

**Grand Democrats**  
**General Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**April 26, 2023 - 6:00 pm**

- 1. Members and guests began arriving at 6:00 pm enjoying coffee, cookies and conversation.**
- 2. Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance:** President Suzi Walling called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. Treasurer Jim Coffran led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. Minutes of March 22, 2023 General Meeting:** Nancy A. Martin, co-secretary, asked for comments or corrections of the minutes. No one had any corrections and the minutes were approved.
- 4. President's Remarks:** Suzi Walling opened her remarks with a quote from Prez's letter found on the Grand Dems website. *"Politics is my life and it's your life. Why? Because politics is comprised of all our beliefs, our values. Everything in everyday life has been touched by Politics. Life is governed by rules, regulations, special forms you complete to request permission to obtain a license, to marry, to drive a car, to get a permit to do something in your home, or a summons to court to serve on a jury. So when someone says, "Politics doesn't touch my life or I am not political, they are denying the very heart of their existence and allowing others to take over their lives."*

Suzi introduced tonight's speakers; Chairman Clint Hickman and Dr. Laura Metcalfe. She then acknowledged the new Grand Dem members present at the meeting. Suzi reminded attendees that the Blue Breakfasts and Blue Dinners will continue. The Blue Breakfasts will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Village Inn, 14539 W. Grand Ave. Surprise, AZ; Blue Dinners at Angela's Kitchen The Grand.

The Grand Dems may plan a 2024 Candidate Rally with LD 25, 28, 29 and other Democratic clubs including Pebble Creek. 2024 campaigns are already starting. The Grand Dems are looking for volunteers to help with canvassing and voter registration.

The Grand Dems will address food insecurity by initiating a food drive for the Valley View Community Food Bank. Call or text Kevin Boivin at 219-688-4179 if you have any questions. A food donation bin will be set up at each monthly Grand Dems meeting.

Finally, Suzi extended her sincere condolences to Grand Dem members Bill and Judy Shields who both lost a brother in the past couple of weeks.

**5. Treasurer's Report:** Jim Coffran reported that the March opening balance was \$4,277.40. The balance as of April 25, 2023 equaled \$3,181.03. The total expenses for March were \$2,136.80. In March, the Grand Dems contributed \$1,250.00 to State and local Democratic organizations.

**6. Committee Reports:**

**a. Membership:** None

**b. Program/ Publicity:** Bob announced the speakers for the May 24, 2023 General meeting. Ally Cline, is a council member for District 2 in Surprise, AZ. She was also named vice mayor of Surprise in January 2022. Mark Cable, a representative for rank choice voting will also speak at the May General meeting.

**c. Social Activities:** None

- d. **Fundraising:** The winner for the Painting Raffle is Ken Kessler. John Geryak, who donated the painting, picked the winning ticket. John explained that the painting is part of the Square Root Series. The “Elite Wine Snob” raffle continues.
- e. **Adopt - A - Street:** Suzi Walling announced that an Adopt - A - Street clean up effort will take place on Saturday April 29.

## **7. Old Business: None**

## **8. New Business:**

- a. Kevin Boivin will be coordinating the Valley View Community Food Drive. Grand Dem members will have an opportunity to drop off nonperishable food items at each of our monthly General meetings.
- b. Barbara Nelson announced that CD 8 has three Democratic candidates running for the AZ legislature in 2024. They will be speaking on Thursday April 27th at the Rio Vista Recreation Center.

Flyers were placed on all seats announcing the upcoming forum titled “Should we change the way we vote?” . AZ Secretary of State Adrian Fontes and Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richer will lead a lively discussion on May 4, 2023. The forum will also be held at the Rio Vista Recreation Center in Peoria, AZ. Lynn Peters asked those wanting to attend the events to RSVP at [azld29.org](http://azld29.org).

**9. Program Guest Speakers:** Bob Walling introduced tonight's Speakers: Clint Hickman and Dr. Laura Metcalfe

**a. Clint Hickman: Chair of the Maricopa County Board of**

**Supervisors:** Mr. Hickman is also vice president of sales and marketing at Hickman Family Farms, the largest egg producer in the southwest United States. Mr. Hickman recounted the horrendous events during the pandemic of 2020. He became concerned about the safety of those individuals who were living in nursing care facilities, supported mask mandates and provided refrigeration for the countless bodies piling up during the pandemic. At the same time, he was running his own campaign and believed that voters should have an opportunity to place their ballots in drop boxes. He is tired of the political discourse since the 2020 election especially as it has led to threats to politicians including to him and his family. Finally, Mr. Hickman said that his goal is to serve all citizens of Maricopa County, addressing issues such as homelessness and the deadly opioid fentanyl which is responsible for the most drug overdose deaths in the United States.

**b. Dr. Laura Metcalfe: Maricopa County Superintendent of Schools**

**Candidate:** Dr. Metcalfe's background in educational development and student instruction will bring a voice and integrity to each public school in Maricopa County. If she is elected superintendent, she will support all local public schools in Maricopa County including smaller educational environments such as schools for the deaf/blind and those schools that teach children who are incarcerated. Her goal is to provide oversight of school boards, oversee teacher certifications and give support to the home school population. When she takes office, she will also ask an independent outside agency to do a full audit as the current Maricopa County Superintendent and his office are under investigation for misappropriations of funds. As a former teacher, Dr. Metcalfe knows how important it is to expand grants to increase funding, provide updated curriculum, and focus on furthering teacher development.

**10. 50/50, Wine and Painting Raffle:** The 50/50 Raffle raised \$51.00 for Grand Dems. The painting was awarded to a Grand Dem member at tonight's meeting. The wine raffle continues.

**11. The next Grand Dems General meeting will be held on May 24, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the Cimarron Center Aqua Fria Room.**

**12. The meeting was adjourned by President Suzi Walling at 7:59 pm.**

**Respectfully Submitted by**

**Nancy A. Martin  
Grand Dems Co-Secretary  
April 27, 2023**