**GRAND DEMOCRATS**

General Membership Zoom Meeting Minutes

November 18th, 2020

1. The meeting was **Called to Order** by President Mark Hamilton at 4:00 p.m.
2. **Guest:** Rachel Howard, PhD candidate from the University of Chicago, joined the meeting. She is studying retirement and is hoping to speak with members of Grand Dems for her research. Contact her at rhoward3@uchicago.edu if you are willing to speak with her.
3. **President’s Comments:** Mark thanked Grand Dems members for financial contributions to the club and to candidates. He also thanked them for volunteering with post carding, texting, literature drops and phone banking. Thanks to Grand Dems members, board members and committee chairs for helping us be one of the most successful political clubs in the west valley. Mark is glad for the election of Biden and Kelly but wishes we had done better in local races. He is still hopeful for GA Senate races. Soon it will be time to do long range planning for 2022 using knowledge gained in the successes from 2018.
4. **Treasurer’s Report** - Current November balance is $ 1971.68. Thanks to Paula for serving as treasurer for the last five years.
5. **Kathleen Honne**, Arizona legislature candidate expressed gratitude and appreciation to the Grand Dems for support in her candidacy. She asked anyone who sees her one of her signs to take them down and throw them away or let her know where they are. Contact her at honne4az@gmail.com.
6. **Committee Reports** –
	* **Membership** - Chairman Marty Cohen said we have 220 members that have paid dues during the years of 2019, 2020 or 2021. One hundred and two have already paid 2021.
	* **Social** - Chairman Patti Doss says to look for an invitation to Zoom Bingo the week after Thanksgiving. She is also considering Farkle over Zoom, members would need to have their own game.
	* **Programs/Public Relations** - Mark expressed appreciation to outgoing Co-Chairs Joyce Bergen and Suzy Walling for an outstanding job connecting us with candidates and Democrats throughout the county.
7. **Speaker** – Steven Slugocki, chair for the Maricopa County Democrat Party, (currently the youngest county chair in the country) was called to a site emergency at county election boards. He was able to speak to us from the Maricopa County Recorders Office. Steven reported an additional test was done on machines and again there was 100 percent accuracy. He expressed frustration that the GOP continues to try to delegitimize results when everyone knows the results are accurate. He is still deciding will he run again for another two year term. He reported that going forward we have to do a better job of educating voters about down ballot races and why they matter. Maricopa county candidate losses were so close, and very frustrating. Sheriff Paul Penzone got the most votes ever recorded in Maricopa County history, more than Joe Biden. Steven says Democrats made good progress, but still have much work to do. Biden won and Arizona has two Democratic senators for the first time in 70 years. He believes we should focus on growing the base and growing activism. Grow our meetings. Steven and Kathleen Honne say we stuck to our values regarding Covid. That possibly cost Democrats votes and seats - but not lives.
8. **Community conversation highlights:** Trump is similar to Sadam Hussein at the end of his reign of terror. Hope that Adrian Fontes will run for an office in the future. Working as a poll worker was very rewarding. Appreciation that 92% of northwest valley Democrats turned out. Covid precautions effected down ballot races. Discussion on whether signs are helpful or harmful to elections and our community. Ideas about reaching out to Republicans to heal the breach.
9. **Election of Grand Dems 2021 board members** - Slate of officers candidates has been posted on the Grand Dems website for the past ten days. Nominations were sought from the floor. None were made. Slate Includes: President - William Shields Vice President - Barbara Reed nelson Secretary - Serene Matthews Treasurer - Mark Hamilton Board Member - Michael Kolsky Board Member - Nancy Ann Martin Board Member - Paula Wilson
Elections were held individually for offices and the slate was elected.
10. No meeting during the holiday season. **The next general meeting is January 27, 2021**.

Submitted by,

Serene Matthews
Secretary

**GRAND DEMOCRATS**

General Membership Zoom Meeting Minutes

October 28th, 2020

1. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 3:02 by President Mark Hamilton.
2. **President’s Comments** -  This is our first general meeting since the pandemic began.  We'd like to be together more but social distancing will be with us for awhile.

Trump wants to colonize the moon and have a manned mission to Mars.  Will Mexico pay?  Trump rally participants in Omaha were left in the bitter cold for up to 3 hours.     Arizona Representative Ruben Gallego compared his entry into Harvard with that of Jared Kushner's whose dad bought his way in.

It is vital that every vote is counted.   It is too late to mail ballots so drop them off off in an authorized drop box or vote in person.  There is a drop box at city hall in Surprise.  Maricopa County Recorder Adrian Fontes and Secretary of State Katie Hobbs are doing a good job to avoid the voter suppression evident in other states.
3. **Treasurer’s Report**  -  A treasurer's report was not available but Mark reported that the balance is approximately $1800.  He believes that is an adequate amount as expenses will be low going into 2021.  When we start meeting again, the first three meetings will be free through CAM.
4. **Committee Reports**

*Membership* -  Mark and Marty have been working on the master file.   Current membership is more than 215 persons.  Six new members have joined in the last month.

*Social* - A Name that Tune activity is planned within the next week or two.  Pattie is working with David Durham to identify a day and time.  He may use the Grand Dems Zoom license.

*Adopt-A-Street* - The November 14 Clean Up is cancelled.  Long time coordinators John and Sally Nuerenberg are moving back to Washington.  Carol Karsten will be the new chairperson.
5. **Speaker** – Suzi Walling, Programs co-chair, introduced Felecia Rotellini, the Chairperson for the Arizona Democrat Party since 2018.  She has worked in the Arizona Attorney General's Office, was appointed as Superintendent of Banks, and was a candidate for attorney general.

Felecia thanked the Sun City Grand Democrats for trying to elect local candidates as well as getting Donald Trump out of office. The  2016 results revealed Arizona was on a path to moving blue.  Democrats win when we organize and invest our time and energy.

She reported that the polls have tightened a little in Arizona.  Only 23 percent of Arizona voters have yet to vote.  We need an electoral college landslide to avoid Trump's chaos.  With regard to registered voters,  Dems are a solid #2 in the state, having passed Independents.  She believes early independent voters are likely to have voted more Democratic.

Felecia said a number of volunteer opportunities still exist, especially through Mission for Arizona.  There is a heavy emphasis on curing the ballots that have been rejected for some reason - often signature based.  They are gaining info about this through public records request and notifying the Democratic voters, allowing them to address the situation.

Felecia highlighted Joe Biden's connection points with Arizona.  She stresses that Arizonans want to get things done.

Felecia said the Arizona Democratic Party is investing in full time Native Americans and Black Americans liaisons to enhance those relationships.  We can't just expect them to vote Democratic without that relational investment.

Mark thanked Joyce and Suzi for scheduling Felecia.  He also thanked Suzi for moderating.Suzi and Joyce are both retiring as program chairs. Mark expressed thanks to both for doing a wonderful job.
6. **Overview of 2021 Board Member Election** - The election of 2021 board members will be held during the November general meeting.  Vice President Bill Shields said there is a full slate of candidates, four officer candidates and three members at large.  Each candidate has submitted a brief biography.  The slate and bios will be posted on the website at least 10 days prior to the November18 meeting.  An e-blast will be sent out notifying members of the posting.
7. **Grand Dems next general meeting** will be held November 18th via Zoom.  Joyce has asked Maricopa County Democratic Chair Steven Slugoki to provide an update on the 2020 election.
8. The meeting was concluded at 3:51.

Submitted by,

Serene Matthews
Secretary

**GRAND DEMOCRATS**

General Membership Meeting Minutes

February 26th, 2020

The meeting was Called to Order at 6:30 pm by President Mark Hamilton. He led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed guests.

The Minutes from the January membership meeting were adopted with no
corrections.

**President’s Comments:**

* Grand Dems have a need for volunteers, specifically a new Membership Chair by the May meeting. Please contact Mark or current chairperson Dianne Miller.
* US Senate Candidate Mark Kelly will visit the west valley on March 23 at 4:00 pm. He will speak at 5:00 at Palm Ridge Recreation Center at 13800 Deer Valley in Sun City West.
* Mike Pence was named as coronavirus coordinator by Trump.
* Corporation Commission - State Representative Ben Toma has proposed a bill which would put a proposal on the ballot to have the governor appoint Corporation Commission members. It is timely that we have Corporation Commission candidates speaking tonight.

**Treasurer’s Report:**
Grand Dems have a $9,472.34 balance as reported by Treasurer Paula Wilson.

**Committee Reports:**

* Membership: 318 members
* Social: April 1st Spring Party will begin at 1:00 pm and will be catered by Dillon's BBQ. The cost is $15 per person payable in advance. Dessert options will include a cake celebrating Ethyl's 102nd birthday.
A State 48 Grand Dems gathering is tomorrow beginning at 4:00 pm.
* Fundraising: The 2020 Victory Fund is at $1,560 plus more being given this evening. The Ditch Mitch donations will be given to Mitch McConnell's opponent after the Kentucky primary.

**Old Business:**
There is no old business.

**New Business:**
Barbara Nelson spoke thanking the many people who wrote postcards to 5004 PEVL voters didn't vote in 2018. Post cards were sent to encourage them to vote in the three upcoming 2020 elections. Future opportunities for post cards or candidate information preparation will be forthcoming.

There was a question about forwarding the summer ballot for members that are away for the summer. A member stated that a written letter must be sent to the Maricopa county recorder to request that forwarding.

Frank Reed thanked those who took petitions and got signatures. He has more to give out if anyone is interested.

Precinct canvasing in Desert Oasis will be on Saturday to welcome new Democratic voters. There are also new voters in Sun City Grand, La Solana and Granite Falls. Frank will give information to anyone who would like to go meet the new Democratic neighbors.

Grand Dems member, and nurse, Pattie Doss spoke about the coronavirus. While Trump's concerns are for the market, our senior age group is effected disproportionately by the virus. As a comparison, the 1918 Spanish Flu death rate was 2%. The senior age group coronavirus death rate is 3.5%. At age 70+ the death rate increases to 8% and to 15% for those in their 80s. Hand washing is critical and the suggested time is that in which you would sing Happy Birthday twice. She also recommended having a 30 day supply at home of vital meds, food and paper products because you may want to limit public exposure if the virus becomes localized.

Programs/Public Relations Co-Chair, Susan Walling introduced the three Democratic candidates for the Arizona Corporation Commission. There are three openings so everyone can sign all three petitions. Each candidate was given time to speak.

Shea Stanfield holds degrees from Arizona State University and is a former teacher and counselor. She became aware that her students were affected by environmental issues. She has worked to prioritize clean air, clean water and open space in her work on planning and zoning committees and Cave Creek Town Council. She stated that Corporation Commission is the fourth branch of the government in Arizona, setting standards for renewable energy and energy policy.

Anna Tovar is a former school teacher, cancer survivor, and current mayor of Tolleson. She has an extensive background in local and state politics. She believes the corporation commission is a very important state race to have a Democratic majority, to assist current commission member Sandra Kennedy. She believes we need to have a democratic majority to serve Arizona families and not corporations. She also believes the commission need to assist communities that are losing coal plants.

Bill Mundell fought police and judicial corruption in Chandler and served as a Presiding Judge in Chandler Municipal Court. He served in the state legislature and was heavily involved in environmental protection efforts. He has previously served nine years as an Arizona Corporation Commissioner. He believes the commission is the most powerful entity in state government that affects your life. There are five elected commissioners state wide and currently only one is a Democrat.

Additional candidates in the room were each given two minutes to speak to the membership. These candidates included Bob Olson and Michael Muscato , both candidates for Congressional District 8 Representative for US Congress, Kathleen Honne and Wendy Garcia, candidates for LD22 House of Representatives, and Aly Cline District 2 City Council candidate for Surprise.

The next meeting is March 25th in the Agua Fria room at Cimarron. Next month we will hear from five candidates for Maricopa County Attorney.

50-50 Raffle split $40.50.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Serene Matthews
Secretary

GRAND DEMOCRATS General Membership Meeting Minutes January 22nd, 2020 The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Mark Hamilton. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. Guests and new members were recognized and all were welcomed. Minutes of the November 20, 2019 Membership Meeting were posted on the website in early December. There were no suggested changes and the minutes were approved. President Hamilton had several items for comment: Grand Dems lost a founding and active member this week when Sharon Forbes passed away. Sharon was the first dues paying member in 2005 and had served as secretary and social committee chair. Membership Chair Dianne Miller is collecting club dues for 2020. She is also seeking a volunteer to train for the 2021 Membership Chair position. Grand Dems have two identified charities, Valley View Community Food Bank and Nadaburg Schools. It is not too late to make a 2019 contribution for tax credit. Information is available on the Grand Dems website. The Ditch Mitch fund currently has $206. President Hamilton is hoping the club will raise $500 to contribute to the defeat Mitch McConnell effort. Treasurer Paula Wilson reported the membership currently holds $5886.28. Committee Reports: Membership Chair Dianne Miller reported 311 members. Social Chair Patty Doss reported that a State 48 social event will be held 1/29/20. Game night at the Hamilton home will be held 2/12/20. The Grand Dems Spring Party will be held 4/1/20. Old Business: There was no old business. New Business: Sun City Grand Consent Committee members Bill Shields and Bob Aiken presented on the progress for obtaining consent to adopt new CCRs for Grand. After three years of work the committee is about 200 consents shy of the needed 6568 representing two-thirds of the total number of homes in Sun City Grand. Grand Dems Vice President Bill Shields explained the Fundraising and Candidate Contribution strategy approved by the Dems Board last week. Members are asked to donate $25 each to the Grand Dems 2020 Victory Fund. If every member donated there would be approximately $7500 for campaign contributions. These funds would be dispersed after Primary Elections with priority given to local races and national races significant to the goals of keeping the House of Representatives, flipping the Senate and defeating Donald Trump. A club member reminded us to commit time to candidates as well. Member Frank Reed requested help from members in getting petitions signed for Maricopa County Democrats. He is able to provide the names and addresses of registered democrats near your home. There were 5004 Permanent Early Voting List Dems in LD22 who did not vote in 2018. Board Member at Large Barbara Nelson is beginning a weekly postcard writing event in her home to reach these potential voters for 2020. Northwest Valley Democrats President Manny Hernandez reported he has been in contact with US Senate candidate Mark Kelly's campaign. They are hoping for an event featuring Mark Kelly on March 23, 2020. Speakers: Program and Public Relations Co-Chair Susan Walling introduced Adrian Fontes, Maricopa County Recorder. Mr. Fontes' family has a long history in Arizona. He has worked as a prosecutor and a criminal defense attorney and was elected three years ago as Maricopa County Recorder. Mr. Fontes detailed his work to strengthen voter access, process accountability, and election security for Maricopa County. He said Maricopa County is the third largest voting municipality in the United States and encourages members to go to BeBallotReady.Vote to verify your voter status. Mr. Fontes is running for reelection. Program and Public Relations Co-Chair Joyce Bergen invited additional candidates present to speak briefly to those in attendance. These candidates included Kathleen Honne (State Rep LD22), Julie Gunnigal (Maricopa County Prosecutor), Bob Olson (US Congress District 8) Sarah Tyree (State Senator LD22) and Tamika Wooten (Maricopa County Prosecutor). Michael Muscato (US Congress District 8) had been present much of the evening but left before having the opportunity to speak to the group. Joyce Bergen read his message to members. Request to Speak (RTS) Trainer, and Grand Dems member, Teresa Neiberg reviewed the reasons and process to register for RTS. She is available to help members and guests register. Teresa holds "RTS Office Hours" to assist anyone wanting to discuss RTS or legislative news from 3:00 -4:30 on Sundays at the Panera Bread Restaurant on Bell. She is looking for help with "RTS Office Hours". The next Grand Dems general meeting is February 26, 2020 in the Agua Fria Room at Cimarron. The 50-50 Raffle winning amount was $37. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm. Respectfully submitted, Serene Matthews Secretary