

## NORTHWEST VALLEY DEMOCRATS

### MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

OCTOBER 13, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Sandy Morgan, President, 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; Manny Hernandez, Member-At-Large; and Margarita Silva, Member-At-Large. Sherry Loch, Member-At-Large, attended via Zoom.

#### Tribute to Frank Reed

Frank Copple announced that Frank Reed of the Sun City Grand Democrats passed away a week ago. He worked hard to increase turnout of Democrats which resulted in more Democratic votes in the election. A moment of silence was observed to show our appreciation. A donation in his name may be made to Hospice of the Valley in Surprise.

#### Dean Campbell, Speaker

After the pledge of allegiance, Dean Campbell of LD-22 spoke about the Sign-Up Initiative to place signs for candidates on public and private property, primarily in retirement communities. A handout sets out the responsibilities of the 5 teams which will need volunteers.

There will be a meeting to discuss election strategy on October 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM in the Cimarron Center of Sun City Grand. To attend, register online at [ld22democrats.com](http://ld22democrats.com)

#### Treasurer's Report

Walt gave the Treasurer's Report. We have a balance of \$3,776.70. Dues for next year of \$15.00 are payable now to Walt. These dues help pay for the room rental which has increased to \$196.00 per month. The club received \$42.00 last month in the 50-50 raffle. If a badge is needed, request one from Walt.

#### Secretary's Report

Margaret gave the Secretary's Report. Minutes of the last general membership meeting are now posted on our website. We will vote at our November meeting for board members for next year. Contact a member of the Nominating Committee if you are interested in serving on the board as an officer or in an at large position. The members of the Nominating Committee are Nancy Schubert, Chair; Margaret Cordovano and Lonna Fischer.

New members were introduced and were welcomed. A Facebook page for Democrats in this area has been created and is being used by many.

#### Adrian Fontes, Speaker

Adrian Fontes, candidate for Secretary of State, gave brief biographical information. His family has been in Arizona since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Born in Nogales, he attended ASU, served in the Navy where he was stationed in Yuma, received his law degree from the University of Denver, and worked as a prosecutor in Colorado, Maricopa County, and the Attorney General's office. He also worked in private practice in federal district court, protecting defendants' rights.

He was motivated in 2016 to run for Maricopa County Recorder after seeing lines of voters waiting for many hours to vote. He ran against Helen Purcell, the Recorder, who had never had a Democratic opponent since 1988 and won. As the Recorder, Mr. Fontes eliminated the backlog of voter registration forms, created vote centers where any voter can vote in any voting place, rather than having to vote in their precinct, and created the ballot tracking system. He is now working in Pima County to modernize their system.

In the fall of 2020 we saw the highest voter turnout. 600,000 more ballots were cast than in 2016. The people running the election did a good job. This election in Maricopa County was more scrutinized than any other including by courts and political parties and no fraud that would lead to changing the results was found. Despite this, the “big lie” has been promoted by one Secretary of State candidate. We have to fight the danger of the “rolling coup” pursued by Trump followers to take over state legislatures and Secretary of State offices so they can overturn the results of elections if they lose by refusing to certify the results.

Sandra Kennedy, Speaker

Sandra Kennedy, candidate for the Corporation Commission, served for 12 years in the state legislature and was elected to the ACC in 2008 as part of a solar energy team and in 2018 on a platform of restoring integrity to the commission, lowering unjustified utility rate increases, and advancing solar and renewable energy. The ACC has 5 members and has legislative and judicial duties. 2 of the 5 members are currently Democrats.

The ACC established energy efficiency standards for utilities which expired in December 2020 and were extended. She has fought rate increases for utilities which previously were granted on request and is running with Lauren Kuby as a team to bring back net metering for rooftop solar, taken away by past commissioners. If federal funds are received to expand broadband to rural areas, there is a need to provide oversight so that the company will be held accountable for completion of the work.

Ms. Kennedy is running as a clean elections candidate and has a petition for signatures and a \$5.00 donation.

The 50-50 raffle raised \$107.00. Becky Saylor won and donated her winnings back to the club.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret D. Cordovano  
Secretary