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# GRAND DEMOCRATS

## Grand Democrats General Meeting Minutes June 28, 2023

- 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:** Suzi Walling called the meeting to order at 6:25 pm. Bob Walling led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2. Minutes of May 24, 2023 General Meeting:** Secretary Serene Matthews asked for any comments or corrections on the May minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were accepted by acclamation.
- 3. President's Remarks:** Suzi Walling introduced Steve Sawdy - candidate for CD 8 and Scott Podyne candidate for LD 29. There are petitions to sign for candidates and initiatives around the room for registered democrats. Membership dues have been \$20 annually for many years. Dues will be going up to \$25 per year on January 1, 2024. She asked that we all be sure we are on the Active Early Voting List with the Secretary of State's Office. Members of this club are asked to demonstrate enthusiasm by donating and working on activities to help with the upcoming election. There are committees within the club that need more people. We also have a Member At Large opening on the board.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Kevin Boivin presented the Treasurer's Report for Jim Coffran. The beginning balance, as of May 1, 2023, was \$3966.73. After May income and expenses, the beginning balance for June 1 was \$3394.99. So far in June there have been \$811.50 in expenses for a current balance of \$2583.49.
- 5. Committee Reports:**

*Membership* - Carol Karsten reported a total membership of 192. We have one new member tonight, Patty Lake, and twelve visitors. Patty would like to order a name tag but we need a few more to order. Please let Carol know if you would like

to order a name tag. Suzi pointed out that waiting a short while to order would allow for new name tags to have the new logo.

*Social* - Judy Shields reported that Blue Breakfasts (Chef Peter's) and Blue Dinner (Angela's) will continue through the summer, excluding July 4th. We recently had a Game Night with 17 people attending. In August we will have an event at Top Golf.

*Fundraising* - Ken Kessler reported the Wine Snob Raffle will return in the fall. A Wine Tasting Event is planned for November. 50/50 raffles continue.

*Elections Committee* - Lynn Leonard shared some of the activities the Elections Committee will be working on. Those include organizing get out the vote efforts, educating voters, registration activities, rally for candidates, house parties for candidates and post carding.

## **6. Old Business**

*Food Bank* - We have been collecting food for Valley View Community Food Bank. Kevin Boivin is taking the food over after each meeting.

*Website* - Bob Walling - The old website crashed and the board decided to upgrade to a new site. We are using the LD 28 and LD 29 template. Hopefully, the new site will be available in August.

*Program* - Bob is working on programming for the fall. He is trying to get Adrian Fontes, Paul Penzone and the four congressional candidates.

## **7. New Business:**

*Program:* Judy Shields introduced "Wolverine" from Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) and thanked those who donated jean jackets. Wolverine introduced his friends Big, Chaos, and McTwist. BACA was begun by a play therapist and biker friends in the early 1990s. Almost all states have chapters along with 23 foreign countries.

When they are contacted about a fearful child due to abuse, a complete chapter of BACA visits the child at their home. The child is given two biker contacts they can call anytime in case of need. BACA will also assist the child through the court process. Their mission is to ease fear for abused kids through their presence.

Following Wolverine's presentation and BACA video, there was a question and answer period.

8. **50-50 Raffle:** Ken Kessler read the raffle numbers and a winner was determined.

9. **Next Meeting:** September 27 at 6:00 pm in Agua Aria Room, Cimarron Center. Summer newsletters will be coming out informing members of plans and opportunities.

10. **Adjournment** at 7:38 p.m.

Submitted by,

Serene Matthews

Grand Dems Co-Secretary

6.29.2023