted on by members and those elections take place annually at the November General meeting. If there are the same number of vacancies as nominees then the nominee is selected by acclamation. However, committee chairs are appointed by the President. Please know that current Board officers and committee chairs will be happy to orientate new incumbents concerning their duties and responsibilities. Bill said that he would gladly answer any questions.
	5. Bill explained that there are sign - up sheets in the back of the room. He asked attendees to take some time during the meeting to review the Board positions and consider being a part of the Grand Dems Board. Bill reminded those attending tonight’s meeting that there are over three hundred members in our club and he strongly urged them to share their time and talent for the betterment of the club in whatever capacity they see fit. If the Grand Dems do not have a President, the Grand Dems will cease to exist on January 1, 2023.
4. **Treasurer’s Report:** Mark indicated that the balance in the Grand Dems checking account has dramatically been reduced in the last three months due to the donations made to the federal, state and local Arizona candidates. In May, the balance in the club's checking account was $11,000.00. The August balance in the Grand Dems checking account totalled $3,700.00.  Expenses for the month of August included a $6,000.00 donation to state and local candidates and a $1,000.00 donation was made to Mark Kelly who is running for the United States Senate. Other expenses included the Mail Chimp/Zoom accounts, an ad in the Lifestyle Magazine and payments for the Kiva/Sagebrush ballrooms.
5. **Committee Reports:**
	1. **Adopt - A - Street:** Carol Karsten said how much she appreciated those individuals who woke up early and showed up at 7:00 am on August 7th in order to clean up our designated streets.  The next Adopt -A- Street clean - up effort will be held on Nov.19, 2022. Participants will not have to be at the site until 8:00 a. m.  While picking up garbage bags at the Surprise City Hall, Carol had an opportunity to visit the arts and  culture library department at the city hall. Carol encouraged those attending tonight’s General meeting to volunteer for the Adopt - A - Street committee. As she said, “It’s a good way to get involved with little effort and have a good time”.
	2. **Membership:** Carol Karsten indicated that twenty - one attendees renewed their Grand Dems membership at tonight’s Grand Dems General meeting. Thus far, ninety - six members have renewed their 2023 membership.
	3. **Program:** Barbara Nelson is working on confirmation of speakers for the October General meeting.
6. **Old Business:**
	1. **Report on Candidate Rally:** Bill exclaimed that the Candidate Rally was a great success! Over three hundred people attended the rally in-person. Even though Mark Kelly, Katie Hobbs and Martin Quezada were unable to attend the Candidate Rally, the nineteen other candidate speakers were dynamic and expressed their thoughts in a manner that let the audience know what issues are most important to Arizona voters. Bill remarked that the 2022 midterm election might very well be the most important election in our state’s history and we need registered independent and left leaning Republicans to vote for our Democratic candidates. At the Candidate Rally, Adrian Fontes explained to the audience the importance of voting early.
	2. **Early Membership Solicitation for 2023:** Bill reminded Grand Dem attendees why it was so important to renew their 2023 membership dues before the November midterms. He explained that the Grand Dems club needed the financial resources to contribute to federal, state and local candidates.
	3. **Other:** Jonita Bigalow reminded the attendees that the LD 28 candidates were included in our LD 29 Candidate Rally, because we were all part of LD 22 before our legislative district was gerrymandered. She believes that LD 22 was split up because of its success in getting the vote out for Democrats..
7. **New Business:**
	1. **Voter’s Guide:** Mark Hamilton and Bob Walling described the process and rationale behind the distribution of the Voter’s Guide. The target audience for the distribution of the Voter’s Guide are registered Democrats who did not vote in the 2018 midterms. Currently, thirty three volunteers who are members of the Grand Dems and LD29 have indicated that they want to participate in this project. There is still time for more members to volunteer.  The Voter’s Guide will be distributed among fourteen precincts within the Surprise city limits. In other words, twenty one hundred garage doors will receive the Voter’s Guide. The volunteer does not have to interact with the homeowner. Voter’s guides will be taped to the garage door frames. This activity is not soliciting; it is canvassing which is legal.  Volunteers will have access to the mini van ap which is a tool that can be downloaded on a smartphone/I PAD device.   The mini van ap will include a database with a list of addresses making it easier for volunteers to keep track of the homes they have visited. . The target date to complete the distribution of the Voter’s Guide is October 11, 2022. The purpose of this project is to distribute a list of Democratic candidates to voters so that they can make an informed decision when completing their midterm ballots.
	2. **Other:** Kathy Soderholm invited Grand Dem members to her home on Saturday, October 8, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. for a “meet and greet”.   Dysart School Board candidates Tina Mollica and William Coniam will be available to talk with voters. Kathy’s address is 17421 N. Horseshoe Dr. in Surprise.
8. **Program: Speakers:**

**Scott Podeyn:**

Scott is the LD 29 nominee for the Arizona State House of Representatives. He is a retired Air Force officer and received his undergraduate degree in physical geography from the University of New Mexico. Scott believes that we need austerity measures to address the water shortage in Arizona.  In other words, we need to find ways to conserve water. He believes that Arizona should build desalination plants and run pipe lines to distribution sites. He thinks that farms would benefit from drip irrigation so we can reduce the amount of water that is being sucked into the atmosphere. He stated that we need to shut down coal plants and create solar and wind farms necessary to pump water.

Secondly, Scott believes that the state of Arizona needs to better fund its public schools. Poor districts such as the Nadaburg School District shouldn’t have to float referendums and bonds to pay for a new high school and other educational resources. Arizona teachers need pay increases to be competitive with others in the teaching profession throughout the United States.   If he becomes our next state representative, he will vote to reduce the number of school vouchers for private schools.

Finally, he believes that we need to reduce the number of private prisons. Why should people get rich from the incarceration of individuals!   Scott said that Arizona should put a stop to excessive bail especially for minorities. He is convinced that innocents should be kept out of prison and those that are guilty should be sentenced based on their crime and not on the color of their skin.

**David Raymer:**

David Raymer is the LD 29 nominee for the Arizona State Senate. He was a chiropractor for twenty five years and worked in the healthcare industry. He has a degree in English and has been a highschool teacher.  He is very proud of his work reading legal contracts for NBC TV in California. David believes that education is a very important issue in Arizona and thinks that K - 12 schools should return to the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic. However, he also thinks that our textbooks should reflect the cultural diversity that exists in Arizona.

Secondly, he believes that Arizona’s water shortage needs to be addressed. If David becomes our Senator, he would expect new industries that enter Arizona to provide a solution to the water shortage problem before they are given water access.
In addition, David believes that Arizona needs immigration reform. The public needs to understand that there is a difference between illegal immigrants and those seeking asylum. There needs to be a consistent process for those seeking asylum. Addressing the problem of illegal immigrants will take financial resources to improve electronic surveillance, drone technology and barriers that work. However, he believes that more illegal drugs come across the border by shipping containers than over the land border.

Lastly, David addressed the abortion issue. He suggested that we pass codified laws to address abortion as Joe Biden has suggested.  The only real question in this abortion issue should be a concern for the mother’s health.
9. **50 - 50 Raffle:** $30.00 was awarded to a member of the Grand Dems.
10. **The Grand Dems General meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.**
11. **The next General meeting will be held on October 26, 2022 in the Agua Fria room**
**at the Cimmaron Center.**

Respectfully submitted by,
Nancy A. Martin
Grand Dems Secretary

**Grand Dems General Meeting Minutes**
**June 22nd, 2022**

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance was done by President Bill Shields at 6:35 pm. He apologized for the third change in location and thanked people for being flexible. He welcomed guests Cheri Tomlinson and Tina Mollica.
2. Minutes of May 24, 2022 have been posted on the website and were approved as written.
3. President’s Comments: Bill Shields used this opportunity to encourage members to consider running for office in the Grand Democrats. Most of the current members have served for several years and are ready to give others an opportunity. There is a relatively large number of board members who wish to step down or are term-limited. We are in need of at least five members who are willing to serve. Grand Democrats is a premier Democratic organization in Maricopa County because of the able board members and officers who have served over the years. Please give thought to serving the club. A nominating committee will be set up soon but please don't wait for the committee to contact you. Let Bill know if you are interested. We need you.
4. Treasurer’s Report: Mark Hamilton gave his report as of 5/31/22. During April and May monies were collected for the Ukraine Fund. That amount was dispersed in May totaling $1907. The current balance in the Grand Democrats account is $11,100.
5. Committee Reports: \* Membership: We have 208 members including four new members this evening. \* Social: Pattie volunteered to help the new social committee chair. Blue Breakfasts (first Monday at 8:00 at Chef Peter's) and Blue Dinners (third Thursday at 4:00 at State 48) continue.
6. Special Presentation: “The VAN and How to Use It” by Cheri Tomlinson. Bill introduced Cheri and commended her commitment to local Democratic groups and events. "Cheri is a Democrat's Democrat." Formerly part of LD22 , Cheri now works in LD28 after redistricting. She acknowledged that we live in red districts but said we do make a difference. LD22 was the forth reddest district but we tied for third in Democratic voter turnout in 2020. That made a difference in the races for President and Senate in 2020. We need to continue to work with Independents as they are 51 percent of new voters. Both Republicans and Democrats are losing ground in the percentages and for the first time Independents are the largest group. The three way split is fairy even. Democrats need a large turnout and need to bring along the Independents. Cheri sees opportunities in both LD 28 and LD29. Looking at the data, age groups 25-34 and 35-49 voters were the ones that didn't vote. Over 300,000 Independent voters did not vote. Approximately 90 percent of Democratic voters receive voters on AEVL. Yet, 7000 active voters in the two districts are not yet on AEVL. She sees that as an opportunity because those who receive ballots in the mail are more likely to vote. There is an effort to look at data and identify who we would like to sign on to AEVL. Voting down-ballot is critical to winning. Maricopa County Democrats will provide LD specific voter guides to all Democrats and left leaning independents. There will also add texting and post-carding efforts. Data allows the group to specifically focus efforts for the most opportunity. A question and answer session followed.
7. Old Business: • Candidate Rally: This is one of the Grand Democrats big events with 18-20 candidates participating this year. The rally will be in the Kiwa/Sagebrush Theatre from 2:00 - 4:00 on September 24th. There will be a Zoom connection for those who cannot attend in person. There will be music, dancers and decorations. Watch for additional information and plans to come. Barb reported she could still use a few Candidate Captains to escort candidates in the rally. • LD29 Update: Bill reported that, as the Grand Democrats President, he serves as the liaison to LD29. Grand Democrat Suzi Walling was elected Chair of Executive Board for LD29 and was present to give an update for LD29. She introduced other LD board members who were present. Suzi said she has been notified that there is a need for poll watchers. LDs need more PCs and volunteers. Suzi suggests getting in touch with her or Barb Nelson who is also on the LD29 Executive board. Bill commended those involved with LD29 for getting the organization up and running in just a few months.
8. New Business: • Early Membership Solicitation for 2023 - Bill asked members to renew early so that those monies can be used for this year's election cycle. • Contributions to Candidates: The Grand Democrats Board approved a plan for contributions. It is as follows:
	* $500 each to LD28, LD29 and the MCDP
	* $500 to Scott Podeyn (Unopposed for State Representative)
	* $1000 to Mark Kelly (Unopposed for US Senate)
	* $1000 to Julie Gunnigle (Unopposed for County Attorney)
	* $1000 for Governor candidate after primary
	* $1000 for Attorney General candidate after primary
	* $1000 for State Treasurer candidate after primary
	* $1000 for Secretary of State candidate after primary
	* Total of $8000

Cooperation with Other Democratic Groups in the Area - Bill has met with leadership from other Democratic groups in the area (Sun City Dems, West Valley Dems, LD28, LD29) to determine how they can work together. More information will be forthcoming.

1. Program: Barbara Nelson introduced Tina Mollica who cares a great deal about Dysart School District, especially the students and teachers. Tina feels that strong schools build strong communities. Tina told us she needed 400 signatures to be on the ballot and she was able to submit 827 last week. She is encouraged by the many people she met who care about education. Tina is a former public school educator in Illinois and transitioned to teaching adults after moving to Arizona. Tina took time to raise a family but vowed never to forget what it was like to be an educator. She has two boys in the Dysart School District. Tina has served as a substitute teacher, a scout leader, and as an activist for the district. She has also been involved with the League of Women Voters advocating for education needs. She is running for Dysart School Board because Arizona has the low salaries, low per pupil spending and sends millions of dollars to private schools. Seventy percent of Arizona classrooms are not led by teaches certified to teach. Like other places around the country, some current school board members are trying to push a political agenda. They have done much damage. Two board positions are up for election this year, and three next year. Tina is running to help the community and serve students and teachers.
2. 50-50 Raffle: $63 was shared between a member and the club.
3. Next General Meeting: October 26, 2022.

Submitted by,
Serene Matthews
Board Member at Large

**Grand Dems General Meeting Minutes**
**April 27th, 2022**

1. **The Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Bill Shields at 6:30pm**
2. **Approval of the minutes:** The minutes of the March 23, 2022 General meeting were approved.
3. **President’s Comments:**
	1. Bill Shields thanked those who donated to the Ukrainian relief fund. Checks for the Ukrainian fund should be made out to the Sun City Grand Dems. The proceeds of the fund raising effort will be sent to the Samaritans Purse **organization** as a gift in the name of the Grand Dems club.
	2. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Ukrainian people as the atrocities against Ukrainian cities and their people continue. Unfortunately, there are those on the right who continue to support Vladimir Putin and Russia’s efforts to destroy independent Ukraine. Tucker Carlson, of Fox News, continues to echo Russia’s priorities, policies and propaganda. In another attempt to support Russia; Senator Rand Paul confronted Secretary of State Blinken by repeating Putin’s claim that Ukraine is not an independent country but is part of Russia. Bill wants to remind Paul that Alaska was once owned by Imperial Russia and wondered how Paul would feel if Putin invaded Alaska.
	3. The tapes, texts and phone calls of national senators and congress people concerning the January 6th Capitol riot have recently come to light. This is further evidence as to how far those on the right have wandered from the truth and the rule of law. Those involved have planned and fomented the January 6th attack and then lied about their involvement. Bill called them sycophants, who have no respect for our Constitution. Their only commitment is to former President Donald Trump.
	4. Two brave souls have had the courage to fight back and speak up for the truth. Democratic State Representative Ian Mackey from Missouri defended himself and the LGBTQ constituents in the wake of an anti-gay, anti-trans bill that was about to pass in the Republican dominated Missouri House. Secondly, Democratic State Senator Mallory McMorrow from Michigan and the mother of a one-year old defended herself against a vicious and false fundraising email attack from a Republican colleague who accused her of being a child pornographer and sex groomer.
	5. Finally, as Democrats, it is time to say, “enough is enough”. We must fight back, and this election year is the time to work like never before to get the vote out. We have a plan to do just that, and we will be asking for volunteers to make our Democratic voices heard in the 2022 midterm elections.
4. **Treasurer’s Report:** Mark Hamilton indicated that as of March 31st , the balance in the Grand Dems checking account totaled $10,876.00. The monthly income was $1,878.00. Our expenses for the month of March equaled $148.38.
5. **Committee Reports:**
	1. **Adopt A Street:** Carol Karsten stated that the next Adopt A Street event will be held on May 14, the second Saturday in May. The clean- up effort will take place on Mountain View between Reems and the stop sign. Carol said that the clean- up activity will take no more than an hour. Join us for a “fun time” and an opportunity for good conversation.
	2. **Membership;** Carol Karsten exclaimed that currently there are one hundred and eighty five Grand Dem members and that as of April 27th, the Grand Dems have signed up eight new members. Carol told those attending the General meeting that they should contact her if they are not receiving the Grand Dems email blasts.
	3. **Program:** Barbara Nelson announced that Martin Quezada running for AZ State Treasurer and Julie Gunnigle running for Maricopa County Attorney will speak at the Grand Dems General meeting in May. Kris Mayes running for Attorney General will speak at the General meeting in June.
	4. **Publicity:** Marty Cohen said he is selling name tags at all our Grand Dem General meetings.. He indicated that Grand Dem members should wear their badges both at our General meetings and out and about in the community. He would like those in the community to know that we are proud Democrats. Guests are welcomed at our General meetings and Marty said that will have the dates for our General meetings placed in the Sun City Independent newspaper.
	5. **Social:** Pattie Doss thanked everyone for bringing veggie dishes and their own plates to our Annual Grand Dems Spring Picnic. She is also grateful for everyone who volunteered at the event. She said that our next Blue Breakfast will be held on May 3rd, the first Tuesday of the month at Chef Peters. The Grand Dems Blue Dinner will be held on May 19th, the third Thursday of the month at State 48. Bill complemented Pattie and other Grand Dem members who volunteered to make our Spring Party a success.
6. **Old Business:**
	1. **Position Descriptions:** A Grand Dems subcommittee has been working on updating the job descriptions of the Board and Officers positions: Only two chair positions are left to be updated and will be completed by the next General meeting.
	2. **Club Campaign Actions:** Our Grand Dems Board has developed a plan to support local candidates who are running in the 2022 midterm elections. They include postcarding, texting, distributing the golden ticket in cooperation with LD-29 and possible door-to-door canvassing. Distributing the golden ticket entails attaching a packet of candidate information to the handles of garage doors. One of our primary goals is to register Democrats and Independents in Sun City Grand and encourage them to vote. We will ask for volunteers at our General meeting in May. There will be sign-up sheets so one can choose the activity in which one chooses to participate.
7. **New Business**
	1. **Change in Location of June and November General meetings:** Due to a snafu in CAMS new computer system, the Grand Dems are forced to change the location of the June and November General meetings. In June and November, our General meetings will be held in the **Palms/Palo Verde** rooms in the Sonoran Plaza, next to the theatre. The times for the General meeting will be the same; 6:00 p.m.for coffee and cookies and the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.
	2. **Regulations relative to Clean Elections:** A clean candidate’s goal is to keep their candidacy fair and honest without the interference of big donors who may influence their decisions once elected. Mark Hamilton said that participating clean candidates can collect a $5.00 qualifying contribution from individuals. Subsequently, those individuals can give up to $180.00 to a clean candidate, but candidates must spend that money by July 26, 2022. The Grand Dems along with other Political Action Committees and corporations can not contribute to clean candidates. Sandra Kennedy, the incumbent running for the Arizona Corporate Commission Board, is a clean candidate. She still needs donations and if one would like to contribute to her campaign, visit her website to donate. The Grand Dems can support a clean candidate by sending postcards and texts to eligible voters encouraging them to vote for a clean candidate. Mark will identify other clean candidates and send out an eblast email informing Grand Dem members of other clean candidates. Clean candidates will also be posted on the Grand Dems website.
	3. **Report: LD-29:** LD-29 is still in the process of organizing and filling vacancies on the Board. An election of new officers will be on May 19, 2022. As of April 27, 2022, the LD- 29 Board nominees are as follows:. Chair Susan Walling, First Vice Chair Lynn Peters, Second Vice Chairs Janine Menard (media) and Barbara Nelson (Volunteers & PC’s), Treasurer Daisy Landry and Secretary Carol Hodgson.
8. Program:
	1. **Marco Lopez:** Running for Governor: Mr. Lopez was raised in Nogales, Arizona and the first in his family to attend college. As he was growing up, he learned from his parents that if one is willing to work hard with a focus on family, one can get ahead. He has worked at the city, state and federal levels of government. He was the mayor of Nogales, Arizona and policy advisor to Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano. Afterwards, he was appointed to the position of Homeland Security by President Barack Obama. He hopes to become Governor of Arizona in order to improve Arizona’s educational system making sure that every household has broadband so each home can be connected to the world of education and business. As he says, “We need to connect to compete” He believes that Arizona should not be a state where education is forty ninth in our country. He is also concerned about Arizona’s costly healthcare system and increasing the number of businesses in Arizona. “We need to make investments in education, healthcare and business commerce”! He also wants to tackle divisiveness and hate that has permeated our state. .He is running a traditional campaign and he asked those attending the meeting to go to his website marcolopez.com to donate to his campaign.
	2. **Aaron Lieberman:** Running for Governor: Mr. Lieberman grew up in Arizona and was a preschool teacher and the founder of a preschool program called Jumpstart. He is passionate in his belief that all kids should be prepared to enter kindergarten. He said, “I believe politics are broken in Arizona and that’s why I'm running for Governor”. Mr. Lieberman reminisced about politics in the 1980’s when politicians from both sides of the aisle worked together to get things done for the citizens of Arizona. From 2019 to 2021, he represented the 28th district in the Arizona State House of Representatives. During the pandemic, Mr. Lieberman secured millions in funding to provide teachers with training for virtual learning so they could better serve their students. The Arizona State legislature needs to stop slashing our state revenue. When he is Governor, he will only sign a budget that increases teachers’ pay and addresses a universal preschool program. Mr. Lieberman would like to increase the budget for community colleges, small businesses and law enforcement. Public Safety is a priority. Law enforcement employees have not had a pay increase since 2013. He believes in increasing the number of Arizona businesses and focusing on alternative energy sources that will equate to clean green energy. As Governor, he will work with mayors to create more affordable housing to address Arizona’s homeless problem.
	3. **Scott Podeyn:** Running for Arizona House from LD-29 : Mr. Podeyn indicated that he is running as a traditional candidate and needs volunteers to support his campaign. In 1982, he entered the Air Force where he served our country for twenty years. As a retired Air Force veteran, he believes in service before self, honor and duty. Mr. Podeyn has worked with the PGA to raise funds for disabled veterans. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of New Mexico where he studied physical geography and geology. Mr. Podeyn supports a healthy environment and believes in water conservation. When he becomes a member of the legislature, he will work with engineers who have the know-how to store water underground. He believes in funding our public schools and is tired of the Republican legislature who takes away money from our kids in the public schools while funding for- profit charter schools with Arizona tax dollars. “It was a tragedy when the Arizona Supreme Court struck down Proposition 208 which would have helped to fund our public schools. Our kids should come first. Let’s take away the tax breaks and voucher program”. He is running for the Arizona House because he wants to stand up against self serving selfish legislatures. He wants to explore ways to help individuals who are faced with huge medical bills due to a devastating illness. “It is so sad when someone is forced into medical bankruptcy”. Mr. Podeyn believes that for -profit private prisons should be shut down in order to fund a healthcare program that will help individuals pay their medical bills. To get more information on how to donate and volunteer, please visit scottpodeyn.com.
9. **50-50 Raffle:** $77.50 was awarded to a member of the Grand Dems. That member donated their raffle money to the Ukrainian relief fund.
10. **The Grand Dems General meeting** was adjourned at 8:11p.m.
11. **Next General meeting** will be held on May 25, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted by

Nancy A. Martin

Grand Dems Secretary

**Grand Dems General Meeting Minutes**
**March 23, 2022**

1. The Call To Order and Pledge of Allegiance were led by President Bill Shields at 6:31 p.m.
2. President’s Comments
	1. Bill Shields asked for a moment of silence for the people of Ukraine and in memory of former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright who passed away on March 23rd. Bill also made a comment on the Senate confirmation hearings of Ketanji Brown Jackson. He said that the Republicans made fools of themselves asking ridiculous questions to a very accomplished Judge Jackson.
	2. Bill reminded everyone that the Grand Dems Spring Party will be held this coming Saturday, March 26 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. In addition, he told the members to see Marty Cohen to purchase the Grand Dems name tags. Bill encouraged everyone to wear the name tags to our General meetings. Finally, new Grand Dem members were recognized.
	3. Bill indicated that the AZ legislature is still passing voter suppression bills. Currently, AZ’s Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL) is in jeopardy. The bill to eliminate PEVL has passed the AZ House and it is currently in the Senate. Former Maricopa County Recorder Adrian Fontes isn’t convinced that Governor Doug Ducey will sign the bill since it is so popular with voters.
3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the February 23, 2022 General meeting were approved.
4. Treasurer’s Report: Mark Hamilton indicated that our February checking account balance is $9,146.61. Our expenses totaled $50.66 and included a cost for Mail Chimp and our Zoom account. Bill remarked about the importance of the Grand Dems membership renewals as the membership fees are used to underwrite our Democratic candidates.
5. Committee Reports:
	1. Adopt A Street: Carol Karsten stated that the next Adopt A Street clean up effort will be held on May 14, 2022.
	2. Membership: Carol Karsten indicated that there are currently one hundred and seventy Grand Dem members. At tonight’s Grand Dems General meeting, eleven new members signed up bringing our total membership to one hundred and eight one.
	3. Program: Barbara Nelson announced that April is Governor’s Month and the speakers at our next General meeting will be the Democratic candidates running for the office of Governor in 2022. Secretary of State Katie Hobbs is unable to attend this meeting. If she wins the primary, Katie will attend the September rally. Barbara asked members to support Scott Podeyn, a candidate for AZ House of Representatives. He still needs signatures by April 4th. Bill praised Barbara for her hard work in communicating with local candidates and scheduling them to to speak at our General meeting.
	4. Publicity: Marty Cohen commented “Buy your badge”. Of course, he was referring to purchasing the Grand Dems name tags.
	5. Social: Nancy Hamilton asked members to sign up for our Spring Party so that enough food is purchased. The theme of the Spring Party is Saving our planet/ Saving Democracy. She reminded members that the Blue Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, April 5 at Chef Peters and the Blue Dinner will be held on Thursday, April 21 at State 48.
6. Old Business: Bill reported that the reorganization of LD 22 resulted in our legislative district being changed to LD 29. Currently the Board members for LD 29 are as follows:Chair Michael Medansky from Surprise, First Vice Chair Lynn Peters, Treasurer Doisy Landry and Secretary Susan Walling. Janine Menard needed to step down as Second Vice Chair and her replacement will be announced soon.
7. New Business
	1. Club Campaign Activity Plan: Bill indicated that the Grand Dems have outlined methods to support local candidates. They include postcarding, texting and distributing the “golden ticket”. Also, the Grand Dems will sponsor our traditional “Candidate Rally” in September. Barbara reported that approximately six hundred attended the last rally and that all local candidates attended the event. Since Republican are seeking ways to suppress the vote, it is so important that Democrats vote and efforts are made to register Independent voters.
	2. Other: Barbara reported that Julie Gunnigle has received enough signatures to be on the ballot for the upcoming special election to replace the current Maricopa County attorney. Barbara also wanted members to know that Bill Pierce who is running for Mine Inspector needs more signatures in order to be on the ballot. She is sure that he will achieve his goal and will be one of our speakers at our General meeting in May.
8. Program
	1. Kathy Hoffman is the incumbent running for the AZ Superintendent of Public Instruction: In 2018, Ms Hoffman became the first Democrat and teacher in twenty years to have been elected as Superintendent of Public Instruction. While in this position, she has been an advocate for kids; visiting K - 12 schools throughout Arizona. Her campus visits have included Window Rock H.S. in the Navajo Nation and a K - 8 elementary school in Nogales. During covid, it was discovered that one-fourth of the homes in Arizona did not have internet service making virtual learning impossible for many children. Available federal funding through the CARES ACT and American Rescue Plan has allocated $4,000,000,000 to Arizona schools thus narrowing the digital divide to underserved communities. She indicated that it is her responsibility to make sure that the money is allocated to those districts most in need. She is proud that Gila Bend near Yuma currently has an internet connection in every home. The mental health of students Is one of Ms. Hoffman’s priorities. When she took office In 2019, the student to social worker ratio was 1 to 900. Through her efforts, $20,000,000 was raised to hire one hundred and twenty social workers, reducing the student to social worker ratio by 20%. Finally, she has addressed Arizona’s high teacher shortage. AZ public school funding has been a challenge as the AZ legislature controls teachers' pay. Ms. Hoffman has applied for one thousand grants to be awarded to teachers and used for classroom materials empowering teachers within the classroom environment. She believes that AZ's future begins in our schools. She is a clean election candidate who still needs volunteers to get the vote out.
	2. Alexandra Arboldea is the incumbent running for the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD). While growing up in Tucson, she spent her time hiking, camping and horseback riding. Ms. Arboldea indicated that she always loved the outdoors and knew how important water is to our life. After receiving her law degree from the University of Arizona, she became a water attorney and in the past two decades, her goal has been to protect AZ’s water resources. She was elected to the CAWCD in 2016 and is seeking another six- year- term. Ms. Arboldea emphasized that AZ is in a pivotal time period. Our state is suffering the effects of climate change. Drought and excessive heat are responsible for reducing our water supplies as the Colorado River and Lake Mead are experiencing extremely low water levels. The CAWCD is the governing board overseeing The Central Arizona Project (CAP) consisting of a 336 mile canal that brings water from the Colorado River to Central and Southern Arizona. She believes in water conservation and that we must increase our water supplies. Ms. Arboldea indicated that she is an advocate for renewable energy and is proud of her role in replacing the generator on the Navajo reservation with renewable energy sources such as solar energy. She is collecting money for her campaign as her position does not allow her to be a clean election candidate. She stated that Maricopa County is the fastest growing county in the country and our board has a long term vision where our goal is to find water for everyone.
	3. Ben Graff is the incumbent running for the CAWCD: He said that he is officially announcing his reelection bid at our Grand Dems General meeting. Mr. Graff is a native of Arizona and as a father of two young daughters, he knows the importance of water conservation for our AZ’s future. As a member of the water board, he along with the fourteen members on the board, oversee the Central Arizona Project (CAP) which is the single largest canal system that includes fifteen pumping stations responsible for bringing electricity throughout AZ. Mr. Graff stated that it became evident that Arizona needed to diversify using renewable energy when the Navajo Nation’s generator went down in 2016. During the summer of 2021, Arizona experienced a Tier 1 water shortage as a result of the low water levels of the Colorado River. In response, he believes that it is very important that the CAWCD board helps to manage and evaluate water usage. In his estimation, Mr. Graff believes that we can find ways to conserve our water if Arizona communicates with surrounding states like California. Arizona has a one- hundred - year plan requiring developers to obtain a certificate assuring that any new housing development has a one- hundred- year supply of water. That law is still intact. He has co chaired a sub committee whose goal was to reach out to consumers, taxpayers and voters. The committee identified miscommunications and created an outreach program giving citizens an opportunity to attend meetings and give their input. He finds the people who attend their meetings to be very knowledgeable about water resources and renewable energy options.
9. 50-50 Raffle: $42.00 was awarded to a member of the Grand Dems.
10. The Grand Dems General meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.
11. Next General meeting will be held on April 27, 2022

Respectfully Submitted by

Nancy A. Martin
Secretary Grand Dems

**Grand Dems General Meeting Minutes**
**February 23, 2022**

1. The Call To Order was made by President Bill Shields at 6:30 PM.
2. President’s Comments:
	* 1. The 2022 midterm elections are so very important. The Big Lie is lingering, and voter suppression bills are rapidly going through the AZ legislature. Volunteering to “get out the vote” supports Democrats and will lead to a successful midterm election.
		2. Legislative district 22 has been reorganized and Sun City Grand is now in LD 29.
		3. Upcoming Grand Dems events include the Blue Breakfast which is scheduled for March 1 and the Blue Dinner on March 17. The Grand Dems Spring Party will be held on March 26.
3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the January 26, 2022, General meeting were approved
4. Treasurer’s Report:
	1. The Grand Dems checking account balance is $8,533.10. Our checking and savings accounts have been merged as the interest accrued in our savings account added up to a meager $0.26.
5. Committee Reports
	* + 1. Adopt A Street: Carol Karsten indicated that eleven people attended the Adopt A Street event. Carol will send an email with the date of the next Adopt A Street get together.
			2. Membership: Carol Karsten reported that 145 people renewed their membership and that the Grand Dems have 5 new members. 83 members still need to renew their 2022 membership dues. Bill Shields said that it is extremely important for members to renew their membership as it is the Grand Dems primary source of income.
			3. Program: Barbara Nelson revealed the names of the candidates who will speak at the Grand Dems General meeting in March. Kathy Hoffman, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Ben Graff and Alexandra Arboleda running for the Arizona Water Commission. Barbara acknowledged that Scott Podeyn is running for the House in the AZ legislature.
			4. Publicity: No publicity report as Marty Cohen was not in attendance.
			5. Social: Pattie Doss said that twenty Grand Dems members attended the February Blue Dinner at State 48. She reported that our next Blue Breakfast will be held at Chef Peters on Tuesday, March 1 at 8:00 a.m. At this point, our Blue Dinner is scheduled to be held on March 17. Pattie has not yet reserved the room at State 48 and since restaurants may be crowded on St. Patrick’s Day, the date for the March Blue Dinner may be changed. Pattie will send an email to members confirming the date.
6. Old Business
	* + 1. Update on Redistricting and LD 29 Organization: Sun City Grand’s newly organized LD 29 is underway. Seventeen Sun City Grand residents have signed up to be Precinct Committee Persons. A slate of candidates for officers on the LD 29 Board has been announced. They are as follows: Chair: Michael Mednansky, First Vice Chair: Lynn Peters, Second Vice Chair: Janine Menard, Treasurer: Doisy Landry. Carol Hodges has announced that she is willing to fill the Secretary’s role. The new PC election of officers will take place on March 5 on Zoom.
			Note: Seventeen individuals have volunteered to be Precinct Committee Persons for Sun City Grand.
			2. Board Officer and Chairs Position Description: The job descriptions of Chairs and Board Officers are in the process of being updated.
7. New Business
	* 1. Pattie Doss announced that the Grand Dems Spring Picnic will be held on March 26, 2022 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. The theme for the party will be Saving Democracy: Clean and Green. The menu will include grilled burgers and vegetarian options. Pattie indicated that she would like for those attending to bring a side dish and vegetarian dishes are encouraged. Soda and water will be provided and a cash bar with wine and beer will be available. Details for the Spring Party will be refined at the March 8th Board meeting.
		2. Democratic Treasurer’s Workshop: Mark Hamilton attended a treasurer’s Workshop. He acknowledged that Rick McGuire is extremely knowledgeable about new legislation and laws related to the Political Action Committee (PAC) especially as it relates to a Democratic organization’s treasury. Mark shared that any Democratic organization who is responsible for sponsoring an event must make up 10% of the lettering in any document. In addition, out of state donations need to be documented. It is of the utmost importance that the money spent by an organization needs to be clearly documented and filed on time. The treasurer of an organization can be prosecuted if it is found that the money is mismanaged.
		3. Other : Candidates running for local offices are encouraged to send their campaign’s website to Bill Shields so that candidates can update their upcoming events on our Grand Dems website.
8. Program:
	* 1. **Sandra Kennedy** is the incumbent running for the Arizona Corporation Committee. Ms. Kennedy shared that the Board subpoenaed APS to open up their books. She indicated that APS sent the Board volumes of information within several binders and that members of the Board went through every sheet of paper. She said that they couldn’t believe how frivolously they were spending money and rewarding their shareholders. Ms. Kennedy characterized her role on the Board as “I am the watchful eye and a consumer advocate”. She indicated that the AZ Corporation Committee regulates 300 water companies and so many of the companies are not seriously conserving the water necessary to provide water to AZ’s growing population. One only needs to look at the low water levels of Lake Mead to know how important water conservation is to Arizona. She was adamant that the commission needs to decide how to spend the federal money that will be dispersed for infrastructure and there also needs to be oversight so there is no price gouging. As a result of Ms. Kennedy’s watchful eye and the Boards regulations, Southwest Gas and EPCOR have been keeping accurate records and are now using best management practices. The Corporation Commission Board is also very concerned about cyber security of our utilities. There have been workshops to secure each utility's website to protect AZ’s companies from cyber-attacks.
		2. **Lauren Kuby** is running for Arizona Corporation Committee. Ms. Kuby is proud of her family’s history in supporting Democratic candidates since the 1960’s. She is a consumer advocate as well as a renewable energy advocate. Ms. Kuby indicated that she is running because renewable energy is the future of Arizona, and she believes that her experience puts her in the position to make good decisions concerning Arizona’s efforts to achieve energy conservation. We need to acknowledge the impact of climate change. In the past year, Phoenix had fifty - three days of temperatures reaching 110 degrees and wildfires throughout our state are increasing at alarming rates. She believes that there is an enormous positive economic impact when we have a renewable energy economy. “Solar and geothermal power builds resilience”. She thinks that the Corporation Commission needs to reach out to the Navajo nation and rural areas. Their goal should be to oversee the transition from a coal economy to renewable energy. A long-term investment in our communities will reap economic gains. When she is elected, she will support Arizona’s efforts to convert to 100% renewable energy by 2070. Currently, APS is spending lots of money to buy candidates who will support their agenda and all of Arizona needs to fight against those legislative bills that are trying to restrict the Corporation Commission’s ability to regulate and oversee abuses. She is honored to run alongside Sandra Kennedy; they will combine their campaigns so together they can change Arizona’s energy policy.
9. 50-50 Raffle: $37.00 was awarded to a member of the Grand Dems.
10. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.
11. Next General Meeting will be on March 23, 2022

Respectfully Submitted by
Nancy A. Martin
Secretary Grand Dems

**Grand Democrats General Meeting Minutes**

**January 26, 2022 over ZOOM**

1. The Call To Order was made by President Bill Shields at 6:00 p.m. and Bill Shields led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Bill announced a change in the order of the agenda. The two speakers would be first on the agenda and business items would be presented after the speakers have finished speaking.
3. President Bill Shields asked Vice President Barbara Nelson to introduce tonight’s speakers.
4. Program

Speaker **Adrian Fontes** is running for AZ Secretary of State:
Mr. Fontes talked about his accomplishments while he was Maricopa County’s Recorder from 2016 -2020. He is most proud of his outreach efforts to students on the campus of ASU where he and his team made voting more accessible. While he held the position of Maricopa County’s Recorder, he reached out to communities with large numbers of disabled, Latino and African Americans. It was in these communities where he helped register large numbers of voters and expanded early voting options; he and his team ensured that every eligible voter had the opportunity to cast their ballot. As Adrian said, “Never has there been a more scrutinized election than the 2020 election” . In the end, Maricopa County had the most secure election in history. Adrian said that he is respected across the state with large numbers of donors. Although he indicated that he does not receive donations from large PACs. As Secretary of State in Arizona, he will make sure that his office has transparency, truthful data driven information to inform the public on the voting process, support small businesses and make it easier for all people to navigate the government’s website. Adrian is very proud of his Arizona roots where his family has been in this state since 1695. He asked that we go to ElectFontes.com for more information.

Speaker **Reginold Bolding** is running for AZ Secretary of State:
As Democratic caucus leader in Arizona's House of Representative, Mr. Bolding said that he has worked on bills expanding voting rights, improving education and prison reform. He has also implemented laws and policies while in the legislature. He is the founder of two civic voter organizations. Even though he was born and raised in Ohio, Mr. Bolding made the point that he chose Arizona as his home and that is where he and his wife have decided to raise their family. Early in his career, he became a special education teacher because he had a special needs brother. Through his civic organizations, individuals were hired to register people to vote. These workers registered young people, people of color and those on tribal lands. As our country struggled to stay safe during the pandemic, Bolding’s civic organizations are responsible for extending voter registration during the 2020 election. By extending the voter registration deadline by ten days, 35,000 additional people registered to vote. Throughout his time as a Democratic leader in the House, he has been a voice that supports expanding voting rights. He has fought Republican bills that proposed removing ballot boxes on university campuses, getting rid of mail in voting ballots and limiting voting options to just one day. He stated that we must fight against bills such as Bill 1485 that purges voters off the voting rolls. Mr. Bolding reminded us that the Arizona State House and Senate Democrats are only a minority by one vote in each House. He believes that his experience as a chief election officer, and his knowledge of the legislative process makes him more than ready to be Arizona’s Secretary of State in 2022. Having the support of his colleagues is critical and Bolding said that he has the endorsement of many mayors, and several leaders throughout the tribal nations. He stated that Arizona’s voting process is under attack and that Arizona needs a Secretary of State who has the experience and values to lead us in the right direction. He believes that people of all ages; especially young people need to be taught advocacy and how to engage with lawmakers so their voices are heard. Finally, all Arizona voters must fight voter suppression. We need to remember that Arizona was the first state to vote by mail thus leading the nation in voting rights. We still have an opportunity to stop voter suppression bills. “I believe that as Secretary of State that I can work with the legislature. I bring a unique experience”
5. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the November 17, 2021 general meeting were approved:
6. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Mark Hamilton reported that at the end of the 2021 fiscal year, the Grand Dems balance checking account totalled $8,242.30
7. Old Business: None
8. New Business:

	1. Presentation and Approval of Updated By-laws: Bill Shields, Barbara Nelson, Mark Hamilton and Serene Matthews revised the by-laws. A motion to approve the changes of the by-laws was passed at the January 11, 2021 Board meeting. All members of the Grand Dems had an opportunity to view the changes online prior to today’s vote at the general meeting. President Bill Shields discussed the modifications made to the by-laws prior to the membership voting to approve the revisions of updated by-laws. Approval of the changes to the by-laws was passed by the membership. 18 out of 18 members voted with the measure passing with a 100% approval.
	2. 2022 Redistricting Maps: Vice President Barbara Nelson explained that LD 22 has been split into 3 legislative districts; LD 27, 28 and 29. Sun City Grand is now part of LD 29. Barbara gave a brief description of the perimeter that defines LD 29. Pebble Creek, Luke Air Force Base and Litchfield Park will join Sun City Grand in our legislative district. However Sun City West and Sun City Festival are not part of LD 29. As a result, fewer senior communities are being represented. The good news is that the Nadaburg School District in Wittman is now a part of LD 29 and may help to increase voter representation. Barbara explained that there is a total population of 240,102 people within the Sun City Grand precincts however there are 13% more Republicans within our district, however, independent voters, who are substantial in number, were not included in the commission’s calculations. In order for our voices to be heard within our legislative district, Barbara indicated that we need more precinct committee persons. Currently, we have 12 PC committee members in Sun City Grand. We need a total of 30 PCs. Bill Shields suggested that we appeal to all Grand Dem members to become PCs and said that he would send a letter to the members asking them to do so. Barbara indicated that Sun City Grand is still in Congressional District 8. Barbara talked about the importance of accessing the Congressional/ Legislative District Lookup website. Lynn Peters and Barbara Nelson will email Grand Dem members information so they can access the map that will give them more information about how redistricting affects our community and the process to become a PC. Bill thanked Lynn Peters and Barbara Nelson for their work.
	3. Dates to Remember: President Bill Shields asked members to place March 19, 2022 on their calendars for our annual Spring party that will be held under the outdoor Pavilion in Sun City Grand. Barbara Nelson revealed that Sandra Kennedy and Lauren Kuby who are running for AZ Corporation Commission will be speaking at our next Grand Dems general meeting on February 23, 2022.
9. Meeting was adjourned at 7:35
10. Next General meeting will be on February 23, 2022.

Respectfully submitted by
Nancy A. Martin
Grand Dems Secretary