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**GRAND
Democrats**

**GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES
May 22, 2024**

Call to Order:

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

Secretary's Report: There were no additions or corrections to the published *Minutes* of the April General Meeting and they were approved.

Treasurer's Report: There were no questions about the published *Budget 5/13/24* and it was accepted.

Introductions:

- Candidates: Tyler Kamp for Maricopa County Sheriff, Eric Stafford for the Arizona Senate from LD29 and Tom Tzitzura for State Representative, Aly Cline for Surprise Mayor, Earle Greenberg for City Council in District 2, and Bernadette Greene Placentia for West Mec Governing Board.
- Sarah Tyree, Chair of LD29.

President's Remarks:

- The Board approved the following proposed amendment to the Bylaws which will be voted on at the General Meeting of June 26:
 - ARTICLE III – BOARD
 - Section B. Members of the Board – The members of the Board are the officers of the club: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer and three Members-at-Large. All board members and nominees of Board positions shall be registered Democrats or Independents and members in good standing.
- Suzi Walling and Carol Karsten will be the Nominating Committee for the 2024 Election of Officers for 2025. Bob will be running again for President. The office of Vice President in 2024 remains to be filled.
- Bob attended the Arizona Democratic State Convention Meeting on May 18 as the elected representative for District 40 and will be a delegate to the National Democratic Convention, August 19-24 in Chicago. The most notable event at the State Convention was a resolution regarding the war in Gaza that was voted down.
- Eric Stafford is just 10 pledges away from qualifying for Clean Elections funds. He can also accept personal contributions to help defray the \$1500 cost of VAN (the list of registered Democrats) needed to run his campaign. Tanairi Ochoa-Martinez and Tom Tzitzura for State Representative, Ylenia Aguilar and Jonathan Hill for Corporation Commissioner are also Clean Elections candidates in need of pledges.

- All contributions to our Victory Fund will be passed on to eligible local candidates at the June meeting.

LD 29 Report from Sarah Tyree:

- Precinct workers do the essential job of making sure their Democratic neighbors are familiar with our candidates, registered to vote and on the early voting list or able to get to the polls on Election Day. They are also eligible to run for Chair of a Legislative District and for offices in the County Democratic Party. We are 10 Precinct Committee Members short of the 30 needed to nominate candidates that replace elected Democrats who may resign before the end of their terms. Petitions for appointment as a Precinct Committee Member are available and due back by May 31st.
- The November elections are 160 days away and early voting ballots will go out 30 days before that. GOTV (Get Out The Vote) is already working in El Mirage where only 42% of voters turned out at the last election. They are knocking on doors every Saturday 7-9 a.m. to leave literature and a reminder that the election date was moved forward one week to July 30. They also plan to target young first-time voters.
- LD 29 meetings in Goodyear on the second Wednesday of the month feature candidates and other informative speakers. The Pebble Creek Dems meet on the first Wednesday.
- Sarah and Mark Lewis will not be on the ballot for Dysart School Board this year. She is supporting Jo Grant, a moderate on the present Board. [Ms. Grant is retired after serving the Southern Arizona Office of The State Senate and House of Representatives for the last 28 years. She served on the Amphitheater Public Schools board in the Tuscon area prior to moving from Oro Valley to Surprise.]

Elections Committee Report:

- Chair Lynne Leonard announced that, since December, her team had knocked on 530 doors, attended numerous events, and submitted 37 *Abortion Access* petitions with 500 signatures. She thanked Kathy Wyse especially for completing the most petitions as well as Leslie Federgreen, Edra Jandro, Carol Karsten, Barbara Nelson, Susan Noll, Carole Parnell, Kay Sawatski, Marsha Scott, Marilyn Schultze, Bob and Suzi Walling, and Barbara Young.
- Sherry Douglas reported that 11 members went on a tour of the Maricopa Election and Tabulation Center in April. Two of those members shared their observations about the stringent security measures taken to insure the integrity of the voting process. Sherry is taking names of anyone interested in a tour of Runbeck Election Services in July. This is where Early Voting ballots are printed and sorted for delivery by the US Post Office.

Program Report;

- Speakers at the June 26th meeting will be Heather Macre who is running for a second term on the Central Arizona Water Conservation Board and Cathy Sigmon from Civic Engagement Beyond Voting who started Gavel Watch, a voter guide to judges. Non-partisan candidates Aly Cline and Earle Greenberg will promote their campaigns for city offices. We will also vote on the Bylaws amendment.
- There are no general meetings in July and August.

- Our Saturday, September 21st meeting is a “Meet the Candidates” Rally co-sponsored with Pebble Creek Dems, Northwest Valley Dems and Legislative Districts 25, 28 and 29. It will take place in the Sagebrush Ballroom of Sonoran Plaza from 2-4 p.m.

This concluded the business portion of the meeting.

Tyler Kamp Town Hall

- Introduction: Tyler Kamp is a 5th generation Arizonan from South Peoria, has a degree in the Administration of Justice from ASU, served 21 years on the Phoenix Police Department, was a Director of Investigations and Law Enforcement Development in West Africa, did volunteer work in South America and is now Director of Executive Protection for Thrive Service Group which works to eradicate poverty.

He has experience in gang intervention and human trafficking as well as sophisticated undercover criminal investigations.

- The Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office serves an area larger than 4 states. It provides patrol services and criminal investigation to unincorporated areas of the county and operates the county jail system, the 3rd largest in the country, with over 100,000 inmates a year. It also serves as the primary law enforcement agency for any incorporated cities within the county that have contracted with the agency for law-enforcement services (known as "contract cities").
- Tyler believes in “doing justice” by enforcing the rule of law and holding citizens accountable, “preventive justice” that looks for the root causes of crime and seeks to ameliorate them both on the individual and community level, and “restorative justice” that finds ways to prepare inmates to re-enter society successfully.
- Major issues include the need to recruit and retain qualified officers and to comply with the federal oversight requirements that followed numerous and costly lawsuits against former sheriff Arpaio.
- Tyler Kamp is running in the only contested primary race against the interim sheriff, Russ Skinner, who switched from Republican to Democratic in order to be appointed after Sheriff Penzone’s resignation. Skinner spent most of his career under Arpaio and reneged on his assurance that he would not run for sheriff if appointed as a Democrat.

Tom Tzitzura

- Tom is a native of Chicago who moved to Arizona in 2001 to teach high school science for ten years. He served in the Navy from 1977-1999 as an Electronic Warfare Officer and retired with the rank of Commander. Continuing in the Naval Reserves, he completed three six-month Middle East deployments.
- As a former teacher, he supports fully funding Arizona’s public schools and providing public pre-school for all Arizona children. As a one-time union member, he supports the repeal of Arizona’s Right to Work law that blocks unionization. He believes in women’s unconditional right to choose abortion. He is interested in solving water shortages by desalinizing water from the Gulf of Mexico and using pipelines to distribute water from areas where it is plentiful.

The meeting concluded at 8:15 p.m. with the drawings for 50/50 and Wine Snob.