

NORTHWEST VALLEY DEMOCRATS

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Sandy Morgan, President, at 6:30 PM in the Quail Room of the Foundation building in Sun City West. Present were Lonna Fischer, Vice-President; Walt Bisbee, Treasurer; Margaret Cordovano, Secretary; Manny Hernandez, Member-At-Large; and Margarita Silva, Member-At-Large. In addition to those attending in person, 4 members attended via Zoom.

Sandy thanked Manny, past president, for assistance in the past year and presented him with a gift of flowers to show her appreciation. After the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, the Board was introduced. As this was our first in-person meeting since March 2020, Sandy introduced herself and described her background. She has been a special education teacher in several states and Europe for 20 years and has also served as a school administrator for 10 years. She retired early due to a disability.

Treasurer's Report

Walt gave the Treasurer's Report. We have a balance of \$3,665.70 in our account. Name tags for members should be kept at home and brought to the meetings. Let Walt know if a name tag is needed. Dues for next year are \$15.00 and can be paid now. For new members this will be for this year and next.

Dean Campbell, Speaker

Dean Campbell, LD-22 Treasurer, has set up the "Sign Up Initiative" to display election yard signs on public and private property in Sun City West. This joint project of LD-22 and NWVD began last Fall to make a list of Sun City West households which displayed Democratic signs, but were not Club members. These households were contacted and invited to attend our meetings and asked whether they wished to display signs in the next election. A sign-up sheet was distributed for members to pick what aspect of this initiative to post 2022 election signs they wished to participate in. We will be competing with candidates from other parties for prime locations. Posting of political signs must be in accordance with state law and HOA rules. Possibilities for sign messages were displayed and discussed. Bumper stickers for vehicles will be considered.

On October 27th at 6 PM a meeting will be held at the Cimarron Center in Sun City Grand to discuss campaign strategy. Members are invited to attend. In the last election, Democrats won the top positions on the ballot (President and Senators), but candidates down the ballot in LD-22 did not. Strategy for winning these down-ballot candidate elections will be discussed.

Stephanie Holbrook, Speaker

Stephanie Holbrook is running as a Clean Elections candidate for the Arizona Senate, LD-22, her first campaign for public office. Her family came to Arizona in the 19th century as homesteaders. She is a graduate of the New Mexico Military Institute and served in the Army National Guard. Her current occupation is working as a coach for endurance athletes. The issues which have motivated her to run include quality and affordable education for all, voting rights, and environmental justice. You can sign her petition and donate \$5.00 online to her campaign at: stephanieholbrook.com

Landon Andres, Speaker

Landon Andres of “Arizona Deserves Better” spoke on the referenda that would repeal laws affecting voting rights and education passed in the last legislative session and put an initiative on the ballot to stop dark money in elections. 130,000 signatures are needed by the 28th of September of this year. See the website arizonadeservesbetter.com

The following election laws would be affected: 1) SB1485 purges names from the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL) if the voter has not voted by mail in the past 2 election cycles. Voting in person and dropping off a mail-in ballot in person do not count as voting by mail. The voter would have to respond to a notice that he or she wanted to be kept on the PEVL. 2) HB2569 prohibits election officials from receiving private grants to help them run elections or register voters, even if inadequate funding has been provided by the Legislature. 3) SB1819 provides 10 “ballot fraud” countermeasures, including requiring bar and QR codes on ballots; gives outside groups access to voter registration databases; limits the secretary of state’s authority to defend state election laws; requires Game and Fish to assist with voter registration; spends \$500,000 to investigate social media; and requires detailed monitoring of county voter registration efforts.

3 tax bills were passed to undercut the effect of Proposition 208 passed in 2018, which created a surtax on the wealthy to fund education: 1) SB1828 lowers the tax bracket on people making over \$500,000 a year to 1%. 2) SB1827 lowers tax rates for the wealthy if the combined tax rate is over 4.5% and 3) SB1783 exempts business income reported on individual income tax returns from the surtax.

The initiative “The Voter’s Right to Know Act” aims to give voters knowledge of who is attempting to influence Arizona election using paid, public communications. Any person spending over \$50,000 on statewide campaigns or \$25,000 on other campaigns must disclose the original sources of contributions over \$5,000. They must also disclose their largest donors on campaign materials.

Sandy thanked the speakers and reminded that we have our club breakfasts at Tivoli’s on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 9 AM. A 50/50 raffle was held. Ken Walsh was the winner and received \$42.50.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret D. Cordovano
Secretary