

NORTHWEST VALLEY DEMOCRATS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MAY 8, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Manny Hernandez, President, at 6:34 PM. After the pledge of allegiance, members of the board were introduced.

Treasurer's Report

Walt Bisbee gave the Treasurer's Report. We now have 133 paid members. 50 members paid for our April picnic for a total of \$750.00. We paid Famous Dave's \$498.17 for catering and \$40.00 for rental of the pavilion for total expenses of \$538.17. Our profit from the picnic was \$211.83. The April 50-50 raffle gave us \$107.00. We paid \$398.78 for tee shirts and \$146.00 for the meeting room rental. Our balance is \$3,958.69.

Meetings/Social Hours

There will be no meetings during June, July and August. We will have a social hour on the second Wednesday of the month during these summer months. The first one will be on June 12th from 5 PM to 7 PM at Boots & Bourbon Bar & Grill on Grand Avenue in Surprise. Manny will send out an e-mail on this.

Club tee shirts are on sale here for \$10.00. We have various sizes for men and women.

Contacting Legislators

Members are encouraged to send postcards to McSally supporting legislation to lower the cost of prescription drugs: The Prescription Drug Price Relief Act, the Affordable and Safe Prescription Drug Importation Act, and the Medicare Negotiation and Competitive Licensing Act of 2019. We should also e-mail our federal representatives about not cutting Social Security or Medicare benefits.

Our state legislators need to hear from us. At least once per week we should e-mail, phone or use Request to Speak to contact them about pending legislation.

We are not getting climate change legislation done in Congress. We need to voice our opinions to our representatives in Congress.

Elections

We will help LD-22 candidates in the general election as much as we can, such as by canvassing or sending post cards.

We now have 3 Democratic candidates running for the seat in the 8th Congressional District: Bob Olsen, Robert Musselwhite, and Michael Muscato. They will be speakers at our September meeting.

Frank Copple spoke about the constitutional crisis in Washington. We need to do whatever it takes to get Democratic control of the Senate and the White House.

Remembering a Member

We were saddened to hear that Bob Kroll, a long-time club member, passed away recently. He was a volunteer for St. Mary's Foodbank for many years and is survived by his wife, Joan, who is a club member. Services will be held tomorrow at Our Lady of Lourdes church in Sun City West. Donations can be made in his name to St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance of Phoenix or Banner Thunderbird Medical Center Spiritual Care Department.

Heather Macre, CAWCD

Our first speaker was Heather Macre of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD). This district, composed of Maricopa, Pima and Pinal Counties, operates and maintains CAP (Central Arizona Project), Arizona's single largest source of surface water. Ms. Macre was first elected to the board in 2012 and was re-elected in 2018.

CAP has over 300 miles of Colorado River water from Lake Havasu to a terminus south of Tucson, and delivers water to cities, industries, agricultural users and Indian communities in central and southern Arizona. CAWCD sets policies for CAP, the single largest user of energy in the state. It is diversifying its source of energy and will get one-third of its energy from solar.

In Arizona, more water comes from rivers than from precipitation as we only get 8 inches of precipitation on average annually. The current water shortage is driven in part by climate change so that the term "extended drought" is inaccurate. The original allocations of water were made with the assumption that the same amount of water would continue to be there. The Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan agreed to by the 7 basin states was incorporated into federal legislation and signed by the President 2 weeks ago. It reduces the risk of water in Lake Powell or Lake Mead declining to critical levels. It specifies how much water Arizona, Nevada and California must leave in Lake Mead as water levels fall. About 50% of water usage goes to places outside Arizona.

While we need some population growth for the economy, we need smart growth. Density of population and LED certified buildings helps. New construction is supposed to show that there is a 100-year water supply. This can be done through having a well or joining the CAWCD replenishment project. Applications are not declined for this reason, however.

The use of brackish groundwater, which we have in large amounts, is being studied.

Ms. Macre was optimistic that we can find a solution to our water problems. More information on CAWCD can be found at CentralArizonaProject.com.

Sandra Kennedy, Arizona Corporation Commission

Lonna Fischer, Vice-President, introduced Sandra Kennedy, who was re-elected to the Arizona Corporation Commission in 2018 on a platform of restoring integrity to the Commission, lowering unjustified utility rate increases, and creating more solar and renewable energy in Arizona. The Arizona Corporation Commission was established to regulate public utilities and business incorporation.

The ACC approved interim rates for EPCOR, the water utility, which provided a 10.22% rate increase for Sun City West in March. The rates would have gone up 50.3% in the original rate case. In addition, a low income program and a disabled military veterans' credit program were established. Cost of service studies are to be done prior to EPCOR's next rate application.

The ACC made APS, the electric utility, open their books to reveal income and expenses, through subpoenas with additional information to be supplied by May 30th. Disabled veterans can apply for discounts to their bills.

New rules requiring monopolies to connect new customers within 7 to 14 days were established.

Ms. Kennedy has proposed changing the requirement for utilities to get 15% of their energy from renewable sources to 50% by 2028, stating Arizona could be the solar capital of the world. California now pays Arizona to take its surplus electricity.

From the ACC's website, azcc.gov, one can participate in staff meetings livestreamed. Questions can be written online for the commission. Choose the option "Want my question asked".

EPCOR is holding an "open house" in Sun City West on May 21 from 1 to 2:30 PM at the Sun City West Foundation. If any attendee is not allowed to speak, contact Ms. Kennedy about this.

Bob Olsen announced he is running in the primary for a CD-8 congressional seat.

We do not have any candidates for LD-22 yet. More Democrats should seek positions on the Rec Center's Governing Board.

Our breakfasts will continue over the summer on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 9 AM at Tivoli's.

There will be a congressional caucus on Facebook Live tomorrow at 3 PM to discuss a bill to give authority to the federal government to negotiate drug prices for Medicare.

Manny held the 50-50 raffle. Jim Hussey was the winner of \$44.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret D. Cordovano
Secretary