

MINUTES
SUN CITY WEST REPUBLICAN CLUB
September 12, 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 singing of America the Beautiful and the Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America.

WELCOME VISITORS: Sandy April, Nancy Bezick, Al & Linda Brown, Mona DeVore, Jessica DiGiacome, Stephen Dodge, Maryann Frisin, Janet Gilbert, Ginger Graham, Susan Hanson, Judi Just, Mala Kempf, Midge Kullberg, Alice Leppke, B & C Mattell, Leona Meditz, Dena & Larry Payne, Tom Steffanek, Bill Stewart, Bobby Swagerty, Yvonne Tatalovich, Ratham Tepurona, Jeff Taylor, Pete Taylor, Ken Truitt, M. Wise, There were 73 members present; 29 guests and 6 speakers/staff present for a total of 144 in attendance.

There was a motion and a second to approve the July 11, 2026 Minutes. Motion carried.

President Nelke told members they need poll workers and observers for the upcoming election. Linda Brinkman provided a website that shows a yes or no suggestion for voting for judges. The 1voterguide.com website shows information on candidates such as who gave them money and who the candidate gave money to. President Nelke said Grass Roots Grandma's need volunteers to help distribute the Golden Tickets from 9/27-10/7. She said LD28 has 70,000 Golden tickets for Republicans and Independents. She reported Andy Biggs has an upcoming fundraiser on September 18 in Paradise Valley. She showed an article on Arizona law protects your right to display political signs on your property – even if you live in an HOA or Condo Community. Signs may be displayed 71 days before the primary and must be removed 15 days after the General Election. Candidates that do not win in the primary must remove their signs 15 days after the primary.

What Associations can and cannot do:

- They can regulate the number and size of signs
- May regulate the time period for displaying signs
- Enforce reasonable rules for placement to maintain safety and accessibility

What Associations cannot do:

- Prohibit the indoor or outdoor of political signs during the legal time period
- Limit how many candidates you can support or oppose
- Require signs to be professionally manufactured or commercially produced
- Prohibit the use of both sides of the sign
- Treat political signs differently based on the viewpoint or the message

President Nelke told the membership about a Meet & Greet event to be held on October 23 from 11:00 am-3:00 pm at Lizard Lounge. She had booked the event with the Rec Center. She encouraged people to wear red, white & blue and flags are encouraged. Please come to support this event.



Bridget Nelke introduced John Crow who is running for Member-at-Large seat on the Maricopa County Community Board. Ryan Caracciolo is running for District 4 for this Board. Crow said this Community College has a budget of \$1.7 Billion. They have been run by the left the past 10 years. This is the largest Community College in the U.S. Crow said he has 25 years as CEO working as a turnaround guy in institutions. He said the budget has remained high and they are borrowing capital to finance operations. He stated they need to focus on what will get kids jobs – healthcare and trades need increased programs as that is where the jobs are. He is very concerned that the football program was cut in 2019. He played football in his early years after high school as it helped students not ready for college to focus. It was a very important program that led to many students going on to very productive careers.



Ryan Caracciolo, running for District 4 seat, was raised in Glendale and he attended ASU West. He stated we need return on investment for the graduates; prepare them for the future. We need to refocus the school systems. Our enrollment has not kept up with the higher budget. He noted that there are 4800 nurse openings currently. We need to train up the next generation to get jobs now. He said conservatives need to take back the Board to make positive changes.

Question: Will you collaborate with West-Mec? They spoke with Dr. Scott Spurgeon of West-Mec and they have been trying to have a relationship with the Community College to encourage their students to register with them but there been no interest.

What can we do to help you? Being on the Golden Ticket is helpful. Social media – [Change4Maricopa.com](https://www.change4maricopa.com).

Will you have any power in changing teaching woke policies? The Board can hire and fire the Chancellor but they cannot interact with the teachers.

What is your position on Ballot Referendum Proposition 486? This would only raise cap on what they can spend. This is needed.



Stephen Bird and Carolin Wadlin spoke to the membership on behalf of the Classic American Coalition (new Turning Point format) Turning Point Education USA is for students, Turning Point Faith is for churches, Turning Point Endowment is for fundraising and Turning Point Action is to elect conservatives. Classic American Coalition will focus on Faith, Men, Mom's and MAHA (to come). Their goal is to continue to be active and compiling contact lists. There will be a Freedom Friday event on October 9 and a Veterans' Day event on November 9,



President Nelke introduced Jo Lynn Heter who is running for the District 4 Special Healthcare Board of Health which is a taxation district. She will be on the Golden Ticket. She has worked at the County Hospital (now Valleywise Health Medical Center) for over 10 years. In 2025, there was a \$1 Billion bond approved for improvements and expansion. Need to watch over this so it doesn't become runaway taxation. The Board holds monthly meetings. Their makeup is 1 No Party, 3 Democrats and 1 Republican. Her Democrat opponent is a real estate appraiser and has no knowledge of the facility. She stated she knows the system, will request numbers and cost-benefit analysis.

Questions: How will your position have budget oversight? They approve policy and procedures and any expenditure on new buildings. She said they pay 10% interest on bonds but they are paying interest only (not paying on the principal).

In closing, she noted there is a Discount Program at Valleywise Health for those not on Access; a sliding scale. Ask for Discount Intake to set up an appointment. You will be eligible that day. This renews annually and there are no premiums.

The 50/50 Drawing was held. There was one \$80.00 winner.



President Nelke introduced James Scott with PORA. He reported they are 6 months into the restructuring of PORA. The new Board was installed March 16. Their purpose is to:

- Protect Property Values & quality of life
- Represent residents at the table
- Membership – grow, influence and engage residents
- Operation
- Revenue

Advocacy –

- * Sponsoring ADOT meeting at Rec Hall regarding current proposal for the 155th & 303 interchange – RCSCW did not contest the road. All that can be done at this point is noise and light impact to homes. ADOT only used the Independent and direct communication mailing in the original decision making
- * Relationship with other active adult communities
- * APS proposed 14.58% rate increase
- * EPCOR – currently Sun City West own water district – proposed Sonoran Consolidation
- * BNSF new interchange to lessen Grand Avenue pressure. Will not come into Sun City West

Question: The last PORA administration was going to sell the real estate – are we ok? There is no plan to sell the building. The goal is to bring PORA back. There were 301 houses sold per year, use vendor referrals, bring back Bingo. They are working day in & out to bring PORA back.

Can you inform us on dependence on sources in Sun City West? There is a meeting next Tuesday with an EPCOR conservation expert. The PORA calendar is on our website.

Why do we have to use EPCOR vs. Phoenix water - which is cheaper? He will check into it. We have 10 different wells.

Other items PORA working on: Welcome Bags for new homeowners with info on PORA/Posse/Prides. They are also looking at TMC water reclamation. He stated if people understood what PORA represents; the \$30.00 per year fee is a bargain.

President Nelke reported our program next month will be Nathan Duel with Heritage Action and Haley Matson with TPUSA.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Loper
Recording Secretary