

MINUTES  
SUN CITY WEST REPUBLICAN CLUB  
November 1, 2025

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. Marjorie Favia gave the Invocation. President Randle led the Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America and all sang God Bless America.

WELCOME VISITORS: Sharon Acrittello, John Anderson, Kyle Cooper, Sharon & Steve Cratsenberg, Gail Davison, Diana Day, Anita Dekowski, Anthony Deluca, Susan Demmitt, Gerald Fener, Beth Goodrough, Annette Grafson, Jeff Grubb, Abe Hamedah, Corky Haynes, Marcy Heiman, Judy Kaminen, Colleen & Tom Kasa, Lena Kea, David Kelley, Richard H Kelly, Beth & Tim Kochan, Mary Beth Kuuce, Serena Leopard, Ashley Marsh, Ruth Mayerhofer, Mary & Mike McInnes, Christine McLeod, Bud Meador, Jane Meador, Leona Meditz, Linda Milbradt, Bonnie Miller, James Montgomery, Pam Mower, Steve Mower, Alan Morris, Chris R. Peltekav, Jaci Peterson Beverly Pingerelli. Jan & Stan Ricks, Brent H. Rhule, Marylynne Rhule, Maria Roberts, Lynn Scharpina, Jeff Tailor, Michael Trainer, Kathy & Rick Vrkmnal, Paul Voorhees, Mary & Gene Wojtyna and Kathy Wright. There were 124 members present, 47 guests and 6 speakers present for a total of 177 in attendance.

Bob Randle asked for approval of the June minutes as published on the Sun City West Republican website. Motion approved.

President Randle reminded there is a Breakfast on Tuesday, November 4 from 7-11:00 a.m. the the Foundation Building off R H Johnson. He also noted the St. Mary's Food Bank is in need of more food and/or money due to families not having enough money for food during the government shutdown. Please consider helping them.

President Randle introduced the people running for office for 2025 -2027:

Bridget Nelke, President  
Linda Barnes, Vice President  
Connie Loper, Secretary  
Fran Church, Treasurer  
John Schalk, Membership  
Art Goes, Publicity  
John Heep, Member at Large  
Rod Martinson, Sargeant at Arms

Members in favor of the slate of officers were asked to stand. President Randle announced the election is approved by the membership. Beverly Pingerelli swore the officers in.

President Randle noted there has been an issue with the Sun City West CCR enforcing no political signs in yards. Some people still had Trump campaign signs in the yards as well as Trump flags. Residents were notified they must remove them. In fact, you are allowed to have a statement sign/flag at your residence but they cannot refer to an election year.

Randle requested a volunteer to help John Heep at the table in the entryway as he talks tries to find new PC's as well as selling memorabilia.



Linda Barnes introduced Beverly Pingerelli, our Arizona Legislator for LD #28. She noted that the Legislature is in session for 166 days a year. 1800 bills were dropped last year. The new session will begin January 12. She reported that Governor Hobbs did sign the bill banning cell phones at schools this year. The legislature committees meet during the summer and fall to prioritize bills.

Questions:

What is your position on the BNSF development at Whitman? She said she currently has not made a decision to support or vote against this development. There are many items being discussed with BNSF and those need to be resolved before she makes a decision.



Linda Barnes introduced Abe Hamadeh, our U.S. Congressman. He noted the Charlie Kirk shirts in the audience. He touched on the NYC Mayor election – the real possibility of Zohran Mamdani being elected. Hamadeh said that after Charlie Kirk's death more moderate Republicans in D.C. understand how dangerous the left is and are standing as a unit regarding the government shutdown. He also praised President Trump for fighting for the citizens.

Congressman Hamadeh reported he got a bill passed to outlaw the distribution of the China Daily in Congress (has been done for 10 years). He has introduced a bill that voting should be all in English; citizens must speak and read English. He said election integrity is acknowledged now. He said Republicans have learned to fight back such as redistricting in some states. We must keep control of Congress. In the past Republicans would've given in to the Democrats on their spending demands – they collectively stand together now. He addressed the Nuclear Option to make bill passage a simple majority. He knows the Democrats will do this as soon as they are back in power so Republicans should do it now to get the country working again. He noted that during DOGE many federal employees took advantage of the buyout. He noted the military is back – recruitment is way up.

Linda Barnes introduced Lena Kent, General Manager of Public Affairs for Burlington Northern Santa Fee (BNSF) and Kyle Cooper, Economic Development Group. Ms. Kent stated BNSF has operations in 28 states and 36,000 employees. 1200 trains travel daily. They have 27 Intermodal facilities where they bring freight by rail and then items are warehoused and trucks pick up the freight and move it across the country. They transport grain, FedEx, UPS, Amazon, lumber & steel. Arizona has 1500 employees. They knew Arizona was growing and purchased 800 acres in 2004 at the current proposed development site and another 3500 acres of State Trust Land in 2022.



Kyle Cooper stated this site was selected because it is adjacent to their rail line which was developed in the 1800's and early 1900's. This property is large enough for this large operation and will bring cost savings to the railroad, to the trucking companies will trucks from having to move the freight to other warehouse areas within a 60-mile radius and then they will be warehoused and transferred to fleets of trucks. This is how freight is moved in California and is a large factor in their traffic congestion. There are currently several rail yards in the Phoenix area including a Glenwood site for truck cargo and the El Mirage site for auto transport. The proposed Intermodals project will have 1420 acres for warehouses, 1109 for the direct rail service sites and 22 acres for the wastewater treatment facilities. It will take 10-15 years to build this project. It will minimize traffic. Rail shipping is safer than trucking and the locomotives are very fuel efficient. This will create job opportunities for generations It will employ 20,870 full-time employees. Tax revenue will be \$42 Million and Special Districts including schools will receive \$52.4 Million.

Mr. Cooper said there be a 400' set back to neighbors and 150' berming/landscaping, They had requested 5 access points but now the plan is for 2 access points. They plan to keep traffic away from the school by using one way traffic. They are currently doing a noise study – should be the level of an air conditioner running. Their lighting will comply with the dark skies requirements. They expect 70% of the traffic will be people going to work and 30% truck traffic.

Lena Kent said they are asking that a zoning mistake be corrected. November 5<sup>th</sup> is a Comprehensive Planning meeting for this project.. They want to bring the entire project to the Board of Supervisors. If the warehouse portion is not approved, warehouses will be built all around the region with more local truck traffic..

Kyle Cooper stated they are working agencies on the traffic issues to make sure the flow works. They are working with the agency regulating flood control. They will provide annual free training to First Responders to make sure there is no "Palestine" incidents at their facilities here. He stated 99.99% of hazardous materials arrive safely on trains.

Linda Barnes stated there are many questions and Ms. Kent and Mr. Cooper will respond in writing as our time for the meeting today is almost over.

Linda Barnes reminded those that have not voted for the November 4 election can vote in person or drop off ballots at the Fire Department Offices off Camino De Sol through Tuesday. She

reported the speakers for our December meeting will be Steve Michael with STARRS, Sheriff Jerry Sheridan and Attorney General candidate, Rodney Glassman.

There will be a pancake feed before the December 6 meeting beginning at 8:00 am. Tickets will be \$10.00 and can be purchased with cash or checks when you arrive,

Two \$65.00 50/50 winners were drawn.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Loper  
Recording Secretary