

MINUTES
SUN CITY WEST REPUBLICAN CLUB
January 3, 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 the God Bless America.

WELCOME VISITORS: Robert Anderson, Kim Atkinson, Patricia Bates, Larry Batson, George Blevins, Donna Davidson, Mia Delgado, Jim Fields, Cheryl Haywood, Maggie Howdy, Wayne Kemble, Gaylan Kindschy, Tim Kochen, Molly Koranda, Leona Medity, Steve Michaels, Lynne Rodriguez, Heather Rooks, Susan Sisitki, Carol Stanned, Karen Terrill, Dave Terrill and Mike Trainer, There were 109 members present; 23 guests and 7 speakers/staff present for a total of 139 in attendance.

President Bridget Nelke asked for approval of the December minutes as published on the Sun City West Republican website. Motion to approve the December 6, 2025 Minutes by Linda Barnes and seconded by Frank Carroll- Motion approved.

President Nelke gave a short informational talk on some of the important happenings in the early history of our country. She plans to do this monthly in honor of our 250th Anniversary.

Linda Barnes introduced Scott Blake who has meat/freezer raffle tickets for sale for \$20.00 by the Arizona Constables Association. These funds will be used towards scholarships for children of Constables.



Vice President Barnes introduced Abe Hamadeh, our Arizona Congressman. He spoke of the military operation to take Nicolas Maduro and his wife on Saturday and bring them to the U.S. to face charges. He reported on the issues with Somalians in Minneapolis defrauding the government through day care programs and Small Business loans. He said there is talk of denaturalizing convicted participants. We need accountability. Congressman Hamadeh congratulated the efforts of local citizens to oppose the BSNF development. There are still ongoing discussions on this but part of the development was denied. He encouraged residents to contact his office if they have money issues with the government. His staff has been able to get \$2 Million of constituent money returned to taxpayers.

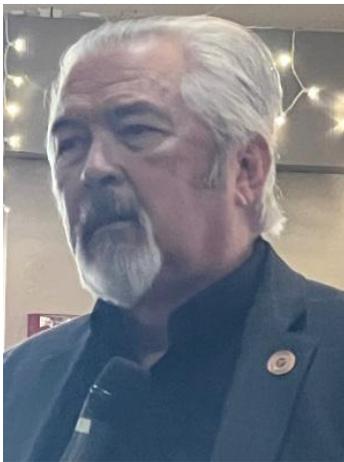
Congressman Hamadeh noted he serves on the Armed Services Committee. He has been working to retain a General Commander for Luke Air Force Base as it is being considered to downgrade the level of the Base. Hamadeh reminded the audience it is imperative that Republicans hold onto both the Senate and the House in the 2026 midterms. He said Arizona elections are also very important. We must not get complacent. Election integrity is very

important. He was recently in Qatar with Bernie Kerick, former New York City Police Commissioner, trying to get back the body of Kayla Mueller for her family. Congressman Hamadeh reported \$38 Trillion has been received from tariffs which is better than expected. Trump and his team have obtained over \$20 Trillion of foreign investment money for new plants here; that is how to grow the economy.

Questions:

There are rumors ICE will be in Arizona soon. Is there going to be issues when they are here? Hamadeh said they are looking at a large detention center in the West Valley. The Federal laws have supremacy.

When does the no tax on social security start? You will get credit on your income taxes in April for 2025.



Linda Barnes introduced Frank Carroll, our Arizona State Senator. Senator Carroll encouraged residents to sign up for Arizona's Request to Speak (RTS) system for legislative offices. To create an account online: apps.azleg.gov/Account/SignOn. Once you sign up, you must go one time in person to the Arizona State Capitol to activate your account. This provides you the opportunity to give your representatives your opinion while a bill is in Committee. Carroll spoke about the Clean Air Act which is a 70-year-old bill. It was amended on 7.4.25 and now has 468 pages. Section 112 is the standard to protect health and the environment. It states the Surgeon General will report to Congress. If Congress does not act, the EPA shall implement programs. Decisions made during various President's terms:

- George W. Bush's term: greenhouse gases were deemed pollutants.
- Obama during two terms: policy was to promote man-made climate change, UN actions, carbon reductions, carbon capture and net zero carbon, promote electric vehicles and to shut down coal plants. John Kerry and Hillary Clinton promoted his views internationally.
- Trump first term: got out of the Paris Accord, hydrocarbon production (coal, oil, natural gas), remove restrictions on the XL Pipeline and to follow the "science". Cost of EPA was consuming 55-68% of money to accomplish directives.
- Joe Biden term: rejoined the Paris Accord, EPA Administrator, Michael Reagan stretched laws and rules and eliminated the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Board and Science Advisory Board. Citizen suits and environmental groups can sue the government. There was disregard for costs of programs mandated with low thresholds. With respect to Maricopa County, the goals set for non-attainment cost \$949 Million and they routinely kept lowering the bar repeatedly. Annual impact was \$1 Billion and affected industry, companies and citizens.
- Donald Trump – current term: reversing all Biden EPA regulations, out of Paris Accord again, energy independence, Lee Zeldin heads EPA and Chris Wright head

Department of Energy (both implementing significant policy changes to be cost effective).

Senator Carroll has a bill pending on greenhouse gases which are attributed 30% Arizona and 70% from China, Mexico and California. His bill orders the Attorney General to sue these greenhouse gases heavy producers.

Questions:

What can be done at the State Level to block BSNF project in Wickenburg? There are still negotiations going on.

Arizona Commission – are they still supporting Green New Deal plan. Republican Majority but Green New Deal still weighted in the plan. Carroll – it is a plan in progress.

Does Arizona have Somali fraud issues or other programs that are in serious need of review – does the Legislature oversee this? Carroll said SNAP benefits, sober living homes, entitlements need to be scrutinized.



Linda Barnes introduced Rachel Alexander who is currently Outreach and Presentation Coordinator for Epoch Times. She was formerly Assistant Attorney working with Attorney General Andrew Thomas and was disbarred for being part of Thomas's plan to crack down on illegals. There were concerted efforts by the Board of Supervisors and judges to thwart this plan and other people were indicted and served prison time. When she went back after her 6-month bar suspension to reapply, there was a fine of over \$100,000 to recoup legal costs for the whole project so she cannot afford to practice law.

Rachel Alexander encouraged people to subscribe to AZInsiders.com which is an Arizona focused Epoch Times publication. She writes many stories for them about Arizona issues. Online her handle is Rach_ic

Questions:

What is being done about election integrity? Not really happening because judges can stop any lawsuit by finding a technical error, deep state prosecutors and the State Bar of Arizona.

What about media biases? She said reporters have a "style book" which they must report by. It used to be grammar and spelling but now it is 500 pages of pure propaganda, inclusive storytelling and unconscious explicit biases

Why do Dems practice everything? It relates to Democrat judges, follow the money and just get along with the Left.

Is the Epoch Times available at the library. She will check.

When it is time to vote for judges, how do you know their real records? She will do a study and publish it in the fall.

What are your thoughts on Charlie Kirk? She feels criticism of him and Turning Point is bogus. It is the most incredible organization and is responsible for Republican wins in Arizona.

The audience was interested in having Ms. Alexander come back to another meeting to share information.

The winners of the 50/50 Raffle were drawn.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Loper