MINUTES
SUN CITY WEST REPUBLICAN CLUB
November 7, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: President Bridget Nelke called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at The Church on the Green, Sun City West, Arizona. President Nelke gave the Invocation and led the Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America and singing America the Beautiful.

WELCOME VISITORS: George Dehrusn, Char Heins, Jerry Hoch, Maggie & Ross Howay, Hugh Ross and Steve Shank. There were 69 members, 7 guests and 2 speakers present for a total of 78 in attendance.

President Nelke asked for a motion to approve the October Minutes as provided on the Club web site. There was a motion and a second; motion carried.

President Nelke asked all those who helped with the elections to stand: Poll Workers, PC's, Door Knockers and all others who helped in any way. She thanked them for their dedication to urge Republicans voters to get out to vote.

President Nelke asked all veterans to stand to be recognized for their service to our country.

President Nelke reported on the Republican Meet & Greet our Club hosted at the Lizard Lounge. There were over 50 people in attendance; quite a few people were interested in learning more about our Club. Things went well for a facility that would not let us display any Republican Club information. We were well represented by members with flags and lots of red. She received suggestions for several other locations that would allow us to openly host a Republican event. This will be explored by the Board.



Bridget Nelke introduced John Riches who is Vice President of Legislation with the Goldwater Institute. They fight for rights in Arizona when the Legislature doesn't. This organization was formed in 1988 with the blessing of Senator Barry Goldwater. They protect the sanctity of private property rights. From 1988-2007 they just worked on state issues. In 2007, Judge Clint Bolick came on board and they began working on public interest issues, pro-freedom and pro-reform policy issues. They are certified to handle cases throughout the country now. The Goldwater Institute developed the Education Savings Account program. The Arizona Attorney General recently put heavy paperwork requirements for home school parents; i.e. to request pencils for their students, they had to submit current copies of their teaching program. They did a lawsuit representing those parents and those rules were repealed. They do policy research where law and public policy intersect. They take these cases to court. Their cases are only brought against the government to get an order to stop that policy – no monetary damage awards. They also can take cases to the Court of Appeals so that other people in that same situation can use that judgment.

John Riches spoke of several cases they have won:

- Cosmetology licensing entity was requiring a lady who had formed a company called Angels on Earth who provided people who that are ill and homebound with hair services at home. They were going to require her to get a cosmetology degree to run her business although she was just arranging a service for very ill people and she did not own a salon. They pulled back after the Goldwater Institute intervened.
- Arizona Governor changed the 100-year water interpretation from relative to a specific location as criteria to other areas throughout Arizona to stifle homebuilding. The government believes in restricting private property rights. It was determined that the Governor exceeded her authority.

Questions:

How does the Goldwater Institute compare to the Christian Alliance Defending Freedom? They focus on economic policies. They have attorneys that do pro bono work.

What can be done about property taxes? Currently the government taxes you on your house forever. Possibilities of taxes being based on fixed income or 20-year term.

What happens when the Left tries to remove the Electoral College? They would have to do a Constitutional Amendment which must be approved by three quarters of the states. The Left doesn't like separation of powers but they can't do a shortcut to the Electoral College.

What if the new Arizona Legislature passes a bill that repeals ESA's. A referendum can send this legislative act to the voters. Their action will be paused until the election.

Is Arizona going to audit the mid-term elections? That is not what the Goldwater Institute gets involved in.

The drawing was held for the 50/50 raffle. The winner received $60.00.

President Nelke introduced Jay Beeber, Chief Government Affairs and Policy Officer for the National Motorists Association.



During Biden's term, they had proposed to eliminate AM radios in all new cars. That was prompted because most conservative talk shows were on AM radio stations. They got that ruling rescinded.

In the 90's, there was a national speed limit of 55 and Federal Funding was pulled back if that law was disobeyed. There was a grass roots effort to repeal that law. Each state has different local needs for setting their speed limits.

Currently there is government concentration on limiting residents' ability to drive where they want to, when you want to and how far you can drive. They have also taken away driving lanes for bicycle lanes. Automated enforcement cameras were used in the past but in the past few years, 1000's of cameras have been put in place.

Beeber spoke on propositions to control these attempts to keep you in a tight area:

- Bans mileage-based taxes. State and local governments could not charge taxes or fees based on how many miles a person drives
- Requires consent for mileage monitoring. Laws or rules could not monitor a person's vehicle miles without that person's voluntary consent.
- Requires consent for mileage limits. Laws or rules could not limit a person's vehicle miles without that person's voluntary consent.

Reminder driving is not a luxury.

Proposition 319 passed on the November Election. A yes vote supported prohibiting the state and other government entities from installing and using new photo enforcement systems to identify people who violate certain traffic ordinances, including traffic signs, markings, signals and speed restrictions and requiring local government that have installed such systems to receive voter approval in order to continue using them. The cutoff date to sign new contracts is December 31, 2026. Voters will decide at the next General Election if they approve the camera contracts. If they vote to approve the cameras, it will come up for election in 10 years. If they vote not to approve the cameras, they must be removed with 90 days after the election.

Ticketing issues from camera-caught violations:

- Placed where there are engineering deficiencies (short yellow lights, arbitrarily low speed limits)
- Targets primarily minor violations, not the most dangerous behavior
- Issues tickets that live police officers could/would never issue
- Lack of police discretion when issuing tickets
- Disproportionate effects on lower income communities
- Adjudication is rigged against the defendant – fewer legal rights
- Untrustworthy analysis of program benefits – cherry picking data

- For profit private companies have too much influence

Beeber spoke on the Flock ALPR Surveillance Equipment. Networked license plate readers can reveal your movements, associations and daily life - they can search your data, reconstruct your routes, reveal your associates, access public records, uncover patterns and impact your privacy.

With NOVA Access, searches go beyond cars. There are 28 NOVA prompts and 6 Extra data-access permissions. Those include:

- Owners & Vehicle Records: owner details from a plate, prior cases for an owner, RMS vehicle records,
- Arrests & Case History: arrests by names, repeat arrests, similar cases by keyword searches
- Person Workups: associate vehicles people matching descriptors, full workups by name and DOB, suspects near an address
- Calls and Incident Records: CAD events at an address, high-priority calls, keyword searches in calls, repeat calls for service
- Contacts & Online Accounts: online accounts, associates and relatives, emails, phones linked to a person
- Accidents & Uploads: accident reports plates tied to crashes, uploaded BOLO or APB PDFs uploaded images used to find related vehicles

Specific Harms:

- Flock Camera Mistakes: plate misreads and data errors, wrong vehicles linked to a crime innocent drivers can be stopped or investigated
- False Positives: an alert is not proof, officers may act on incomplete information, mistakes can escalate into dangerous encounters
- Bad Actors/Stalking: searches can be abused for personal reasons, romantic partners or acquaintances can be tracked, audit logs help, but misuse still happens
- Privacy, Freedom of Movement & the 4th Amendment: records where your car was seen, reveals routes, routines, and associations, can chill travel and lawful activity, raises constitutional concerns about dragnet surveillance

The concern is not one camera. It is a searchable network that can misidentify people, expose private life and be misused.

Questions:

- What about cameras that face the driver? Those are traffic cameras for the flow of traffic
- What about the data collected from newer cars? They sell to other brokers such as insurance companies. GM will stop selling their information. Working with Congress on national plan.
- Is it ok to use license plate covers to avoid the cameras? No.

Other closing concerns and thoughts:

What about a driving tax from one state to another or differentiate from work and leisure

Electric vehicles – how do they pay their share of road taxes? Maybe increase their licensing fee.

Michigan may charge fees on walking, biking transit, etc.

California may have a tier system for driving fees.

Personal rights may be infringed on for police search in high profile or kidnap cases such as innocent people being researched without their knowledge.

President Nelke thanked Jay Beeber for all the information he shared.

She noted that some of the Propositions passed: Local Grocery Taxes, Drug Cartel and Girl's Sports. There are several that have not been called yet. Speakers set for December meeting are Sergio Arellano Arizona GOP Chair, Ocean Rasso with TPUSA Youth and one other unconfirmed speaker.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Loper
Recording Secretary