

NORTHWEST VALLEY DEMOCRATS
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MAY 11, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Manny Hernandez in the Quail Room of the Foundation Building in Sun City West at 6:38 PM. Present were Lonna Fischer, Vice-President; Walt Bisbee, Treasurer; Margaret Cordovano, Secretary; Margarita Silva, Member-At-Large; and Ken Kovach, Member-At-Large.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, new members and guests were introduced and welcomed.

Lonna reported that there were 245 new cases of covid in April in Sun City West and urged everyone to continue wearing masks. Suggestions have been made to hold our meetings in the afternoon, rather than in the evenings. It is not feasible to do this as our president has a full-time job in the day and many of our speakers also have jobs with daytime hours.

Manny introduced the members of the board and thanked them for their work.

Treasurer's Report

Walt gave the Treasurer's Report. We had income of \$76.00 from the 50-50 raffle and \$10.00 from tee shirt sales. We paid \$196.00 for the room rental. Our new balance is \$3,537.81. We have 98 paid members, not counting those who joined tonight.

President's Report

Breakfasts will continue in the summer at Betty's Rooste on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 9 AM. We will not have meetings during June, July and August, but will have social hours on the 2nd Wednesday of those months at the State 48 Brewery in Surprise at 5 PM. We have club tee shirts for sale. We will be doing postcarding and phoning in the summer.

Kathy Hoffman

Kathy Hoffman is Superintendent of Public Instruction, having been elected in 2018, and is now running for a second term. There will not be an opponent in the primary. She has been a pre-K teacher and a speech language pathologist. It was the first time in over 20 years that an educator and a Democrat has held that office.

Ms. Hoffman has been fighting for more funding for public schools and has sought to elevate the teaching profession. She has visited over 100 schools in all 15 counties and 7 tribal schools. Transfer to remote learning because of the pandemic was difficult. She has worked to leverage the funds received from the federal government and the state to implement this change. Some of the investments made: 1) Increasing the number of mental health professionals in schools 2) Creation of educator grants of up to \$1,000.00 for projects or supplies where 15,000 educators have benefitted 3) Establishment of the Teacher Residency Program to help recruit, prepare, support and retain K-12 teachers and 4) Creation of the Final Mile Project to bring high speed Internet access to students in rural areas by extending existing broadband capacity at schools and libraries to students' homes.

The office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is important as Arizona's future begins in our schools. Since Arizona has the lowest teacher pay in the nation, public schools could use some of the \$5 billion surplus funds the state has to invest in K-12 education.

Reginald Bolding

Reginald Bolding is a candidate for Secretary of State, and if elected, would be first in line to become Governor, if the position were to become vacant. Mr. Bolding was elected to the Arizona House 8 years ago and 4 years ago he was elected to be the House Democratic leader. He also has had experience in Arizona public schools as a special education teacher.

If elected, he would work to get students who are newly eligible voters registered to vote before graduation by partnering with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, focus on voter education, develop a robust lobbyist report system so voters know the source of funds for legislators, promote full utilization of the vote by mail system, and create a system to track mail-in ballots for the entire state.

He has fought against voter suppression laws that the Legislature has attempted to pass to make voting more difficult. 3 bills passed this session.

Joan Campbell

Joan Campbell is Community Affairs Coordinator for the Maricopa County's Attorney's Office. She spoke about various scams targeting seniors including threats to cut off service unless pay with cryptocurrency, use of QR codes, and threats using "deep fakes". Frauds can be reported to the FTC at [ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov). Ms. Campbell will speak more extensively on this subject at our September meeting.

Stephanie Holbrook, running for a seat in the House for LD28, asked for support.

Steve Eshelman won \$45.50 in the 50-50 raffle.

Sun City West is now part of LD28. The next LD28 meeting, which will be in person and via Zoom, will be on May 26th at Westbrook Village at 6 PM.

There will be a march for reproductive rights at the Capitol on Saturday at 5 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret D. Cordovano
Secretary

