

NORTHWEST VALLEY DEMOCRATS

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

FEBRUARY 9, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Manny Hernandez in the Quail Room of the Foundation Building in Sun City West at 6:30 PM. Present were Lonna Fischer, Vice-President; Walt Bisbee, Treasurer; Margaret Cordovano, Secretary; John Fried, Member-At-Large; Ken Kovach, Member-At-Large; and Margarita Silva, Member-At-Large.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Manny introduced the members of the board.

Treasurer's Report

Walt gave the Treasurer's Report. We have a balance of \$3,689.71 in our account and 85 paid members prior to tonight. Walt can make a badge for you, if you need one.

Guests were introduced and welcomed.

Manny Hernandez

Manny explained that there seems to be some confusion with other Democratic clubs with similar names to ours. All club events and information about the club are sent to members via email, so that should be your source of information. Our meetings are on the second Wednesday of every month and our breakfasts are on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Betty's Rooste on Granite Valley Drive in Sun City West, across from the hospital, at 9 AM.

Stephanie Holbrook who has been running for the Arizona Senate is now running for the Arizona House. She is starting over again with collecting signatures on her petition and accepting donations. Petitions are also available for Sandra Kennedy and Lauren Kuby, Corporation Commission candidates, and Sarah Tyree, candidate for a health care board, to sign.

Manny urged members to sign up to use RTS (Request to Speak) system to comment on bills before the Legislature. You can indicate whether you support or oppose a bill, write comments and indicate whether you wish to testify in person before a committee. After you get a password, email Manny to set up a training class.

We need more members to sign up to be PC's (Precinct Committee People). Dean Campbell of LD-22 can help you become a PC. You would be contacting Democrats in your community. To become a PC, you would need to get 9 signatures on a petition. After January 2023, you can get appointed.

Club tee shirts for men and women are available for \$10.00.

We will continue to make our meetings available on Zoom for the next few months. Some members indicated that they would prefer meetings in the day rather than in the evening; other members indicated they wanted to keep our meetings in the evening. Since our speakers scheduled through the May meeting are confirmed to speak in the evening, we will keep our meetings in the evening through May.

A social group of Democrats is meeting at Beardsley Rec Center in Sun City West on Feb. 23rd at 10:30 AM.

Postcard Writing

Walt discussed rules for writing postcards to be sent out to voters. If the club, which is a PAC, sends out postcards certain rules have to be followed. This includes attaching a disclaimer that this is paid for by the Northwest Valley Democrats. Any violations of the rules can result in a fine which the treasurer is obligated to pay.

Stephanie Holbrook

Stephanie Holbrook, now candidate for the Arizona House for the newly created LD-28, spoke briefly. Her family comes from southern Arizona. Her grandmother homesteaded in Arizona before it became a state. She stated that the reason for her running for office is found in the U.S. Constitution, to work to form a more perfect union. Donations can be made to her campaign online through Act Blue as of February 11th. She has postcards to sign up to volunteer for her campaign.

Dr. David Hondula

Lonna introduced Dr. David Hondula who spoke to members remotely via telephone. He is an associate professor at ASU's School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning and has a doctorate in environmental science from the University of Virginia. He has a new role working with the city of Phoenix Office of Heat Response and Mitigation, which focuses on heat response, helping people cope with hot weather, and heat mitigation, cooling the city. Heat deaths have increased 430% in Arizona since 2014. See www.phoenix.gov/heat

City and regional goals include achieving an average 25% shade canopy coverage for the entire city, providing research and services to residents to manage heat, and increasing use of high albedo or reflective materials in infrastructure projects, such as roofs and pavements. There is a commitment to tree equity – every neighborhood should have enough trees to provide shade. See “Trees Matter” at www.treesmatter.org, and “Arizona Sustainability Alliance” at www.azsustainabilityalliance.com. In selecting roofing, we should ask the company for materials which are more reflective.

For a list of how different trees fare with amount of shade provided, use of water, and effect on air quality see the Maricopa County Air Quality Department website at www.maricopa.gov

Margarita Silva won the 50-50 raffle. She donated the \$48.00 she won to Stephanie Holbrook.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM. Our next meeting on March 9th will be a joint meeting with LD-22.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret D. Cordovano
Secretary