NORTHWEST VALLEY DEMOCRATS

 MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

 MARCH 10, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Sandy Morgan at 6:02 PM via Zoom with 13 participants, including Lonna Fischer, Vice-President; Walt Bisbee, Treasurer; Margaret Cordovano, Secretary; Manny Hernandez, Member-At-Large; Margarita Silva, Member-At-Large; Sherry Loch, Member-At-Large; and Frank Copple, Political Action Chair.

Treasurer’s Report

After the pledge of allegiance, Walt gave the Treasurer’s Report. We have 91 paid members and a balance of $3,963.86.

Secretary’s Report

We now have the February general membership meeting minutes posted on our website. The names of the board members shown on our website needs to be updated to show our 2021 board members instead of the 2020 board members.

Our bylaws require that an audit be conducted every year of our books by an audit committee of 3 members not on the board and to write a report on the results by the end of April. Tentatively, the committee will consist of Keith Steffen, Nancy Schubert, and Rob Upton.

Committee Report

Meeting participants were sent the final version of a flyer to be distributed to Democratic households in Sun City West that displayed Democratic yard signs in 2020. It will thank them for displaying yard signs last year, include information on our club and ask them whether they are interested in displaying signs in 2022. This is a joint project of our club and LD-22.

Katie Hobbs, Speaker

Sandy thanked Katie Hobbs, Secretary of State, for the great job she did in handling the 2020 elections and for speaking at our meeting.

Katie spoke about 2020 being a challenging voting year. Despite the pandemic, we had a record voter turnout in all 3 elections. All election officials focused on the process of the election and not the outcomes and everything was run by the book. Unprecedented misinformation was given out about the validity of the election results. Audits of results have been done and 9 post-election lawsuits in Arizona were dismissed by the court. Videos of what Maricopa County, the second largest voting district in the U.S., does for election integrity is available online at the Secretary of State’s website. See: arizona.vote

Ballots and voting machines from 2020 in Maricopa County have been subject to a subpoena to the Board of Supervisors from the state Senate and its validity was upheld in court. The Board has decided not to appeal the decision. The security of both in the custody of the Senate is at issue. There is concern about the choice of an auditing company and the need for observers. However, the ballots and the machines have not been given to the Senate as they do not have the space to store them.

Various bills have been introduced in the legislature to restrict voting rights, including making it more difficult to vote using mail-in ballots. 75% of Arizona voters vote by mail. We should make it easier to vote such as by increasing voting sites and the number of ballot boxes.

An attempt has been made by the legislature to undo the effect of Proposition 208 passed by voters to fund public schools. Arizona’s legislature has a history of trying to undo ballot measures approved by voters. The Voter Protection Act states that the legislature cannot change proposition measures unless there is a supermajority vote and the legislation furthers the purpose of the proposition.

We should contact our legislators with our views on these bills.

We soon will have new legislative districts as the result of the 2020 census. An independent commission will determine the district boundaries.

Members thanked the Secretary of State for taking the time to speak to us. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM. Our next meeting will be at 6:00 P.M. on April 14th via Zoom.

 Respectfully submitted,

 Margaret D. Cordovano

 Secretary