

NORTHWEST VALLEY DEMOCRATS
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MARCH 9, 2022

The joint meeting of NWVD and Legislative District 22 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; Margarita Silva, Member-At-Large; and Frank Copple, Political Action Chair.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Stephanie Holbrook, candidate for the Arizona House, and the NWVD board members were introduced by Manny.

Treasurer's Report

Walt gave the NWVD Treasurer's Report. We have a balance of \$3,580.81 and 91 paid members.

Manny Hernandez

Guests and new members were introduced and welcomed. We will have candidates for statewide and local offices in the 2022 election speak at future meetings. We have our monthly breakfasts at Betty's Rooste on the third Wednesday of the month at 9 AM. An RSVP to the email invitation is needed. Members are encouraged to join the Sun City West Democratic Facebook group. We have petitions for candidates and measures to be placed on the ballot to sign here.

Alexandra Arboleda

Teri Rami of new LD27 introduced Alexandra Arboleda, board member and candidate for re-election to the Central Arizona Water Conservation District. She was elected to a 6-year term in 2016 and is seeking to be re-elected as a non-partisan candidate, representing Maricopa County. Alexandra has a law degree and extensive experience in water and natural resources law. The Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) has 15 members who represent 3 counties: Maricopa, Pima and Pinal.

The CAWCD was established to manage CAP (Central Arizona Project), repay the federal government for the costs of construction, and establish delivery of CAP water. CAP is a 336 mile long canal which brings Colorado River water to central and southern Arizona, serving 5 million Arizonans. 7 states and Mexico have allocations for water use each year. Because of the 20-year drought, both Lake Powell and Lake Mead have shortages. Lake Mead, which determines shortages, now has only 35% of storage capacity. Last year a Tier 1 shortage was declared which reduced Arizona's allocation by 512,000 acre feet of 2.8 million acre feet allocated. This will affect agricultural users beginning this year.

In response to the need for additional reductions in water use, the "500 Plus Plan" was developed by the lower basin states of Arizona, California and Nevada. The goal is to conserve an additional 500,000 acre feet of water beyond the DCP (Drought Contingency Plan) reductions. Arizona's contribution to the plan will be a reduction of 223,000 acre feet.

The CAWCD is also participating in a plan to build a more resilient Colorado River system. The new guidelines reflect the new normal of lower basin levels. There are 4 approaches: augmentation, such as desalination; conservation, such as fallowing of crops; re-use; and recovery.

You can sign her petition to get on the ballot and donate to her campaign. See her website:
alexandra4arizona.com

Jim Holway

Teri Rami introduced Dr. Jim Holway, board member of the CAWCD. He has a masters and Ph.D in Regional Planning, was elected to a 6-year term in 2010 and 2016 and has had 35 years of experience in water, land and natural resources management.

The Colorado River provides water to 7 western states, the hardest working river in the world. The law of the river is determined by a collective series of treaties, Congressional acts and decisions. Arizona is very dependent on Colorado River water. 60% of Arizona's water is from surface water and 40% from groundwater. 75% of water used in Arizona is used for agriculture. We go through wet and dry cycles, but the average is going down, the aridification of the West. Our goal with the DCP (Drought Contingency Plan) is to reduce the shortage to less than 10%. Arizona water use is actually less than it was 40 years ago, although we have 10 times the population because houses have replaced agriculture. We have difficult issues with future water supply for new housing. Water will be more expensive in the future.

We can get involved in water issues by discussing issues with legislators and candidates, showing up at hearings and watching CAP proceedings.

Cheri Tomlinson

Cheri announced the petitions we have available to sign. Candidates: Stephanie Holbrook, LD28 AZ House; David Sandoval, LD28 AZ Senate; Scott Podeny, LD29 AZ House; and Alexandra Arboleda for the CAWCD. Petitions: Arizona for Fair Elections and Voters Right to Know (Stop Dark Money).

Dean Campbell

Dean gave the Treasurer's and Fundraising Report for LD22. There is a balance of \$12,098.95 in the account. As part of the re-districting, LD22 will be part of 4 new districts: 25, 27, 28 and 29. The funds in the account will be divided up so that half of the funds for the new district will go to the PCs in the districts and half to the 48 precincts. These new districts will also get funds from other closing legislative districts.

Newly elected chairs of LD29 and LD27 were introduced: Mike Medensky is the new chair of LD29 and Carl Gentles is the new chair of LD27.

Officers for LD28, which includes Sun City West, are Cheri Tomlinson, Chair; Anna Rosa Lily, 1st Vice-Chair; Shonnie Carson, 2nd Vice-Chair; Dean Campbell, Treasurer; and Sue Strucker, Secretary.

A 50-50 raffle was held. \$64.00 was won by Shonnie Carson, which she donated back to the club. The meeting was adjourned at 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret D. Cordovano, Secretary

