

MINUTES
SUN CITY WEST REPUBLICAN CLUB
January 6, 2023

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.

WELCOME TO VISITORS: Bonnie Angsler, Diane Bax, Paul Bay, Dawn Brattain, Pat Briody, Larry Busman, Marie Chamberlain, Barb Derik, George Deuve, Sally Downs, Carise Feierabend, Will Fierabend, Trent Franks, Betsy Johnson, Bud Johnson, Randy Kvis, Raylen Luher, Rickey Murrell, Cindy Newman, Ed Pennen, Dr. Bernard Rosen, Gail RuyleRebe Ryan, Susan Kay Shultz, Dave Teschler, Lisa Teschler, Ben Toma, Deborah Torchin, Bill Weaver and Ellen Weaver There were 129 members present and 30 guests, a total of 159.

It was moved by Frank Carroll to approve the December minutes as distributed prior to the meeting. Motion seconded and approved by the membership.

President Randle brought to the attention of the membership they should not sign any petitions for rank choice or abortion. Randle reported there is now a suggestion box on the ledge as you come into the meeting room. The Board wants to hear positive and negative comments.

President Randle reported that Art Goes will Chair the Bylaws Committee. Other volunteers are needed. The rules for the Nomination Committee will be updated along with other changes to be recommended to the membership. A Hospitality Committee has been formed; Donna Sies and Tim Zimmer will be in charge of the 50/50 raffle. Carol Andrus has also volunteered for this Committee. John Heep has volunteered to oversee the Merchandising Committee. He will be soliciting donations from the membership to be sold as a fundraiser.

Fran Church gave a report on how the finances of the Club work. There are three means of income: Memberships at \$20.00, Guest fees of \$3.00 and the 50/50 Fund. The expenses for the Club are the meeting room & monthly meeting expenses run \$400-\$500, liability insurance. There is a current balance of \$8,800.00. The purpose of these funds is to support Republicans, no primary donations and some support of General Election causes and candidates. President Randle asked for volunteers for an Audit Committee.

Bob Randle explained to the membership the previous Board had voted to support the West Valley Republican-Independent Coalition with \$2400 for 2024 to aid in the new lease as they lost their lease late last year. Cindy Newman of the West Valley Republican office shared the information on the new location and their need for funds and how hard all that staff for this Coalition have worked to get funds to support this lease and the remodeling work. This location is used for many Republican Committees and Republican candidates. Since this donation is over \$500, it must be approved by the membership. Ballots were given to all members with three options: a. No donation, b. \$1200 for 2024 or c. \$2400 for 2024. Ballots were counted while

the speakers presented their visions and viewpoints. The option of \$2400 was approved by 60% of those voting.

Linda Barnes reminded all that the Presidential Preference election is March 19; registration must be completed by February 20. Please check the website [BeBallotReady.Vote](https://www.beballotready.vote) to confirm your registration is correct on their files. She reported there are people here today that would like you to sign their petitions to run: Rachel Walden, Nikki Kelley, Beverly Pingerelli, Abe Hamadeh and Ben Toma. Make sure you sign the petition of only the person you want to support as most offices only allow you to sign for one candidate or it nullifies both signatures.

Debbie Lesko congratulated the new officers. She spoke with Donald Trump recently and he said to keep up the good fight. Her office in Surprise is available to help constituents with problems they may have with IRS or other government agencies. She is heading back to DC on Tuesday to continue work on the outstanding funding appropriations. Her priorities are to secure the border as there were 302,000 encounters in December and this is a national security. Other hot issues to reduce gas spending, impeachment of Mayorkis, impeachment inquiry of President Biden. Republicans need to stand together as they only have a 2 vote majority.

Linda Barnes introduced Abe Hamadeh and Ben Toma who are both running in a field of 10 wanting to win Debbie Lesko's seat when she retires.



Abe Hamadeh won the draw to go first. He had 10 minutes to tell the membership about him and his goals and written questions from the audience. Hamadeh gave an update on his continuing battle to dispute the Attorney General election – there are three pending lawsuits. He is not a quitter. He grew up in the 67th & Happy Valley area, son of immigrants from Syria. He

spoke of his military experience serving this country. Hamadeh spoke of the border security issues with Chinese and other enemy countries entering our country, the Chinese virus lab found in California. He said Republicans must fight to save our country as it is being stolen from us, the weaponization of our legal system, big tech and the need to designate the cartel as a terrorist organization.

Hamadeh question responses:

We need to stop training foreign military pilots for countries that are our enemies.

The Democrats are working on 3rd party candidates and with Libertarians – Republicans need to have the same fight.

If he won the Attorney General fight, he would file lawsuits to get our government back on track.

Weak-kneed Republicans need to stand up both in Arizona and in DC.

Need to defeat the Marxists; every single day they are trying to steal our country.

The elites are trying to protect the few at the expense of the citizens.

Ben Toma had the same 10-minute introduction and questions. Toma is the Speaker of the House. He cannot run again; and Debbie Lesko encouraged him to consider running for her seat. He has been busy fighting Governor Katie Hobbs and the Attorney General for failing to do their jobs. There are issues with voter I.D.'s for illegal immigrants. Toma was born in Romania. He remembers the secret police coming to their home when his parents weren't home and they were turned over to their grandparents while their parents were seeking asylum. They were told it would take years to reunite their family, but it happened very soon. His parents' faith is the basis for his faith and value system. He has a wife, 5 daughters and an "extra" daughter that lives with them. He became the Speaker of the House in 2017. He has conservative Republican values, especially when you come from a country that took your freedoms; you will fight to protect your freedoms. He is proud that the Legislature has been strong in Universal School Choice and protecting our children from socialist policies and to empower parents.

Toma question responses:

He said the Democrats are attacking ESAs. He said the Legislature made sure the Governor cannot line item the ESA funding.

He said the Legislature did a flat tax rate that saved \$2 Billion.

The new Election Procedures Manual is being handled through courts as the Election Office and Governor went around the Legislature.

He had a minor investment in a voting machine company through his brother-in-law. He divested himself of that investment.

He is a family man and he plans to commute to D.C. Monday thru Thursday weekly.

Ben Toma Closing Statement: I am a Christian and I pray to God for the right goals in my life. He wants to protect the privacy of all Americans.

Abe Hamadeh closing comments: D.C. is corrupt. D.C. needs common sense, conviction and courage. Our country is worth fighting for. I want to earn your vote.

Linda Barnes said that Anthony Kern and Trent Franks, both running for Debbie Lesko's seat, will be our speakers in February.

President Randle alerted members to bills currently being promoted in D.C. Senate Bill S.3369 GOSAFE Act – eliminate gas operated semi-automatic gun ownership and House Bill H.R. 5131- Assault Weapons Excise Act has a 1000% tax on any firearms. We need to kill these bills.

The 50/50 winner for today won \$110.00.

Watch for details next month about the 5 5 5 promotion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Loper, Recording Secretary