

MINUTES
SUN CITY WEST REPUBLICAN CLUB
February 7, 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 America the Beautiful.

WELCOME VISITORS: Robert Anderson, Kelly Arnold, Patrice Barry, Lou Bonar, Larry Bosma, Russell Costa, Starr Costa, George Donovan, Steven Hanes, Maggie Howay, Ross Haway, Jan Jakubowsicz, Karen Kosmoshm, Judy Keller, Molly Koranda, Lisa LaBeau, Pam LeFleur, Carl Liggitt. Leona Medolz, Mary Ann Morton, John O'Donnell, Hugh Ross, Carol Sagun, Tony Sanchez and Barry Yurtis. There were 99 members present; 21 guests and 7 speakers/staff present for a total of 127 in attendance.

President Bridget Nelke asked for approval of the January minutes as published on the Sun City West Republican website. A motion and second to approve January 3, 2026 Minutes was made. Motion approved.

President Nelke introduced Fran Church, Treasurer. Church reported there were 10 meetings last year, the Special Candidate Forum in September, an Inauguration Party in January and a Pancake Breakfast in December. She reported we have found a good credit card option and 25% of the membership used the credit card payment option. There is a \$1.00 charge assessed to users and the Club is charged \$1.14. Fran Church reported there are 350 members generating \$7,000; 230 guests was \$700 income; 50/50 Raffle sales generated \$1200; merchandise sales was \$800 and we received \$100 for a referral at Western State Bank (it is a great bank and they have the lowest CD rates in the area – just mention the Sun City West Republican Club if you open an account there and the Club receives \$100). As far as expenses:, \$500/month to the church for the meeting and the kitchen services and supplies, the Inauguration party \$300, the Candidate Forum \$1,000, Insurance \$750. We have \$14,000 in checking and CD's. Dennis Henzel completed the audit for 2025.

President Nelke shared interesting facts from 1817-1856:

- 1818 Canada border agreement
- 1819 Florida was purchased
- 1832 Democratic Party formed
- 1833 Wig Party formed
- 1846 War of Mexico – New Mexico annexed.

Linda Barnes noted the Sun City West Elections will be March 30. There will be a candidate forum on March 4. She noted that the Arizona primaries have been moved up to July. She noted that the website is <https://apps.azsos.gov> is the website you can go to if you want to sign petitions for candidates. There is a link on that page that directly takes you to the petitions. This website will let you know if you have already signed a petition for a specific candidate as you can only sign one for each race. She noted Republican candidates need to receive a specific

number of signatures for their candidacy. There are certain offices that are deemed Clean Elections and you must send \$5.00 to make the signature valid.

Linda Barnes noted Greg Roeberg, candidate for Attorney General, could not attend due to family emergency out of town.

Helen Papietro with Arizona Women's Shooting Associates invited women to join this group shooting at Ben Avery two times per month. They offer classes for beginners and intermediate participants. They want to help women become confident and competitive gun users. She will be at a table in the lobby after the meeting.

Linda Barnes said Frank Carroll wanted her to let the members know that Governor Hobbs vetoed the second budget. Until the budget is passed, you should not file your Arizona Tax Return as you will probably need to file an amendment once this is resolved. Ms. Barnes also noted that Gina Swoboda recently filed for the position of Secretary of State.

John Matthews of the Sun City Republican Club reported there will be an event at the West Valley Republican and Independent office on Saturday, February 28.

Jan Schank, Vice President of the Sun City Grand Republican Club will host their meeting on the 3rd Saturday at The Church on the Green. She said Andy Biggs and Warren Peterson will be the speakers.



Linda Barnes introduced Alex Kolodin who is running for Secretary of State. He has learned a lot during his time in the Arizona Legislature. He listens to people who elected him. He learned how to use leverage to get better legislative results. He is working for legally binding laws for voter ID requirements. In the past, progressive NGO's could ask for information fast and conservatives' requests required long waits. Now Republicans have equal access. There have been changes to chain of command in that a hard count will be taken at polls on election day prior to ballot pick up, Results must be posted within 72 hours. Currently Adrian Fontes, as Secretary of State, makes decisions on election laws. Kolodin filed a case in a statewide process to challenge Fontes' election manual as he incorporated that it is a crime to criticize him or express opinions at the polls. A Judge found Fontes flagrantly violating First Amendment rights. Kolodin requested people sign his petition to get on the ballot. He reported Republicans enjoy the greatest voter registration lead because of Turning Point. He said, "Vote because your vote counts."

Questions:

Why are you a better candidate than Gina Swoboda? We will make our election process a national model

What happened to the 2020 signed affidavits? They were submitted to the DOJ for investigation.

What about voting by Precincts? Pima County already does Precinct voting. In 2018, Maricopa County and other counties switched to the Voter Center model. It is going to the ballot so voters can decide.

What about alleged improprieties about the 2020 Governor's race? Hobbs signed a bill on Pima County excluding observers from voting places. Pima County formed a mobile voting unit using no observers. He is confident the DOJ will review this.

Why hasn't Adrian Fontes been impeached? House leadership is reluctant to impeach. When an office is weaponized against the people, impeachment can be done. He encouraged attendees to reach out to their House and Senate members.

Why was there a change of No Name to Independent done? Clean Elections sued Fontes as it will confuse voters and the Democrat Party can run a spoiler candidate that way.

Do you believe only citizens can vote? There is a bill in Congress currently, the Save America Act, that requires photo ID when voting. Under Federal law, states had to allow Federal Only Registrations that did not require ID. Progressives, ACLU, Rural America are in support of no voter ID.

The 50/50 Drawing was held with one winner.



Linda Barnes introduced Katherine Haley, who is running for State Treasurer, She is a native Arizonan and graduated from Duke University. She has worked on Capitol Hill with conservative groups and in philanthropy for student education. Kimberly Yee encouraged her to run as she knows how to implement policy. She believes the State Treasurer is a steward of our state resources. Her own business is Oak Rose Group which advances policies for "Education to Workforce" This is working down to breaking barriers so individuals can flourish.

Questions:

Does Arizona have a balanced budget? The budget is in good shape. The Treasurer oversees the State Land Trust and wise investments.

Are you a registered Republican? She has been a lifelong Republican. She needs petitions and this office is under the Clean Act so needs \$5.00 with the petition.

Is the student population down? The public school registration peaked in 2011. The Treasurer office is not responsible for this. The public votes for school bonds so people should investigate the necessity of additional funds since some districts have surplus buildings.

Why is Kim Yee not running for Treasurer? Because of term limits.

What is the Treasurer's office responsibility for making sure Arizona does not have fraud like Arizona for the ESA accounts. If they find fraud, they are referred to an attorney.

Linda Brown noted that our Club will be sponsoring a Candidate Forum at Palm Ridge on Saturday, June 27. She needs volunteers and for you to come and to invite your friends to attend. She noted the Primary Election are July 21..

Guest speakers for next month will be Les Presmyk, Incumbent for State Mine Inspector and Debbie Lesko , our Maricopa County Supervisor.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Loper
Recording Secretary