

MINUTES  
SUN CITY WEST REPUBLICAN CLUB  
December 2, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Ron Ulrich called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at The Church on the Green, Sun City West, Arizona. Jan Neal gave the invocation followed by the Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America. All joined in the singing of God Bless America.

**WELCOME TO VISITORS:** Dan Bentley, Pat Briody, Lori Brown, Debra & Vince Flatla, Carl G. Mathews, Becky Robson, Tom Roesner, Gail Ruyle, Audrey & Barry Smith and Don Worcester. There were 105 members present and 12 guests, a total of 117.

The September minutes were approved as distributed prior to the meeting.

President Ulrich introduced Clair Van Steenwyk, Vice President, to introduce our speaker. Van Steenwyk explained that there was a scheduling conflict between Sheriff Mark Lamb's old campaign manager and the new campaign manager and a fund-raising event necessitated him to not be able to speak today. Van Steenwyk introduced Rachel Walden who is a Republican running for the Corporation Commission. Ms. Walden is running as a Clean Candidate and needs to collect \$5.00 donations from individuals to qualify to run. Her representative is available today with the forms and can collect contributions.

Rachel Walden detailed her experience. She is currently on the Governing Board for Mesa Public Schools and working for academic achievement, parent rights, fiscal responsibility and transparency. She has sued the Mesa School District as the Superintendent is making transgender policy regarding bathroom use and sports and not telling parents that their child is making decisions regarding transgender wishes. She said the School Board is in charge of policy decisions; not the Superintendent. She has a history of working in finance and business which began in their family business and led to a career with Vanguard managing institutional accounts.



Ms. Walden said she has been endorsed by Chairman Jim O'Connor, Commissioner Kevin Thompson, Commissioner Nick Myers and former Commissioner Justin Olden. She explained that the Commission has a Renewable Energy Standard and Tariff that requires at least 15% of

the energy purchases must come from renewable means which will expire in 2025. She said the Democrats on the Board are trying to get rid of fossil fuels. The Commission has the ability to set mandates for energy purchases. The utility companies get a rate of return from renewable energy purchases. She noted Germany bought into the climate control program and shut down their nuclear plants. The renewables are not capable of keeping up and they are currently building coal plants. She said California shut down two of their three nuclear plants to be replaced by energy renewable plans. Currently there is not a way to store excess energy, so California is selling their energy to Arizona at a negative 5% cost. Solar and windmills receive government subsidies and the national trend is shutting down nuclear plants (cleanest, most productive energy) and coal plants to be replaced by energy renewable sources. California has energy shortages that they must do rolling blackouts and tell electric car owners to charge at night.

Ms. Walden concluded by updating the members that the Corporation Committee is part of the Executive Offices of Arizona. Cases to change tariff rules come through the Commission. This past year the Commission voted to take out the electric vehicle discount for special times of the day and terminated a tree subsidy discount. There is a new Executive Director and he is requiring that staff work out of the office at least three days a week. He is currently in the process of fixing a disorganized office which is understaffed. It is currently taking 18 months to complete paperwork before items come before the Corporation Commission; in comparison D.C. takes 9 months and the national average is 8 months.

Scott Blake installed the new officers for 2024;

President	Bob Randle
Vice President	Linda Barnes
Recording Secretary	Connie Loper
Treasurer	Fran Church
Membership Director	John Schalk
Webmaster Director	Art Goes
Sargeant at Arms	Ron Martinson

The 50/50 Raffle drawing was held. The winner won \$41.00.

President Ulrich recognized Pat Leopold, Captain of Bonanza LD. Ms. Leopold reported we need help to get Republicans in office – volunteers of all sorts requested. Maricopa County Elections Department is looking for workers (paid positions) and the Republican Party is looking for poll watchers. Contact info for Maricopa County Elections is web site: [elections.maricopa.gov](http://elections.maricopa.gov) or Recruiters: Sammie Price 602-506-7369 and Fred Lucero 602-506-3407. Maricopa County Republican Committee (MCR) will have information in the near future. Check <https://my.arizona.vote/portallist.aspx> is a good web site and BeBallotReady.Vote is where you can confirm you are registered to vote and whether your vote has been counted.

Darlene Loudin of the Blackgold Precinct spoke about the past SCW Republican Club election, encouraging all to unite and not besmirch other members.

Jan Schank of Sun City Grand Republican Club invited attendees to their monthly meeting on

December 16 at 8:30 a.m. Guest speakers will be Tom Berry, President of the Sun City Festival Republican Club on Initiatives and Referendums and Kathleen Lyle will explain rank choice voting.

President Ron Ulrich thanked the members for supporting him during his Presidency.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Loper