

MINUTES
SUN CITY WEST REPUBLICAN CLUB
July 11, 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, led the singing of America the Beautiful and the Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America.

WELCOME VISITORS: There were 97 members present, 45 guests and 4 speakers/staff present for a total of 146 were in attendance.

President Nelke called for a motion and second to approve the June meeting Minutes that were available on the website. Motion approved.

Linda Barnes introduced Congressman Abe Hamadeh speaking on a Legislative update. He reminded everyone to be proud to be an American. He said we are fighting commies and Marxist crazies. He said the Democrats will try to destroy Trump and our country. Trump “uplifts” feelings and reawakens our patriotic feelings. Our military has pride and no more “woke”. We must have Election Integrity and we should eliminate Spanish on the ballots. He also noted that two people captured by the Taliban in 2024 were freed.

Questions:

1. Should we be terrified of Sharia Law. What can we do? Congress should pass a law regarding “no” Sharia Law.
2. What is the status on ending the Peace Corps? He was unsure of that ending.
3. There is concern about the new workforce not being able to afford housing. He said we need to gear new housing for young people so they can afford the housing. Build more affordable free-standing homes instead of apartments. In 10 days, the Affordable Housing bill will become law without Trump’s signature.
4. What about new military technology? Mr. Palmer is creating new drones for the military. We can outfit the older military planes with drones. He said Ukraine makes 7 million drones annually while the US only makes 300,000. Other countries are developing them faster than the U.S.
5. What is going on in the Peoria School District? He sent an inquiry letter to Secretary McMahon to look into the abuse claims.
6. What is the status of the vote for the Save America Act? He said they may not pass this until after the mid-term elections when they have more MAGA senators in the Senate. He said the birthright decision by the Supreme Court was wrong. There are millions of Chinese babies born in Guam who receive U.S. citizenship at birth but never reside in the U.S.
7. Do we need to deepen the US/Israel alliance? We need to work out trade agreement versus handing out U.S. funds. He is a strong supporter of the U.S./Israel alliance.

8. Do you want to end Planned Parenthood funding? He said he does because he stands for life.

Congressman Hamadeh closed by cautioning people about fake news reporting and social media stories. He said we need to keep going and keep winning. Be motivated and be proud of what we have accomplished. U.S.A. is the greatest country!

Linda Barnes gave an update on the Candidate Forum. She said 413 people attended the Forum. She expressed appreciation for all the members who volunteered at the event.

Linda Barnes shared information on the new process of turning in mail-in ballots at an early voting center. Voters may have their identity verified by showing their driver's license at the site book location – then a poll worker will stamp the sealed green envelope and your ballot submitted for vote tabulation. On the actual voting day, you may take your sealed green envelope with completed ballot and provide your driver's license for verification. Then you will open your envelope, place your mail-in ballot in scanner/tabulator for mail-in ballots so your vote is actually counted on election day. She encouraged everyone to vote.

Linda Barnes introduced Katherine Haley who is running for Arizona Treasurer. Ms. Haley was President of the State Board of Education and owns an investment company. She worked in Washington D.C as chief policy advisor for education, workforce, antipoverty, global health and other social issues for former Speaker of the House John Boehner. She has been endorsed by Kimberly Yee, the current Arizona Treasurer, three previous Treasurers and 7 Municipal Treasurers. Ms. Haley stated she is in favor of HB 2344, a bill sponsored by David Livingston to allow in-house management of state funds versus outside investors. The Treasurer would be responsible to monitor the funds monthly and investing for the best interests of Arizona. She noted her opponent has been involved in an anti-David Livingston campaign, sued over her petition signatures (dropped the suit but it cost her campaign \$20,000) and made allegations on X. She said the Treasurer does not have authority to audit other State Departments; those are the duties of the Auditor General. She supports the ESA program, protection of military kids' education, encourages growing 529 accounts and promoting financial literacy. Her Democratic opponent opposes the ESA scholarship expansion. Treasurer can make State funds are spent properly and invested safely. Investments are available online for those interested.

Question

Why are you running for Treasurer? Every day she will have the best interests of taxpayer funds being used for their benefit. She will make sure funds get to municipalities, schools and all operational entities receiving State funding. Her job includes making sure the State lives within its budget. The Auditor General is responsible for audits of state agencies.

The 50/50 Raffle winners were drawn: two \$75.00 winners.

Linda Barnes had a copy of a report by Seth Keshel, MBA. He is a former Army Captain of Military Intelligence and Afghanistan veteran. His analytical method of election forecasting and analytics is known worldwide. He evaluated the "Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections Order. His top 4 takeaways:

1. The opening section is powerful and conditions the reader to understand the grave threat facing our now-dilapidated system of elections. By emphasizing what other countries do well, Trump places the burden on his opponents to decry nations who run single-day elections and have very few mail-in ballots to defend a system here that a wide majority of voters hate and do not trust. Public trust and transparency are at the forefront of this order.
2. Preventing illegals and non-citizens from voting is a good start; and one founded in common sense but not comprehensive. It's not that the illegals are voting, it's that they are being voted for. Hopefully, future actions address the corruption of voter registration, particularly the Automatic brand of it that furnishes hundreds of thousands of phantom voters in the key electoral states that can then be remotely turned-out by mail or other methods given the lengthy voting window.
3. By going after states that slow roll the count, a massive magnifying glass will now be over the worst offenders, such as California and Arizona. Slow counting is identified by our own government agencies as a key indicator that developing or third-world nations are rigging elections – but somehow that is forgotten here when they need Democrats to win seats. If you recall, two Republicans lost leads in U.S. House races in California in December in the last cycle, only to concede like dying dogs.
4. Trump appears ready to spring the trap on electronic voting as evidenced by his directives for the DHS and EAC to fully investigate the vulnerabilities and threats posed by electronic voting (to include software) in consideration of existing directives surrounding threats to “critical infrastructure”.

Linda Barnes introduced Justin Heap, Maricopa County Recorder. Heap reported he won a decision from Arizona Supreme Court and they lifted “stay” by the Appellate Court regarding the job duties dispute between the Recorder and the Board of Supervisors stating they must fund the duties of the Recorder and staff. This all relates to a new County Agreement ten days before he took office which stripped some of the powers of the Recorder Office. Funding has been restored to the Recorder office. The last election had over 300,000 mail in ballots returned to drop boxes and vote centers prior to the closing of the polls which had to be signature verified. This election people returning ballots to voting centers will be given the opportunity to check in on the site book with their verification to complete the signature verification process for their ballot. Heap stated the Board worked with him and he wants the Settlement Agreement to be finalized.

Question: When vote counting is not completed three days after the election, will there be MAGA protests? Heap stated in 2020 there were 300,000 mail in ballots that were mailed late or dropped off at election drop boxes or election centers. All these ballots had to be signature verified before they were tabulated. In 2024, there were 680,000 late ballots (tabulated in 4 ½ days). In 2025, there was an all-mail election with about 680,000 late ballots tabulated by noon the second day.

How long does it take to remove non-voters from the voter rolls? Under ABLE, they must send a notice to voters if they miss four elections; then they can be removed.. Under NVRA (Federal law), if ballots are undeliverable and notice of death, they must wait two Federal elections unvoted and a 35 day notice before they can be removed from the voter rolls.

What about legal fees for the dispute with the Board of Supervisors? There was no coverage of legal fees outside the County Attorneys and staff without receiving Board of Supervisors' permission for external attorneys. James Rogers volunteered to do this pro bono. The Supreme Courts has requested what their attorney fees would have been and that has been submitted to the Court. In Closing, Heap stated he believes the Board of Supervisors has acted in good faith and he believes the final settlement agreement will be mutually agreeable and they will move forward.

Linda Barnes announced to the membership she is resigning effective today as Vice President of the Club due to being responsible for care for her husband and another family member. President Nelke presented her with a gift from the Republican Club in appreciation of her service.

The program for the September meeting will be three candidates who will be running in the General Election. The October meeting speaker will be Nathan Duell, State Director of Heritage Action

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Loper, Recording Secretary