

MINUTES  
SUN CITY WEST REPUBLICAN CLUB  
March 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. President Nelke led the Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America and the meeting attendees sang America the Beautiful.

**WELCOME VISITORS:** David Gleason, J.D. Gleason, Tom & Lee Groom, David Hodnik, Ross & Maggie Howey, Peggy & Robert Jacobs, Janice & Kim Kaufman, Molly Koranda, Carl Liggett, Leona Medity, Cindy Putman, Gail Ruyle and Jim Scott. There were 121 members present; 17 guests and 6 speakers/staff present for a total of 144 in attendance.

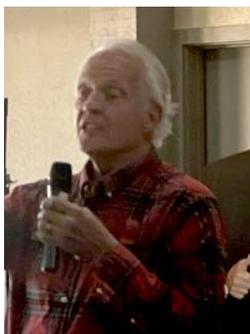
President Bridget Nelke asked for approval of the February minutes as published on the Sun City West Republican website. A motion and second to approve February 7, 2026 Minutes was made. Motion approved.

President Nelke had a short presentation on our history from 1857-1896. Some of the events were:

- South Carolina seceded from the Union in 1860
- Emancipation Proclamation signed in 1863
- South surrenders and Lincoln assassination in 1865
- Russian sold Russia to U.S. in 1867

Art Goes, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, reported six changes that have been proposed for approval to the Bylaws. The most current Bylaws and the proposed changes are available on the SCW Republican Club website. The Board approved the changes at a Special Session. There will be a vote on the changes at the April Club meeting.

President Nelke noted that the September regular meeting falls on Labor Day weekend. She asked for show of hands that would prefer to change the meeting to the second Saturday in September if the church facilities are changed. Many raised their hands in favor of the date change and a few members were opposed to changing the date of the September meeting.



Linda Barnes introduced Les Presmyk, Arizona Mining Inspector. Presmyk is running for election for this position. He was appointed last October by Governor Katie Hobbs to replace Paul Marsh. He graduated from the College of Mines at University of Arizona. His work experience was the Principal Mining Engineer for the Salt River Project from 1987-2017. He has over 15 years' experience working in mines. This office is concerned with mining safety. He noted that there are over 500 active mines in Arizona. He has petitions to be signed available today to get his name on the ballot.





Linda Barnes introduced Kevin Thompson and Nick Myers who are running for re-election to the Arizona Corporation Commission. Nick Myers noted during this past term they have accomplished the following:

- Eliminated the Green New Deal items
- Cut \$1 Billion out of the budget
- Cut the Renewable Energy Credits

Kevin Thompson gave a history on the Arizona coal plants that have closed. The Navajo Generating Station was closed in 2019 as a result of Obama Administration lawsuit. The Cholla Power plant is scheduled to close this April. President Trump mentioned recently in a speech that he wanted this plant open. Unfortunately, the economics makes this not possible as there was no maintenance/updates done for a few years since it was scheduled for closing. It was estimated it would cost \$1.9 Billion to bring this back online. Possibilities for doing nuclear plants, natural gas plants or SMR (Small Modular Reactors) in the next 3-6 years are being explored as that is the best source of energy in the future.

Questions:

What is stopping future expansion? The workforce for energy plants needs to be rebuilt and U.S. made parts need to be generated.

What about water pipelines and desalination?

The Buckeye and southwest valley has below par quality drinking water. The desalination process is very expensive and is a high electricity usage.

Why should we vote for you? Experience counts. Both Myers and Thompson have expertise in the utilities community and are involved in a few Commissions relating to utilities. They said it takes 2-3 years to work Arizona out of Green Energy Products. They know how to keep the grid reliable and resilient, working to build energy fields and we must double our electric grid in the next 10 years.

Why have there been multiple rate increases? The utility company proposed a 14% increase as Title 15 says utilities are allowed to get their costs. Utilities normally make a 9.5% increase so the rate will be negotiated.

What about the Arizona water supply? Utilities are not allowed to invest for the future. They must figure out a way to do this. The Colorado River is shared by seven states. The upper basin states do not do conservation programs and Arizona, California, New Mexico and Nevada have the share what is left,

Why can't Arizona get gas from Texas instead of California? There is a potential plan to bring in two natural gas pipelines from Texas in 2-3 years.

What about the mass electricity needed to run the factories and AI centers? President Trump just announced a deal with the big users that they will take the cost of the additional energy upon themselves instead of the taxpayers on new projects.

The two 50/50 raffle winners were drawn.

Linda Barnes told audience to mark their calendars for the June 27 Candidate Forum this Club is sponsoring. She said Andy Biggs and Abe Hamadeh will speak at the April meeting.

Jim Scott of PORA reported the Ratification meeting is March 16 and they will be hosting a Legislative Forum on April 3.

It was noted Sun City Festival will be hosting an event on March 10.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Loper  
Recording Secretary