

MINUTES  
SUN CITY WEST REPUBLICAN CLUB  
April 5, 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. Donna Sies led the Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America and led the singing of God Bless America.

**WELCOME VISITORS:** Ronald Ames, Cindy Borg, Jim Bull, Loretta Darling, Georgio Drhauvia, Virginia Geile, Marion Haas, Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Imbesi, Kathleen James, Ralph Johnson, Alice Leppke, Debbie Lesko, Paul Lisak, David Livingston, Cheryl Lurie, Georgiana Miller, Deborah Pierce, Thomas Pierce, Deborah Randle, Michael Raylor, Glen Sayler, Glen Schmitt, Jim & Sue Swiatowy, Bill & Ellen Weaver. There were 116 members, 24 guests and four speakers present: a total number of 144,

President Bob Randle called the meeting to order. The minutes posted on the Republican Club website were approved. He asked the members if they liked how things were going in Washington DC. He said on the 29<sup>th</sup> Republicans surrounded Tesla dealerships to protect them from protestors; protestors left at noon as their pay ran out.

President Randle honored Bill and Jackie Davis who have been at the Visitor sign in desk for the past three years as they have retired. Bud and Betty Johnson will be at the desk beginning today. Randle encouraged members to call their DC representatives when they want their wishes known: Senate 202-224-3121, House of Representatives 202-225-3121.



Linda Barnes introduced Ralph Johnson, Governing Board President of PORA. He was scheduled to be a speaker today but will come back as there is a special important meeting on Monday that he would like to share when the details are available.

Linda Barnes read Press releases from Frank Carroll, Arizona State Senator for District 28 regarding SB 1543, a bill regarding Smart Zoning. He said this is about our economic future to help get large Fortune 500 to locate in Arizona. The purpose of this bill is to provide forward thinking steps to attract new businesses and remove unnecessary red tape. Barnes also read “We the People Deserve Transparency, Not Ballot Manipulation“. This addressed developments like AXONS’ global headquarters project using commercially zoned property to add apartments and hotels near the headquarters building to service those working there. It explained the difference between legislative things put on the ballot and that administrative issues do not qualify for ballot referendum. There is concern about out-of-state groups getting issues on the Arizona ballots.



David Livingston, Arizona House of Representative for District 28 also spoke on SB 1543. He said the original information on SB 1543 was stricken and replaced with new bill information. This relates to already zoned commercial land so that large corporations could also put hotels and housing on their land for workers and visitors and to make a campus conducive to use exceptions without lengthy permitting processes.

Question: Are you taking our rights away from protecting our land/housing rights. Livingston said this is only for land that is already zoned that way. He encouraged voters to check on bills on [azleg.gov](http://azleg.gov). You can track all information on bills that way.

Question: We deserve election transparency. What are you doing to ensure our elections. Livingston said the Arizona Constitution reserves the initiative and referendum process for legislative action. Administrative decisions require expertise and context. Asking voters to decide on internal operations is not in line with our laws.

Question: How do we get new housing expedited? Livingston said it takes 4-5 years for companies from acquisition to selling the first home to get new projects going. We need to streamline planning and state regulations to get things built.



Linda Barnes introduced Beverly Pingerelli, member of the Arizona House of Representatives, District 28. Ms. Pingerelli is Chair of the Science & Technology Division and has worked Yuma Space Port project. Next year they will be working on AI and Cyber Security. She is proud she co-sponsored HB2484 to eliminate cell phones in schools. She believes it should pass and go to the Governor for signature. This will allow students to concentrate on studying and using social skills with others.

Question: What is your position on SB1543?? Ms. Pingerelli said she was originally a No but needs to study it further.

Frank Livingston noted that two special guests will be speaking to the joint session of the House and Senate next week. Tom Homan and Robert Kennedy, Jr. will speak on two different issues. The gallery will be closed during this meeting.

David Livingston spoke about the bill that will come up for hearing next week to fund the Disabilities programs as the Governor moved funding from one part of the Disabilities Department to another to cover budget shortfalls and now both programs are out of money for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter. The Legislature will fund this shortfall with oversight stipulations.

Question: How are citizens protected in residential areas from large corporations building huge buildings adjacent to current residential areas. He said negotiations are going on with a large employer on ground north of the 303 & El Mirage area. This area is zoned commercial

Question: There was an article about raises for the Senate and House members. How is fiscally responsible when money is tight? Livingston said it is necessary to get highly qualified people to

make decisions for our state. The current annual legislator pay is \$24,000 annually since 1998. They are also addressing the per diem rates for Phoenix legislators and those from surrounding areas. He said we need to address the wages of the Governor and other elected officials. The Governor makes \$90,000 which is not competitive with the top officers of companies who make fiscally responsible decisions for companies.

Linda Barnes asked David Livingston if he can return for our May meeting as we need to hear from him. Livingston will check his calendar.

Linda Barnes introduced Debbie Lesko, the new Maricopa County Supervisor for District 6. Ms. Lesko thanked Bob Randle and Linda Barnes for the excellent work they have done for the Sun City West Republican Club. She also thanked David Livingston and Beverly Pingerelli for their hard work. She introduced Jim Bowl, her Community Liaison.



Supervisor Lesko noted she represents 950,000 constituents and has 3 employees. In Congress, she represented 800,000 people and had 8 employees. The County budget was cut 11% last year. The new budget will be determined in June. There are many things under her responsibilities: Sheriff, jails, court system, County Attorney, healthcare (CDC-like), reduce heat deaths, address homelessness, library and County elected Officials offices. She spoke of the Melendez suit that was filed by the Obama Administration and we are still under their supervision. It has cost over \$30,000,000 to date. She has contacted the Attorney General, Pam Bondi, to look into ending this issue. She also said we are being watched for air quality issues but most of this is coming from California, the ocean and even China. We should not be penalized for this. She is working with Lee Zenden on this. She said she has worked with the libraries to get rid of explicit books in the library. A member of the audience expressed concern about Drag Queen events at the local libraries. Lesko was not aware and will check into that. She said there is a BSNF Railway proposed large project proposed near Whitman that would be 25,000 vehicles per day to that area so zoning is very important to not adversely impact that community.

Question: What is your stance on the new agreement that was reached by the County and former Registrar Stephen Richer that the current Registrar is very upset about. She said they have been negotiating with Justin Heep and his attorney but they think they have negotiated things and then something different is said publicly. They are currently negotiating how many of the IT personnel will be returned to their department.

Question: How much money was removed from the Registrar's budget? \$5,000,000 for the entire IT Department. A prorated amount will be returned when this is resolved.

Question: How do we get results within 24 hours of the election instead of weeks? She said the problem is that a large percentage of the mail in ballots are returned on voting day and it is a lengthy process to verify signatures. If all Mail in ballots had to be returned by the Friday before elections, 95% if them could be counted within 24 hours.

Question: Will DOGE waste discovery affect Arizona. It is a fact that all of us have to tighten our belts.

Question: A man who worked the elections as a trouble shooter said IT people were working 16-18 hours which is way too many hours. Debbie Lesko said she would like to hear from election workers directly about what went right and what went wrong.

Linda Barnes reported that Carolyn Patterson, Commander of the Sun City West Posse will be a speaker at the May meeting.

The 50/50 drawings were held: two winners won \$60.

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

Respectfully submitted

Connie Loper, Recording Secretary