Minutes from November 16, 2011

**SUN CITY GRAND DEMOCRATS**

**GENERAL MEETING**

November 16, 2011

**Board Members in Attendance:** Joe Weintraub, Carol Wiklund, Larry Goldberg, John Landry, Nancy Collins and Harriet Kahn

**Committee Chairpersons in Attendance:** Jan Beazie-Communications, Catherine Andrews – Fund Raising, Barbara Nelson- Nominations Committee

President Weintraub called the meeting to order at 6:40pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance and a thank you to all present for changing from Cimarron to Sonoran Plaza.

President Weintraub wished all present a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Secretary’s Report:** The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Larry Goldberg reported that the two recent fundraisers netted over $2700.  We still need members to renew so that we have money in the treasury to support candidates in 2012.  There was a motion to accept the treasurer’s report as submitted, by Larry Goldberg.  The motion seconded and was carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**Fund Raising:** Judith Bridges reported that the Fund Raising Committee had received positive feedback about the Italian Dinner.  Judith thanked all members for their support for this event and also for their support for the Garage Sale with donations and lending tables for the Sale and the dinner.  Judith thanked the folks who loaned their autos and backs for the Garage Sale: Al and Norma Dick, Paula and Lynn Parkel, Judy Reed, Jan Ashton-Beazie, John and Doisey Landry, Joe Williams and Bill Ford.  The Fund Raising Committee members are: Catherine Andrews, chair, Sharon Beard, Jonita Bigelow, Judith Bridges, Harriet Kahn and Judy Neigoff.  A special thanks to Judy Neigoff for opening her home for the dinner.

**Communications**: No report

**Social & Program:** Sharon Forbes was ill.  Carol Wiklund reminded members that Blue Monday (12/12) has moved to Coco’s while Dillon’s is closed.  Blue Breakfast is still at Archie’s (12/1).

The Holiday Party is scheduled for 12/14 at 6:30P at the Weintraub home, 16760 W Cathedral Rock Court.

Goodies provided by Diane Miller, Ilene Flynn, Bill and Cathy Ford, Ethel Brown, Carol Wiklund and Larry Goldberg

**Adopt A Street**: John Nuerenberg reported that the next clean-up is scheduled for this coming Saturday 11/19, 8:00am at the medical building parking lot on the corner of Reems & Mountain View.

**Board Nominations and Elections**: Barbara Nelson, Larry Levinson and Jean Keirnat volunteered to lead this effort for the 2012 Grand Dems Board.  The new Board was voted into office by acclamation:

Carol Wiklund – President

Larry Levinson – Vice-President

Ilene Flynn – Treasurer

Jean Keirnat – Secretary

Members-at-Large:  Harriet Kahn, John Landry and Joe Weintraub

Congratulations to the 2012 Grand Dems Board.

**Guest Speaker**:  Andrei Cherny, Chair AZ Democratic Party. Andrei shared ideas and strategies planned for 2012 elections and how our grassroots efforts will make a difference in the outcome.  He fielded many questions from the membership.   For more talking points refer to Center for American Progress and Media Matters.  Members should also signup to receive emails from the AZ Democratic Party.  Links can be found on our web page.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Submitted on behalf of Brenda Parker

Jonita Bigelow

Minutes From October 26, 2011

SUN CITY GRAND DEMOCRATS

**SUN CITY GRAND DEMOCRATS**

**GENERAL MEETING**

October 26, 2011

**Board Members in Attendance:** Joe Weintraub, Carol Wiklund, Larry Goldberg, Brenda Parker, John Landry.

**Committee Chairpersons in Attendance:** Sharon Levinson-Programs.

President Weintraub called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Secretary’s Report:** The minutes of the September meeting were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer’s Report:** There was a motion to accept the treasurer’s report as submitted by Larry Goldberg.  The motion seconded and was carried. Larry asked everyone to pay their dues ASAP so we know where we are financially going into the 2012 election year.

**Committee Reports:**

Carol and Ilene thanked everyone who helped with the booth at Oktoberfest.

**Fund Raising:** Judith Bridges stated that we have two upcoming events. The SCG Garage Sale will be held on November 5th. Please sign up to work at this event. The second event is an Italian dinner which will be held on November 13th.  The dinner will be primarily home cooked. Tickets are $25.00/person.

**Communications**: No report.

**Social:** No report.

**Nominating Committee:**In Larry Levinson’s absence Barb Nelson reported that the following members will be running for the Board:

President - Carol Wiklund

Vice President - Larry Levinson

Treasure – Ilene Flynn

Secretary – Jean Kiernat

Members at Large – Harriett Kahn, John Landry, and Joe Weintraub

It was announced that the Blue Mondays will be held at Coco’s until further notice in light of the closing of Dillon’s for repairs and refurbishing.

Frank Copple reported on the Moveon.org and Occupy Phoenix Events. He stated that Grover Norquist was appointed by Ronald Regan to start the Americans for Tax Reform however, the organization is doing nothing but keeping the taxes from being raised for the 1% of the very rich. Norquist asked politicians to sign a pledge not to raise taxes. Frank has started a petition to repeal the tax pledge signed by many of our legislators and needs 150 signatures for the petition to go public and will need 25,000 signatures before it can be presented to the Congress.

John Nuremberg needs volunteers for the adopt-a-street clean up on November 19th.

While waiting for our speaker to arrive President Weinberg opened the meeting for discussion of current events.

**Guest Speaker:**Clovis Campbell a former Arizona legislator and current publisher and board chairman of the “Arizona Informant.”

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Parker,

Secretary

Minutes From September 27, 2011

**SUN CITY GRAND DEMOCRATS**

**GENERAL MEETING**

September 27, 2011

**Board Members in Attendance:** Joe Weintraub, Carol Wiklund, Larry Goldberg, Brenda Parker, John Landry. Guest moderator: Barbara Nelson.

**Committee Chairpersons in Attendance:** Sharon Levinson-Programs, Sharon Forbes-Social.

President Weintraub called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Secretary’s Report:** The minutes of the July meeting were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer’s Report:** There was a motion to accept the treasurer’s report as submitted, by Larry Goldberg. The motion seconded and was carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**Fund Raising:** Judith Bridges stated that there are two upcoming events. The SCG Garage Sale will be held on November 5th. Please save your items and sign up to work at this event from 5:30am to noon. The second event is an Italian dinner which will be held on November 13th. Tickets are $25.00/person.

**Communications**: No report

**Social:** Sharon Forbes thanked the members who brought cookies and popcorn tonight. The Blue breakfast will be moved to 8:30 at the request of several attendees. They felt that 9:00 was too late. She also reported that the members only movie this month would be “A Face in the Crowd”. This movie is limited to the first 12 members who sign up.

Carol Wikund stated that she had sign up sheets for Oktoberfest which will be held on October 15th. She still had some time slots available. We have two tables. She also stated that she had copies of the “Blue Notes” our monthly newsletter. She asked for articles and other items that could be included. She also stated that she needs proof readers. She will include links to websites of interest to the club.

Jackie Rose who is working with Manny Cruz closing abandoned mines announced that in August they had closed two abandoned mines in the Globe area by dynamiting the mines. The cost of this was $5,000 and was donated by Rosemont Mining and the AFL-CIO.

Frank Copple remarked on the “rebuild the dream” event sponsored by Moveon.org. He stated that the organization was asking for ideas on where to spend their efforts in the upcoming election. He further stated that they were planning on a bombardment of letters and calls to Trent Franks asking that he vote to pass the American Jobs Act. We will have badges for sale at the garage sale.

Heather Barr from Organizing America, Obama’s campaign for President, stated that they were concentrating on getting voters registered. They are will also be working with local candidates. She invited us to get involved and stated we needed to start organizing NOW and that we cannot afford to wait until 2012.

**Guest Speakers**: The movie “Waiting for Superman” was shown prior to the business meeting and scheduled to appear for a panel discussion were Christine Pritchard, Dysart Unified School District Board Member; Penny Kotterman, former candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction and former President of the Teachers Union; and Gail Pletnick, Ed.D, Superintendent of Dysart Unified School District. Gail Pletnick was not able to attend because her daughter in law was giving birth to her grandchild. The moderator for the panel discussion was Barbara Nelson and Ms. Prichard and Ms. Kotterman did a fine job of handling the questions from our members.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Parker,

Secretary

Minutes from June 22, 2011

**SUN CITY GRAND DEMOCRATS**

**GENERAL MEETING**

June 22, 2011

**Board Members in Attendance:** Joe Weintraub, Carol Wiklund, Larry Goldberg, John Landry, Harriet Kahn and Jonita Bigelow

**Committee Chairpersons in Attendance:** Sharon Levinson-Programs, Jan Beazie-Communications, Sharon Forbes-Social

President Weintraub called the meeting to order at 6:34pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The President announced that effective immediately both returning and potential new members may join for $30.00 which would cover the remainder of 2011and all of 2012 dues.

Paul Hoggatt and Judy Reed became new members this evening. Welcome Judy and Paul

**Secretary’s Report:** The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer’s Report:** There was a motion to accept the treasurer’s report as submitted, by Larry Goldberg. The motion seconded and was carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**Fund Raising:** No report

**Communications**: No report

**Social & Program:** Sharon Forbes thanked Diane Miller and Ro Pernelli for supervising refreshments and also thanked Sharon Levinson and Norma for bringing sweets. The next Blue Breakfast will be on July 7 and Blue Monday on 7/11.

Sharon Forbes reported that the July General Meeting (7/27) movie will be “Too Big To Fail”. The August General Meeting (8/24) will be a drop-in at Carol Wiklund’s home. Members only movie night will resume on 9/16 with the film “Food Inc.”.

**Announcements:**

* Recall Russell Pearce effort in the East Valley has acquired enough signatures to move forward with the process.
* President Obama has announced troop withdrawals from Afghanistan
* LD4 is sponsoring a Dems evening at the Holiday Inn Express on Bullard, July 16th from 4-6PM

**Guest Speaker**: Rebekah Friend - the Secretary/Treasurer and Executive Director of Arizona AFL-CIO.  The AFL-CIO is the labor union federation in Arizona representing 185,000 union members through over 200 local union affiliates.  For over 30 years, Friend has been a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and a committed advocate for working families

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.

Submitted on behalf of Brenda Parker,

Jonita Bigelow

**SUN CITY GRAND DEMOCRATS**

**GENERAL MEETING**

May 23, 2011

**Board Members in Attendance:** Joe Weintraub, Larry Goldberg, John Landry, Harriet Kahn and Jonita Bigelow

**Committee Chairpersons in Attendance**: Sharon Levinson-Programs, Jan Beazie-Communications

President Weintraub called the meeting to order at 6:32pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The President thanked Diane Miller and Jan Beazie for refreshments and Ro for filling in for Sharon Forbes while she is recuperating from surgery.

**Secretary’s Report:** The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer’s Report**: There was a motion to accept the treasurer’s report as submitted, by Larry Goldberg. The motion seconded and was carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Fund Raising:** Jonita Bigelow thanked everyone who attended the May Mexican Fiesta dinner. We raised over $1,000. The next events are an Italian-themed dinner on 10/9 and the Fall Garage Sale on 11/5. Jonita asked those present to hold on to their items for the Garage Sale as more information will be forthcoming.

**SOCIAL:** Movie Night. On behalf of Sharon Forbes, President Weintraub advised that movie nights are planned for the summer. The plan is to have one per month at a member’s home. We would like the feedback of the membership on the films for viewing. A complete list will be posted on the website. Selections include (but are not limited to) “Too Big to Fail” Client #9, “Waiting for Superman”, “Who Killed the Electric Car” and more.

**Guest Speaker:** Professor Paul Bender - Professor Bender spoke about his recent appearance before the US Supreme Court to argue an Arizona case related to school tuition tax credit. He also spoke about re-districting and upcoming cases impacting AZ that are before the Court.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm.

Submitted on behalf of Brenda Parker,

Jonita Bigelow

Minutes From April 27, 2011

**SUN CITY GRAND DEMOCRATS**

**GENERAL MEETING**

April 27, 2011

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**Joe Weintraub, Carol Wiklund, Brenda Parker, Larry Goldberg, John Landry, Harriet Kahn, and Jonita Bigelow.

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS IN ATTENDANCE:**Sharon Forbes, Social; Sharon Levinson, Programs; Joe Williams, Webmaster and Jan Beazie, Communications.

The President called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. We opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT:** The minutes were approved as submitted.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**There was a motion to file the treasurer’s report as submitted, motion seconded and was carried.

The President stated that there were still tickets available for the Mexican Fiesta to be held on May 1st. This was a fundraiser and social evening. He further announced that we need volunteers to help at the garage sale. It was set for two hour shifts for a total of 10 volunteers.

President Weintraub stated that we would be taking part in the Surprise Memorial Day parade and we need lots of volunteers to march in it. We are not having a float this year but would like our presence known.

Sharon Levinson announced that we were meeting on May 14th at 8:00am to clean Mountain View from Goldwater Ridge to Reems Road. She stated that sign-up sheets were available. This is our Adopt-A-Street project.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**FUNDRAISING:**Jonita stated that the committee was working on a fundraiser for the fall. If we decide to take part in the Grand garage sale we will need lots of help. There has been no firm decision made to date.

She further stated that President Obama had asked that we Americans give back to our community and that we had a small group of members who were helping at the Thompson Ranch School. She further stated that this school had received an A+ rating in a recent competition and she thanked Sharon Beard, Ruth Shannon, Margie Thompson and Larry Levinson for their efforts. She further stated that Sharon Levinson was working with a trade school which helps young people pursue careers in cooking.

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE:**Sharon Forbes thanked Doisey Landry, Judith Bridges and Lois Jentsch for bringing the treats for the meeting tonight. She further stated that the attendees at the movie “Inside Job” felt the movie was thought provoking. She will be scheduling additional movies in the future and need to have members step forward to offer to host them. Joe stated that the only thing the host is responsible for is making some popcorn. These evenings are limited to between 12 and 14 people.

Sharon announced that the next Blue Breakfast was May 4th at Archie’s and the Blue Monday was May 9th at Dillon’s.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** No report.

**WEBMASTER:**Joe Williams stated that he had made some “housekeeping” changes to the web site.

President Weintraub stated that Sharon Levinson wants to step down as Program Chairperson and we need someone to step forward to take on this responsibility. The club only works when our members volunteer to help and this is a position that is important to the club.

Larry Goldberg stated that since he has taken on the Treasurer’s job he has to ask someone to volunteer to head the work we do with the veteran’s. We have been collecting money to buy gift cards for the homeless vets to use once they have found a place to live. We have donated approximately $5,000 over the past few years.

The President introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Alessandra Soler Meetze who spoke on the 14th Amendment. There was a Q & A afterwards.

Our speaker for the May meeting will be Prof. Paul Bender who teaches U.S. and Arizona Constitutional Law at ASU’s College of Law where he was Dean from 1984 to 1989.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Parker

Secretary

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Minutes From March 23, 2011

**SUN CITY GRAND DEMOCRATS**

**GENERAL MEETING**

March 23, 2011

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**Joe Weintraub, Carol Wiklund, and Brenda Parker

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS IN ATTENDANCE:**Sharon Forbes, Social; Sharon Levinson, Programs; Joe Williams, Webmaster and Jan Beazie, Communications.

The President called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. We opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT:** The minutes were approved as submitted.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**There was a motion to file the treasurer’s report as submitted, motion seconded and was carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE:**Sharon reported that the Blue Mondays and Blue Breakfasts have been very successful and will continue. She stated that the committee is considering a movie night at Joe Weintraub’s with popcorn. If you are interested please register with Sharon as there is a limit 12 members.

**FUNDRAISER:** Jonita Bigelow reported that due to a conflict the Fiesta Mexicana has been moved to Sunday, May 1st at 5:30. Tickets are available and are $25.00 per person and can be purchased by contacting Catherine Andrews at 623-546-6038 or at cathy.andrews@cox.net. You can also make a check payable to the SCG Democrats and mail it to Cathy at 15006 W. Cooperstown Way, Surprise, AZ 85374.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** No report.

**GARAGE SALE:**We have two tables at the garage sale and need volunteers in two hour shifts to help out that day.

Joe then introduced our guest speaker for the evening, former member of the Foreign Service, John Hall. He is an instructor with the Grand Lifelong Learning Academy. He spoke about the current trouble in the Middle East and our involvement in Libya. He then opened the program for question and answer session.

Joe announced that our speaker next month is Alessandra Soler Meetze who will speak on the 14th Amendment.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Parker

Secretary