

MINUTES  
SUN CITY WEST REPUBLICAN CLUB  
May 4, 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. Jan Neal gave the Invocation followed by all singing God Bless America. President Randle led the Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America followed by all singing God Bless America.

**WELCOME VISITORS:** Laura Bonk, Pat Briody, Monte Brown, Paul Buvvier, Jeff Caldwell, Ron Christian, Donna Chubb, Bob Cushman, Donna Cushman, George Daususin, A. Graham, Christine Grau, Terry Honest, Cynthia Hurst, John Vanderford, John Lichstsinn, Joy Mergen, Doug Miller, Sherry Moore, Tom Moore, Bridget Nelke, Travis Partain, Gail Potts, Debbie Randle, Linda & Richard Smith, Angela & Frit Swain, Gary & Marion, John Vanderford, Dan & Lee Ann Vilcek, Susan & Jeff Weisbecker, Kristy Woeste, Judy Ziebart. There were 89 members present and 19 guests present: a total count of 161 with speakers and their staff.

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the April 6 meeting be approved as published on the SCW Republican Club website. Motion approved.

John Dailey asked to be heard on the open Point of Order from the April meeting. President Randle deferred that discussion until other business was addressed.

President Randle reported there may be a right to assemble issue if the current President declares a Climate Change Emergency.

Art Goes representing the By-Laws Committee reported on the approval of amendments to the By-Laws at the meeting last month with it being notated that there were member comments received too late to be voted on last month. Two further sets of amendments were being voted on today. One set had been emailed to members in early April, meeting the three-weeks-notice requirement. The second set was completed too late for the three weeks notice and was distributed at the tables during the meeting; the second set would need 2/3 of those voting to pass in order to waive the notice requirement.

Goes asked for discussion and Darlene Lundin brought to attention comments she had submitted that she had requested in writing last month regarding a written process to suspend or terminate members and having it include in the By-Laws that the Nominating Committee must be announced in September to the membership. Goes noted the Nominating Committee had reviewed her suggestions and chose different wording. Another member asked if there is a Policy and Procedure Document. Goes noted those type of issues are incorporated in the By-Laws.

The first set of amendments spells out the job description of Sergeant at Arms, so that all officer jobs are defined. Nominating committee members are to be announced to the members promptly after being appointed by the board. Goes moved approval of this set; seconded by Lillian Schauer. Approved by a show of hands.

Goes then moved approval of the second set of amendments which had been placed on the tables, seconded by Lillian Schauer. (The handout is reproduced below.) Approval required a 2/3 vote, and the motion was approved by a show of hands.

TEXT OF THE HANDOUT \*\*\*\*\*

6.1 The Officers shall consist of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and four Directors: Director – Membership Director - Webmaster, Director – Sergeant at Arms and Director-at-Large. Except as otherwise provided for herein, all officers shall be elected by the membership to serve a term of two (2) years, or until a successor is elected. Elections for the two year terms will commence in November 2025, and will take place in odd numbered years thereafter. **Current officers' terms expiring in 2024 shall be extended through 2025.**

**Rationale: The November election in 2024 is extremely important; our focus should be on the national and state elections.**

11.5.2 Submit to the membership at its October meeting at least one nominee for each Club office. This completes the committee's work. However, if no eligible candidate has been found for an office by the October meeting, the committee will continue to seek and screen candidates only for that office until the

November meeting. **Members of the nominating committee cannot be candidates in the current election.**

**Rationale: Avoid conflict of interest.**

END OF THE HANDOUT \*\*\*\*\*

Linda Barnes recognized Anthony Kern who wanted to give a legislative update. He noted that two Republicans sided with the Democrats and voted to repeal the 1864 Abortion Ruling. He said a bill was passed to help homeowners deal quickly and legally with squatter issues but Governor Hobbs vetoed the bill.

Linda Barnes introduced Gina Godbehere who is running for the Maricopa County Attorney. She is a lifetime Arizona resident and has over 20 years of experience as a Crime Victim's Rights Attorney as well as a Maricopa County Attorney office staff member. She is running because she is very concerned about the diversion program being used by the Maricopa County Attorney Office that allows people assaulting police officers or robbery defendants to take a class and the charges are dismissed and is not shown in their criminal history. She said under this program defendants using a firearm in the commission of their crime can still own a gun. She said the current Maricopa County Attorney, Rachel Mitchell, highlights they have reduced retail crime but fails to tell you that is only 1% of the department caseload. She said the County Attorney has the power to file felony charges or downgrade the charges against the defendants. The current County Attorney is downgrading charges. It is important that criminals be charged appropriately.

She said she is a proven community leader and has worked with homelessness and drug addiction. She wants to enforce the law and ensure that justice must be blind and all must be treated equally.



William Lichtsinn, candidate for County Treasurer, was introduced. Mr. Lichtsinn is an Arizona native who is an accountant and has held various positions of Vice President of Finance. He has managed a \$300 Million portfolio. He said our current County Treasurer does not have an accounting background. The current rate of return on investments is 2.6%. Treasury Notes are paying 4.5-4.6% interest. We should be investing in the best safe avenues to make our money work for the taxpayers and he has the expertise and knowledge to do this.

Linda Barnes said she has invited all candidates for Sun City West resident voting to join us at the July 6 meeting. The format will be that one candidate will sit at a table with members so you may ask them questions – then after a short time, the candidates will rotate to different tables so you get a chance to ask questions and interact with each candidate. She also had a handout on tables to remind those who will be gone for the primary or the general election to request a ballot be sent directly to you at your temporary address.

Linda Barnes introduced Debbie Lesko (our current House of Representative member) who is running for the Maricopa County District 4 County Supervisor. She was in the Arizona legislature for 9 years and the House of Representatives for 6 years. She said we must elect Donald Trump President to save our government. Her priorities for County Board would be election integrity and Voter ID. We must make sure that only citizens vote; no illegal immigrants. In Congress she fought against HR1, federalizing elections. She supports the proposed Equal Representation Act currently being considered in D.C. The government has been using illegal immigrants and non-citizens in the count for Congressional districts and the Electoral College which this proposed bill makes it so only citizens count for the districting. Ms. Lesko noted that Biden is flying in 30,000 illegal immigrants directly each month to cities in addition to the flow at the southern border. She said as a County Supervisor her priority would

be to make sure the tabulators and printers are completely tested before the election. She said all ballot counting should be completed by the end of election day. She believes we should go back to Precinct voting and just offer a few larger voting centers for those that can't vote at their local Precinct. She said the Supervisors set the budget; they should prioritize fighting crime, homelessness, better funding for the Sheriff and County Attorney to enforce laws and to investigate sex trafficking and fentanyl trafficking. There are three fentanyl deaths per day in Arizona. She believes in fiscal responsibility to keep taxes as low as possible. She closed by saying we are in a battle for the soul of our nation. We Republicans needs to unite to beat the liberals and President Biden,



Linda Barnes introduced Dr. Robert Branch, who is also running for the Maricopa County District 4 County Supervisor. Branch said he has been a businessman and veteran. He was Vice President in a high-tech company and also a CEO. He has been a LD leader for 13 years. He has headed the Parks & Recreation Department for seven terms. When he took over the Parks & Recreation position, fees generated 50 cents on the dollar for operations; now it generates 94 cents on the dollar. The Maricopa Parks system is the No. 1 Regional system in the U.S. He can bring knowledge of the Maricopa departments as he has worked with most of them. His goal as a County Supervisor is to have the departments save money first before raising their budgets. Example was to bring back the Posse Program (that would save over \$3 Million). You need to have leadership that can recruit. He feels he is ready to step into the County Supervisor position on day one with a full understanding of the job.

While the audience submits questions, Linda Barnes had a few brief speakers:

Constable Scott Blake had prepared a handout of ideas to keep your home safe and secure:

1. If away for two weeks or more, have the Posse keep an eye on your house by filling out the vacation watch form.
2. Install an alarm system and use it.
3. Install cameras outside & inside your house.

4. Ask your neighbors to watch your house.
5. Install motion sensor lights outside your house.
6. Lock your doors, including the garage door from the garage to the house.
7. Don't announce on social media that you are leaving.
8. Have a neighbor throw trash in your garbage can while you are away.
9. Stop the mail & newspapers.
10. Update passwords on your computers.
11. Use timers on your inside lights.
12. Put valuable in your home in a safe
13. Invest in a camera doorbell.

Cindy Newman with the West Valley Republican and Independent Coalition is partnering with Debbie Lesko and the Trump Headquarters for a May 22 event.

Jan Shank of the Sun City Grand Republican Club invited all to attend their meeting on Saturday, May 18. Guest speakers will be Kari Lake and Seth Keshel. The meeting will begin at 9:15 – come early as there will be seating for 400. No charge for guests that day.

Linda Barnes announced our speakers for next month will be Blake Masters, Mike Crawford, Nickie Kelley, Don Hiatt and Justin Heap.

Linda Barnes started the question session with Debbie Lesko and Dr. Robert Branch.

Question: What agencies will you oversee & control the budget?  
Branch – Sheriff and Schools. He is strong in the “art of the deal” and negotiating.  
Lesko – County Attorney, Sheriff, Courts, Parks & Recreation.

Question for Branch: What didn't you get a chance to tell us:  
Branch – Election integrity is important. Bring back same day voting.

Question for Lesko: What about the FISA bill?  
Lesko – She was sick in Phoenix so could not go to DC that day. It ended in a tie and the bill was renewed for two years. She wanted to explain her votes on the foreign aid bills: voted yes on Israel, yes on Indo Pacific and no on Ukraine as they had promised not to approve unless it was tied to closing our southern border.

Question: Was Election stolen?  
Lesko – Five days before the election the voter registration deadline was extended. It was appealed and overturned but too late.  
Branch – 2020 was not stolen. In 2018 the poles opened late, votes were transported in non-secure method. 2022 was stolen.

Question: Can people vote early?  
Responses of both candidates combined. County Board certifies the election. Stephen Richer needs to clean up the voting polls. Make sure people can't vote twice. Voter ID – only citizens can vote.

Bob Randle announced the numbers for the 50/50 raffle. There were two winners of \$61.00.

John Daley asked to speak on his Point of Order on election integrity. He was given the floor but the membership was leaving. Daley ended up speaking and left. President Randle declared this item of discussion is now closed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Loper, Recording Secretary.