

MINUTES
SUN CITY WEST REPUBLICAN CLUB
April 6, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: President Bob Randle called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at The Church on the Green, Sun City West, Arizona. Susan Black gave the Invocation followed by all singing God Bless America. President Randle led the Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America.

WELCOME TO VISITORS: Dave Black, Bob Branch, Mark Brown, Donna Clark, George Delerven, Justin Heap, Nickie Kelley, Art Morfor, Debbie Nelson, Raelene Peterson, Larry Placek, Gail Ruyle, Margaret Shoemaker, Jacklyn Smith, Linda Thompson, Rachel Walden and Bill & Ellen Weaver. There were 89 members present and 19 guests present.

Everyone sang Happy Birthday to Jan Martinson.

There was a motion and a second to approve the March minutes. Motion carried.

President Randle told the membership this Board is trying to be transparent in sharing information.

Fran Church reported there is \$8500.00 in our bank accounts. She said our expenses for the monthly meeting for rent, P.A. system and kitchen help is \$400-\$500 per month. We are breaking even plus or minus a little for the donuts. So far this year, the Club has received \$500 from the 50/50 raffle & winnings donated back to the Club. Our expenses this year have been the \$2400 donation to the West Valley Republican Club to help with the rent at their new location and rental of a Post Office Box so dues renewals can be sent via USPS. We have also received funds from merchandise sales. Ms. Church reported we have changed our bank account to Western State Bank. They can protect our privacy and they offer the free use of their meeting room which the Board is able to use for meetings. She reported we moved \$4,000 to a CD at the bank which will earn 5.25% for 9 months.

Fran Church introduced Jacklyn Smith, Manager of the local Western State Bank. She reported they very much like to work with groups and individuals and offer full services with detail to customer privacy. She also reported they have a meeting room that can be used. She encouraged anyone who has banking needs to set up a checking account with them and mention the Sun City West Republican Club and they will make a \$100 donation to the Club.

President Randle reported there had been a Kari Lake event last Tuesday morning at Palm Ridge. He became aware of the event at the last minute and tried to let people know about the event. It did not have high attendance, probably due to publicity issues. He reported in October we will be having a Get Out to Vote Breakfast prior to our meeting. Mark your calendar. He said West Valley Republican and Independent Coalition has a table selling Republican items and will donate a portion of the sales to our Club.

Janie Randle did a drawing for the “5-5-5” contest (make 5 phone calls to people about voting, send 5 emails regarding voting and attend 5 Republic events). Kay Bateman won the American Flag. Janie reported that 500,000 signatures have been turned into the Secretary of State regarding the Arizona abortion issue. She reported that paid petition collectors have been telling people it is a Women’s Health Bill rather than a bill that allow abortion up to birth. She also discussed the Rank Choice Voting petition collectors which would change from Republican and Democrat primaries to voting for top candidates running not related to designated parties. She encouraged all to not sign any petitions for people trying to catch you in store parking lots or other locations. You must read all details of any petitioners so you truly understand what their petition represents.

Debbie Lesko gave an update on issues under consideration in D.C. She said the abortion bill is terrible as it goes until a baby is born or even afterwards. The open border is of prime concern as 169 people on the terrorist list were caught last year and 69 so far this year. There is a large number sneaking across the border and not turning themselves in. There is a reason they don’t want to be identified. She said 74,000 people crossed the border on December 20 and 302,000 crossed the border on December 23 (same as population of Cincinnati). Biden blames the Republicans for the border issue because they would not vote for his border funding. The House approved HR2 to reinstate remain in Mexico, resume building the border wall, end catch & release and no funding to private organizations to move and care for the illegal immigrants. Chuck Schummer will not bring HR2 to the floor of the Senate. She said they are filing articles to impeach Mayorkas. We must reduce spending as the interest this year is higher than the Defense Department budget.



Linda Barnes introduced Nickie Kelley, who is running for Maricopa Superintendent of Schools. She is running because of her concerns for the education of our children. She has been a teacher

in charter schools and public schools. There is a real shortage of actual core content teachers in the schools where people without science and math backgrounds are teaching because of a shortage of teachers. She said this office appointments replacements to 52 School Boards when there is a vacancy. This group is also in charge of boys in girls' bathrooms. She said training must be done for school board members so they fight for better education instead of rubber-stamping it.



Linda Barnes introduced Justin Heap who is running for the Maricopa County Recorder. He currently represents East 10 and is a member of the House Freedom Caucus and the House Election Committee. He is running because current Record, Stephen Richer, does not follow the rules. There were day-of voting issues in the 2022 election and it took 3 weeks for the final results. He said 300,000 active Republican voters did not vote in that election. There must be an audit of voter rolls, chain of custody and more non-partisan observers.

Art Goes, Chairman of the By-Laws Committee reported Jeanette Johnson, Lillian Schauer and Margie Favia served on the By-Laws Committee. Goes reported a red line version of the proposed changes was posted on the SCW Republicans Club website three weeks before this meeting and two comments back were received and reviewed. Those changes will be reviewed by the Board following the meeting today and posted on the above referenced website for membership review before the next meeting. Today Goes highlighted some important changes proposed for vote today:

6.1 Officers would serve for two years instead of one.

7.1 Proposed officers must be a member of the Club 12 months prior to election and have attended at least three meetings.

Nominating Committee to remain neutral if there is more than one candidate per office. Nominations to be offered to the members at the October meeting.

Nominating Committee must find at least one qualified candidate per office.

It was moved by Mary Gronke and seconded by Rod Martinson that the membership vote to approve the suggested changes by the By-Laws Committee. Motion carried.

Linda Barnes reported that the Arizona Secretary of State posted the Unofficial results of the Presidential Preference Election held on March 19, 2024. Donald J Trump leads with 492,299 votes (78.8% of the vote) while the second-place candidate, Nikki Haley received 110,966 votes (17.8% of the vote). Seven other Republican candidates received approximately 19,000 additional votes. Linda Barnes reported on the results of the Sun City Governing Board that Jolene Piaskowski, Dennis Horvath and Rudy Grom were elected to the Board and the Yes vote for the Street Parking won overwhelmingly. She reported the voting lines were cut off at 3:00 on election day and the remaining line was not allowed to vote. This must be resolved before another Sun City West Election.

Linda Barnes reported Clair Van Steenwyck is now not running for the County Recorder position and recommends Don Hiatt. There are now two Republicans running for this position: Justin Heap and Don Hiatt

Linda Barnes introduced Lea Marquez Peterson who is running for the Arizona Corporation Commission.

Before Peterson began speaking John Dailey requested to make a point of order. He objected to the club election last November and called for a new election. He was declared out of order and asked to leave the meeting.

Ms. Marquez Peterson introduced herself as a wife, mother, small business owner from Tucson. She was appointed to the Commission in 2019, ran in 2020 and was past Chair. She said there are three Republicans running for three seats: herself, Rene Lopez and Rachel Walden. This Commission deals with Green New Deal policies; the Democrats are wanting mandates for solar and renewable energies. Negatives are blackouts when not enough energy is available (California is an example). They are searching for viable sources of reliable energy. Arizona has the largest nuclear energy plant in the country. She explained the clean election candidate whereby they get \$5.00 donations which lead to \$2,000 state funding. This is to ensure that utility companies/interests do not influence the elections. You can donate today or to her website voteforlea.com. She said the APS rate case has been appealed. The Corporation Commission has not asked that coal plants be phased out but the Federal Government and EPA regulations have prompted utilities to close coal operations. She noted there are 350 water utility districts; 6 are large ones and the rest are in rural areas.



Rachel Walden started her presentation by speaking for candidate Rene Lopez since he was unable to attend today. He was a Chandler City Councilman, brought down rates, Navy Veteran, Nuclear Engineering degree, works in IT.

Walden shared further information on solar energy. She said solar technology can't store solar energy. Utility companies are selling excess solar energy – currently Arizona pays California 5 cents per KW. She said SW Gas went up 175% recently due to Biden policy of natural gas, a plant explosion and supply & demand. Climate goals were set by previous Corporation Commission members dating back to 1998. In 2025, they will set sensible rate policies. Please support her for clean election contributions here today or to electrachelwalden.com.

Questions & answers by the two candidates present:

What happens to old solar panels? There is not a good recycling program now. They are being buried in landfills.

Is the Arizona Corporation nonpartisan. No. Democrats pushed their agenda before.

What about future rates? APS is a for-profit company. Utilities must invest for shareholder return – return on equity is not the same as investing in a company.

How much is subsidized in solar power: The Buy Back Program has made the utilities buy solar power at 9 cents per KH while they can produce it at 4 cent per KH. There are federal subsidies. Under the Inflation Reduction Act, is for renewable energy only – no other types of energy. Mandates cost money.

If Trump is elected, will they still close coal plants? EPA leadership can stop the 2031 closure determined by utility companies as EPA deadline is 2038. EPA even regulates the water at coal plants. Stop the wars on energy.

Linda Barnes reported that is a primary election forum sponsored by Sun City West Republicans and Sun City Grand Republicans on June 22 from 1:30-5:00 p.m. at Palm Ridge. Volunteers are needed,

Programs speakers for May are Debbie Lesko and Dr. Robert Branch running for Maricopa County Supervisor #4.

President Randle reported there are issues with doing a gun raffle – still exploring options. He announced two 50/50 winners of \$48.00.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Loper
Recording Secretary