

MINUTES
SUN CITY WEST REPUBLICAN CLUB
June 6, 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, led the singing of America the Beautiful and the Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America.

WELCOME VISITORS: Lynn Anderson, Don Brannon, Bruce Bucher, Linda Buckland, Bill Campbell, Betty Jo Chadwick, Dick Chadwik, Mona Devore, George Deybuew, Steve Dodge, Richard Frisch, Ginger Graham, Richard Hannold, Jacqui Hopkins. Maggie Howay, Ross Howay, Kelsie Hughes McSparran, Carol Junge, Marla Kempf, Leona Meditz, Dan Newberny, Jason Newbeny, Kevin O’Callaghan. J. O’Callaghan, Arlene Ohnstad, Viorel Rusnhc, Linda Swanson, Ellyn Wujcik and Barry & Yvette Yurtis. There were 96 members present, 37 guests and 6 speakers/staff present for a total of 139 in attendance.

President Nelke called for a motion and second to approve the May meeting Minutes that were available on the website. Motion approved.

Linda Barnes introduced Carole Ayotte, LD27 Republican Chairperson who spoke about the Community College election and noted there are only two Republicans on the 7-member Board. They have \$17 Billion budget and have 10 campuses and satellites. She introduced John Crow who is running for the Board. He was a student at Phoenix College where they taught him the skills to pursue goals. He began his career working with a car rental company, became an entrepreneur and is currently CEO of Century 21 Northwest. He noted enrollment at these schools plummeted during COVID and has not returned to pre-COVID student population. He said the budget has greatly increased since that time. He said the curriculum needs to be focused on getting the students ready to respond with pride and enthusiasm in the work they are doing. That is a real problem for employers currently. He introduced Ryan Carracciolo who is also running for the Junior College Board. Ryan Carracciolo said he was raised in Glendale and went to ASU West. He said students need to understand what comes after graduation. He, as an employer, has been challenged over the last 8 years with younger employees as they are missing critical thinking and how to work hard. The schools must focus on getting their students ready for the workforce when they graduate.



Question – What impact do you want on the Board? John Crow responded: Do no harm – get rid of current curriculum and work to really prepare all the students for the workforce, make sure the schools are teaching the skills to work at TSMC and other large manufacturing companies and to get a truly balanced budget



Linda Barnes introduced Scott Neely, a candidate for Governor. He ran for Governor in 2022. He is an idea guy – a businessman. He owns several companies including Action Concrete which is a subcontractor for building the border wall. He said our economy is struggling due to Biden and Katie Hobbs. Sixty percent of the Arizona budget is for education. He said we need to offer in-school training to encourage them to explore opportunities in the trades. It is hard for them to compete with illegal aliens who work for one-third the price. We must encourage boots on the ground to be successful. The trades offer great wage opportunities. MEC controls the funds for trade schooling for high school students. It is Administration heavy. They need more teachers training the students. Neely said he plans to

lobby the legislature to prevent Blackrock and Vanguard from buying homes which has driven housing prices high too fast. Other concerns he discussed was the E-Verify program that employers use as it just confirms that person has a social security number but not if there is another person using that same social security number. He will be focused on the border; as if the Democrats win, they will open the border again,

Questions:

How to change the Arizona poor water quality? There is arsenic in our water. We need more plants to process the water.

How can you keep your business going if you are elected Governor? His brother has moved here to manage his businesses.

Will you have funding for your campaign? Neely is a free election candidate and has qualified for \$1.2 Million in funding.

Please visit his website: Neely4governor.com. He wants to make Arizona better for you and your children.

The drawings for the 50/50 were held; there were two \$57.00 winners.

Linda Barnes introduced Rachel Alexander who works for the Epoch Times. She is going to speak about how the CCP influences America and why Arizona should pay attention. She was a former Assistant Attorney General.



Ms. Alexander said you can follow her on X. She has articles about Arizona in the Epoch Times. She said the Chinese believe in transnational repression. They plan to have global dominance by 2049. Their means of action are espionage, economic dominance, creating confusion on college campuses, theft of American knowledge and buying land near military bases. All these things are done clandestinely. Transnational repression is a chain: CCP will save them, monitor them, threaten them. Their playbook: spread false stories, uses social media, influencers and fake accounts, pressures theaters, officials and communities, uses lawsuits or government systems as weapons and divides people from the inside. Information laundering means a false story starts from a bad source but after it is repeated by different people, websites and media, it begins to look believable. Social media can make a small attack look large, popular and believable. Before the internet, propaganda was slower. Today one video, one fake account or one influencer can reach thousands/millions of viewers. Falun Gong and Shen Yun are examples of how the CCP targets groups they cannot control. CCP may use pressure not only in China but also here. Theaters may receive pressure not to host Shen Yun. People may face online smears, threats, impersonation or harassment.

Rachel Alexander said she gets Chinese emails every day since she joined the Epoch Times. She spoke about the live organ harvesting they do in China. There are many young adults in prison and their blood is checked every two weeks to see if they are a suitable donor for Chinese officials. The average age of the prison population is 28. There are tens of thousands of prisoners killed every year due to live organ harvesting. Ms. Alexander reported they are the USA's top counterintelligence. They do war without weapons by forming partnerships and personal ties and by grooming the younger politicians.

Questions:

Is the CCP involved in Luke AFB. Rachel Alexander could not comment on that.

Is the domestic kickback on AI Centers? It is not a black and white issue. China is falsely propagandizing to weaken America's success. We need to develop the technology before China. We want to be in control.

China is our enemy – why are we training their pilots – We haven't.

Is Mark Kelly being investigated about the balloons? Alexander doesn't know the results.

Linda Barnes encouraged all to come to the Candidate Forum on June 27. Please bring your neighbors and friends. It is at Palm Ridge. Doors will open at 1:00 pm and the program runs from 1:30-5:30. She is working to group all the candidates running for position to appear on stage at the same time. This is a free event sponsored by the Sun City West Republican Club.

The next meeting will be on Saturday, July 11 due to the first Saturday being July 4. The program will be on the various propositions and recommended voting. Reminder to all not to sign any Proposition forms. The various legislative proposals will be discussed also.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Loper
Recording Secretary