



## GRAND Democrats

[granddems.org](http://granddems.org)

### GENERAL MEETING MINUTES April 17, 2024

#### Call to Order:

President Bob Walling opened the meeting at 6:30 with the singing of the National Anthem.

#### Secretary's Report:

Secretary Carole Parnell asked for any corrections to the Minutes of the February and March General Meetings posted on the website. Hearing none, acceptance was moved, seconded, and approved.

#### Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report sent out to the membership was approved.

#### President's Remarks:

April 9<sup>th</sup> was a rallying day for Democrats when Republicans blocked the repeal of the 1864 Territorial Law on abortion making it a key issue that will bring out voters in the November election.

April 1<sup>st</sup> was a great day for Democrats as candidates officially secured their positions on the ballot:

- U.S. Senate—Ruben Gallego
- U.S. House 8—Gregory Whitten
- Arizona Corporation Commission
  - Ylenia Aguilar\*
  - Jonathan Hill\*
  - Joshua Polacheck
- Maricopa County
  - Assessor—Greg Freeman
  - Attorney—Tamika Wooten
  - Recorder—Tim Stringham
  - Sheriff—Tyler Kamp
  - School Superintendent—Dr. Laura Metcalfe
  - Board of Supervisors D4—David Sandoval
- Legislative District 29
  - Eric Stafford\*—Senate
  - Tanairi Ochoa-Martinez\*—House
  - Tom Tzitzura\*—House
- Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board (non-partisan)
  - Terry Goddard\*

- Heather Macre\*
- Dysart Unified School District Governing Board (non-partisan)
  - Sarah Tyree
  - Marc Lewis
  - Jo Grant

\*Clean Elections Candidates for state races need \$5 donations on E-Qual which can be accessed from the Grand Dems website. Other candidates need donations which can be made on Act Blue.

Grand Dems helps win elections by

- educating voters
  - monthly programs feature candidates and issues.
  - website and e-mail blasts share news and events.
  - Voter guides promote Democratic candidates.
- fundraising with \$5,525 awarded to candidates in 2024 from dues and Victory Fund.
  - Victory Fund donations
  - dues
  - 50/50 Raffle and Wine Snob drawing
- “friend” raising.
  - guest memberships.
  - social events

Grand Dems members can help by

- stepping up to leadership positions. We need a Vice President.
- signing nominating petitions for school board candidates
- donating to the Victory Fund on our website, to traditional candidates through Act Blue and to Clean Elections candidates online at E-Qual,
- signing up to volunteer and reach out to the 2600 Democrats in Grand

Next Months’ Programs: Please RSVP on our website

- May 22—Tyler Kamp Town Hall: a Q&A with our candidate for county sheriff who is running in the primary against a protege of Sheriff Arpaio
- June 26—Heather Macre, Water Board & Civic Engagement Beyond Voting, a grassroots nonpartisan organization working to empower *Arizona* residents to exercise their voices at state and local levels.

Bob demonstrated on E-Qual how to make \$5 Clean Election Donations, which can be accessed from our website [www.granddems.org](http://www.granddems.org).

## PROGRAM

Bernadette Placentia, who came in second among four aspiring candidates at our January rally, but failed to get the required number of signatures, congratulated Greg on making the ballot. She is considering running for the West Mec school board.

Greg Whitten ([www.whittenforaz.com](http://www.whittenforaz.com)) will be on the ballot for U.S. Representative from District 8. He was born and educated in Arizona. His work for the campaigns of Barack Obama led to a job with the Defense Department and a 15-year career in national security, pandemic preparedness, and healthcare. He sees his campaign as democracy vs anti-democracy, Democrats are outnumbered in Arizona, and he is looking for support among those independents and Republicans who want a commonsense candidate interested in solving problems. He expects endorsements through his connections with Indivisible and

other groups, both in state and nationally. He needs donations and volunteers, especially those who would hold house parties. In addition to abortion, the big issue of the election will be the border. He supports the bipartisan bill that Republicans defeated in Congress this year. He favors improving relations with Mexico and other South American countries to deal with the immigration crisis. Once the primary results are finalized, he expects to debate his opponent three or more times. His first choice of committees in Congress would be Commerce because of TSMC, the federally supported semi-conductor plant being built by Taiwan in Arizona.

Joshua Polacheck followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather when he became a commissioned officer in the foreign service right out of college. He served 20 years and resigned in 2017. He then redirected his efforts to political action at the local level and was Executive Director of the Pima Democratic Party. He hopes he and the other two Democratic candidates for the Arizona Corporation Commission will win and end the Republican majority that has favored fossil fuel energy over solar and frustrated efforts to keep energy costs low. They are working closely with the only other statewide races, the Biden/Harris presidential races.

The 50/50 and Wine Snob winners were drawn. The meeting concluded at 8:15.