

**Grand Democrats**  
**General Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**May 24, 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:** Member-at-Large Kevin Boivin called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and Kevin led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. Minutes of April 26, 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:** The Board accepted a proposal to begin work on a new Grand Dems website. A contract has been signed with Granite Web Services. The work on the website will begin soon.  
**More details about the website will be discussed at the General meeting in June.**

A membership fundraiser is being planned this summer to raise funds to support costs of the new website. In addition, a Fall fundraiser will raise funds for candidate campaigns in the 2024 election cycle.

- 5. Treasurer's Report:** Jim Coffran reported that the opening balance in May was \$3,966.73. The balance in the Grand Dems checking account as of May 24, 2023 equaled 3,250.97. The total expenses for May was \$715.76 which included a \$600.00 expenditure for website development.
- 6. Committee Reports:**

- a. **Membership:** Carol Karsten indicated that there are currently a total of one hundred and ninety one Grand Dem members. No new members joined at tonight's General meeting.
  
- b. **Program/Publicity:** Annie Banton announced tonight's speakers: Ally Cline and Mark Cable. She also indicated that a member of Bikers Against Child Abuse will be our speaker at the June General meeting. The organization will accept jean jackets for children and teens as a donation.
  
- c. **Social:** Judy Shields announced that the Blue Breakfast will be returning to Chef Peters in June. The Blue Dinner will continue at Angela's Kitchen. The patio at Angela's will be closed in July and August and as a result our group will be eating indoors. A survey will be emailed in the near future. Also, there will be a Game Night on Friday, July 12 at Bill & Judy Shields home. A variety of games will be available. Please feel free to bring your own favorite game. . The social committee is working on additional summer outings. Judy also announced that someone left a spoon at the Annual Spring Picnic.
  
- d. **Fundraising:** Ken Kessler thanked those who donated to the Painting Raffle. The Wine Snob Raffle was suspended in May. The 50/50 Raffle continues tonight and as a bonus, the winner of the 50/50 Raffle will receive two wine glasses. A Wine tasting event is being planned for the Fall of 2023. **More information will be available at the June General meeting.**
  
- e. **Adopt - A - Street:** The Grand Dems Adopt - A - Street clean up effort will be held on Saturday, May 27 from 8:00 am - 10:00 am. Meet at the intersection of Reems and Goldwater. Contact Kevin Boivin with any questions.

## 7. Old Business:

Food Bank: Kevin Boivin thanked those who have been contributing to the Valley View Community Food Drive. Kevin indicated that he is looking at new ways of collecting food items. He is willing to pick up nonperishable food items at individuals homes on a weekly basis.

**Further information will be available at the June General meeting.**

Kevin asked attendees for suggestions that would lead to our club collecting a greater number of food items for the drive.

## 8. New Business:

NAACP pamphlets were distributed at the beginning of the meeting.

**9. Program Guest Speakers:** Annie introduced tonight's speakers Ally Cline and Mark Cable giving a short bio for each of the speakers.

**a. Ally Cline: Council member for District 2 in Surprise, AZ:**  
Ms. Cline discussed several important issues facing the residents in Surprise. First, she announced that the city of Surprise will be redistricting in June to address the city's growth in population. Residents in The Grand will remain in District 2 and will not be affected. Secondly, beginning on September 1, 2023, a "We Ride Surprise" will provide transportation for Surprise residents. Finally, voters in Surprise will be asked to consider two bond referendums in November. Go to [www.surpriseaz.gov](http://www.surpriseaz.gov) for further information concerning redistricting, the Ride Choice program and the bond referendums.

b. **Mark Cable: Representative for Rank Choice Voting** : Mr. Cable described the difference between Rank Choice Voting and Arizona's current plurality system of voting. Within the plurality system, a voter's choice is limited and the "spoiler effect" can take place when a third party candidate takes votes away from a more popular candidate. When a candidate does not receive 50% of the vote, a very expensive runoff election may have to determine the winner as happened when taxpayers were responsible for a \$1,000,000.00 price tag for a runoff election to elect Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego. In a Rank Choice Voting System, voters have an opportunity to vote for more than one candidate by ranking their candidates. For example, a voter would vote for Candidate B as their first choice, Candidate A for their second choice and Candidate D for their third choice. If no candidate receives 50% of the vote, the candidate who receives the least votes will be eliminated and the votes are recalculated with the other candidates. In order for Rank Choice Voting to be adopted by a city or state, the Constitution needs to be amended; currently Maine and Alaska have adopted Rank Choice Voting.

**10. 50/50 Raffle:** The 50/50 raffle raised \$44.00 for Grand Dems.

**11. The next Grand Dems General meeting will be held on June 28, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the Cimarron Center Aqua Fria Room.**

**12. The meeting was adjourned by Kevin Boivin at 8:01pm.**

**Respectfully Submitted by**

**Nancy A. Martin  
Grand Dems Co-Secretary  
May 24, 2023**

