

MINUTES
SUN CITY WEST REPUBLICAN CLUB
April 4, 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 the Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America.

WELCOME VISITORS: Linda Benjamin, Sean Bird, Stephan Bird, Diane & Doug Branson, Linda Burrige, Bob Campbell, Connie Duellman, John Hager, Tatiana Henderson, Cheryl Hoakenson, Peggy Jack, J. Jones, Todd Kitzler, Leanna Meditz, David Pawlowski, Gail Ruyle, Ronny Scriviner, Lyle Vogt, Caroline Wadlin, Barry & Nugette Yurtis, There were 103 members present; 26 guests and 29 speakers/staff present for a total of 144 in attendance.



Linda Barnes introduced Andy Biggs, CD #5 U.S Congressman, running for Governor of Arizona. Biggs stated we have a dynamic country based on liberty, prosperity and opportunities. Biggs is originally from Tucson, Arizona is the best state in the Country based on our independent, rugged individualism. He said Governor Hobbs vetoed 450 bills including many election integrity bills. Those bills were based on Florida's gold standard election laws and election results on election night. He said, if he is elected, he will work fast to sign the election integrity bills right away. Other priorities will be the water/land management bills, working on young citizen home ownership and good jobs to sustain families.

Biggs said Washington D.C. is broken. There is \$39 Trillion debt which is not sustainable. The tremendous fraud in government programs has been exposed. We need a lean government that is run morally and ethically. He knows Katie Hobbs is as far left as Abigail Spanberger in Virginia. We must make the election a turnout election as it was in 2024.

Questions:

How do we resolve the Federal Monitor situation? He has introduced Federal legislation to regulate this program. The police oversight in Phoenix has cost taxpayers over \$350,000,000. These programs are continually extended by out-of-bounds judicial rulings.

Is Congress going to pass the Save America Act? He feels the Senate should at least do the speaking filibuster; it would drag on for a couple weeks and then be a simple majority vote.

What do you think will happen between the Board of Supervisors and Justin Heap? Biggs thinks they will come to a resolution before this impacts the upcoming election. We need to work on the massive Republican turnout like the past election. We need an America First Governor.

Why leave your important seat in the House to run for Governor? Mark Lamb is poling strong in a heavy Republican district. He feels Arizona needs an America First Governor.

Are you going to force a debate with Katie Hobbs? I love to debate. You need to debate to show the differences between the candidates: Hobbs is governing like California and he would model after Florida. He wants to offer normalcy, progress and freedom.

What are your thoughts on Qualified Immunity? In Congress, they want to eliminate immunity. He believes in Qualified Immunity for police officers and first responders. If you want freedom, you have to have laws protecting officials enforcing laws.

How is all the building going on in the Phoenix area if they are proving they have 100 years of assured water? The exception to the 100-year requirement is for rental properties including the new small-home rental developments. This is contrary to the dream of home ownership.

Is anything being done to protect the electric grid? The Federal Government gives power companies incentives to upgrade their facilities. There are terrorist cells in our country. We must protect our electricity, water and dams.



Linda Barnes introduced Tom Horne, Superintendent of Public Education. He said back in 2008 he fought against Critical Race Theory in Tucson and he is now fighting DEI in our education system. He said curriculum has teachers teaching social/emotional learning systems. It is important we allow teachers to teach the basic courses from bell to bell to prepare our students for success. He was a previous Attorney General and he knows how to file suits to protect the students from inappropriate sex education or boys in girls' sports. He said they did a project in Wilson School that offers tutoring lower functioning students in a six-week program. Their scores were up 27%. It is proof that poor children can learn with extra help. Another priority of his has been student safety. They have increased police in the schools from 190 to 565.

Questions:

How does your experience as Attorney General help you in this position? He knows how to fight and can use the legal system on behalf of the students and teachers.

You had mentioned your part in getting the “no cell phones in class” policy. He said he collaborated with Beverly Pingerelli to sponsor the bill. Governor Hobbs vetoed it the first time but did sign the second bill.

What is the status of Trump Eliminating the Department of Education? He said he would throw a party if he does as they have 600 people in an ivory tower rolling out rules that are favored by the “ivory tower” but are not helpful to teaching the local students. Districts know their students.

Is Proposition 123 good for education? Horne said yes. He said there is a terrible teacher shortage in the public schools. Students are being actually taught by subs on a permanent basis. He said they need to raise teacher pay to keep teachers and that can be done with Land Trust

funds so it would not raise taxes. He also said they need to have incentives for Administrators to support the teachers; to teach students there are consequences for actions.

Do you support home schooling and the Charter Schools? Yes. Every parent should have a say in their child's education. If their needs are not being met, they can put their child in a school that meets their needs.



Linda Barnes introduced Warren Peterson, who is running for Attorney General. He is the President of the Arizona Senate; and in that position, he can file lawsuits that the Attorney General decides not to defend. He has been managing over 110 amicus cases including defending the "Save Women's Sports Act". defending Arizona election laws requiring proof of citizenship when registering to vote (affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court 8.22.24 that new voters must have proof of citizenship to register to vote). Other suits he has been involved in:

- To ban sex changes for minors
- To eliminate pensions for Arizona politicians
- Tough on terrorism.

Peterson said he has won 7 out of 7 elections and is a lifelong Republican. He said he has a voting record; politicians don't.

Questions:

Will you debate Rodney Glassman? He said he has been at three events with Glassman. He will debate him as he is in it to win it.

You have many endorsements but quite a few are out-of-state endorsements? He said he has many important Arizona endorsements but Attorney General endorsements are those in office in other states.

President Bridget Nelke asked for approval of the March minutes as published on the Sun City West Republican website. A motion and second to approve March 7, 2026 Minutes was made. Motion approved.



Linda Barnes introduced Dr. Ralph Heap, an Arizona legislator, who is running for the Arizona Corporation. David Marshall another Corporation candidate was unable to attend due to a time conflict. Heap noted that AI will change the world in the next five years and electric power demands could double or triple. He said in 2020 the Arizona Corporation announced they were going green – concentrating on wind and solar. He noted China is building two coal plants per week and 30 new nuclear plants while we are closing the coal plants.

Heap said his Republican opponents on the Commission campaigned they were against green energy but in 2024 APS approved a 15-year plan to be net zero by 2050 and began closing the coal plants. The Corporation Commission declined to order an independent analysis of costs so the Free Enterprise Club funded the study – it will cost \$427 Billion to go green. Heap noted 90% of new energy projects in Arizona are wind turbines. Green energy is expensive. Europe's energy is triple our energy costs. California has 54% of their energy from green energy and there are rolling blackouts due to energy shortages: is that what we want? Natural gas is cheaper than the green technology and a resource that should be expanded along with nuclear power to keep up the expansion of power sources.

President Bridget Nelke noted that all Club members were given a printed ballot for the proposed Bylaw changes when they signed in today along with a form of proposed donation recipients from our Club. Those proposed Bylaw changes were posted on the Club Website after the last meeting for membership review and, also, included in one of the email notices after the meeting. Members were asked to mark “yes” on the ballot if the member voted to approve the changes. The ballots were collected prior to the end of the meeting. Those ballots left on tables with no writing were tallied as “present” responses.

It was reported that President Trump will be at a Turning Point event at the Dream Church on April 17. Information available on <http://TPUA.com/DJD>. President Trump, Erika Kirk and Andy Biggs will be featured.

Linda Barnes noted that the deadline for new PC applications in Monday, April 6. A write-in form can be used. Please consider being a new PC.

Reminders for upcoming events:

- Sun City Grand Republican Club will meet on April 18 at 9:00 at The Church on the Green. Speakers will be David Schwiekert, Alex Koladin and Kimberly Yee.
- June 27 Candidate Forum with all Republican primary candidates sponsored by the Sun City West Republican Club at Palm Ridge Recreation Center. The ballots will be sent out on June 24.

Linda Barnes reported guest speakers at the May meeting will be David Livingston, Beverly Pingerelli, Heather Rooks, Kimberly Yee and Nathan Deull, Arizona State Director of Heritage Action.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Nelke at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Loper
Recording Secretary