



AZ Legislative District 23

# Republican Party of Scottsdale, Fountain Hills and Rio Verde

Web: [www.ld23gop.org](http://www.ld23gop.org)

Jim O'Connor, Chairman 602-538-9387

## The Lincoln Link

March 2015

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### NEXT MEETING OF LD23

VIA LINDA SENIOR CENTER  
10440 E. VIA LINDA, SCOTTSDALE  
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2015  
6:30 Sign-in, 7:00 Meeting

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#### CHAIRMAN'S CORNER – Jim O'Connor

March begins with a full calendar and a busy pace for the Republican Party of Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, and Rio Verde, our new name for LD 23. We trust that you agree that it will mean more to all registered Republican voters in the district who we are here to serve.

Through one of our CD 6 Members at Large, Patty Stetson, we have brought the Center for Self Governance trainings to Scottsdale. Level 1 trainings are available at North Scottsdale Christian Church on Pima Road just north of Dynamite on Monday evenings 5:30PM to 9:30PM the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of March; or alternatively on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00AM to 5:30PM.

The cost for Level 1 training is \$50.00 per student, and for those who have taken the course previously, they may audit the class for a fee of \$10.00. Levels 2 and 3 trainings are available March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at private homes in Scottsdale. Please contact Patty Stetson at 602-400-0847 or go online to [www.centerforselfgovernance.com](http://www.centerforselfgovernance.com).

Additionally, through the efforts of Nancy Ordowski, our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman, together with your Area Directors, we have begun a series of robust PC trainings across the district. Attendance has been good, but we encourage all PC's to participate in trainings to enhance their skills in preparation for next year's election.

We are also pleased to invite all of our PC's and their families to join us for a series of BBQ's/Picnic's which have been scheduled throughout the district next month. We want everyone to come and participate in the fun and good eats. Come and enjoy these intentionally casual "get to know one another" opportunities. These will also provide you with an opportunity to meet your elected representatives serving us at the State & Local government. No speeches, just casual conversations with neighbors becoming friends.

Thank each of you for all that you do.

### **HAPPENING IN SCOTTSDALE:**

Hello fellow LD members,

I have been asked by the Board of LD23 to write a monthly report concerning the Scottsdale City Council.

This month I will begin by addressing an item that voters have turned down twice and yet Council has decided that, just like the SUSD override, three's a charm.

That's right. The Scottsdale City Council had a work study meeting March 2<sup>nd</sup> to initiate another bond election for you. A "work study" is a way to get a majority vote (consensus) to tell staff what to do without going through those pesky City Council meetings. It's the new trend among municipalities to circumvent public opinion by only allowing 15 minutes for the public to speak. That is, when they know there is a work study to speak at. Then when all is approved, it can go easily to the Council Consent Agenda before anyone knows what happened. But, I digress.....

This new bond has virtually the same items in it as the last one. One Councilman said maybe if they explain things better to the voters during the election, the public will understand it better and it will pass. I assume that's because, once elected, Council members suddenly know more than the public and we should take direction from them.

I want you to know I spoke out against another bond election, and the reason is simple. I asked staff to give me a list of only the most critical items that the city cannot pay for without a bond, those items that will put Scottsdale in dire straits if not funded immediately. The staff never responded. In fact, at the work study I asked the same question. One staff member said all the items were critical. I had to laugh to myself as I thought about the \$5 million dollar dog park for Grayhawk as one of the "critical" items.

Of course, the City Manager, the City Treasurer and the City Attorney were not present, so I couldn't ask their opinions. Two other bond tax items concerned flood control for a developer's property and state trust land so developers could build on it safely. Reasonable maybe, but why should you, the property owners, shoulder the expense for a developer on your property tax for the next thirty years?

I suggested that if we really needed to raise \$175 million for critical projects that the city desperately needs, we could raise the same amount by levying a 1.5 % sales tax for two years and then sunset. That way everyone pays, tourists, snowbirds, visitors, etc, not just property owners.

Last week we had a study session on removing the food tax. This week it's adding a property tax. I would rather share in the expense of a food tax that everyone pays than a long term property tax that only property owners pay, and at an assessed value, I might add.

Of course, the consensus went 6/1 to pursue another bond election, probably in November of 2016. Stay tuned as your City Council digs up more failed issues from the grave and tries to ram them through an unsuspecting public at your expense.

Guy Phillips  
Scottsdale City Council

### **FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN – Nancy Ordowski**

During the past 2 weeks the Breyer, Ryan, Schott and Stetson PC's have attended our basic training class. By the end of March all PC's will have had an opportunity to attend one of these sessions. I recognize dates offered are not always good for everyone. In the future this session will be repeated and an e-blast will notify all of you the date, time and location.

The information about the division of precincts into areas is posted as a pdf on our website, [www.ld23gop.org](http://www.ld23gop.org).

During the month of April we will have the opportunity to meet each other at social barbecues to be held at several locations within our District. Details will be published soon and we look forward to the opportunity to visit with everyone.

To all of the PC's who have attended our training session, I thank you for your interest to learn more about your job as a Precinct Committeeman.

You can always reach me at [ncordowski@gmail.com](mailto:ncordowski@gmail.com) or 480-203-5278.

### **SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN - Rich Rutkowski**

Report of Rich Rutkowski, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
for LD 23 Republican Committee Newsletter  
March, 2015

Since the Mustang Library auditorium is unavailable this month, our Thursday, March 12 general meeting will be at the Scottsdale Via Linda Senior Center at 10440 E Via Linda. Please visit <http://www.ld23gop.org> for a map link. Sign-in begins at 6:30 PM and the call to order will be at 7:00 PM.

Our guest speaker this month will be former AZ State Representative Barbara Blewster. Last month, we heard from Dustin Romney, who advocated in favor of a Convention of States. Mrs. Blewster will provide us with an opposing viewpoint on this issue. To borrow a slogan from "fair and balanced" Fox News Channel, "We report, you decide." Barbara will share her thoughts from extensive experience on the topic and, as usual, there will be an opportunity for your questions and an exchange of ideas.

Our general meeting in April will be on Thursday, April 9, so mark your calendars. You can stay apprised of dates and other updated information via the web site, [www.Id23gop.org](http://www.Id23gop.org)

### **CHAIRMAN EMERITUS - Joe Meli**

The Beginnings of American Exceptionalism

Many years ago as a college freshman I began learning about the Framers in my Constitutional Law 101 class. What struck me then continues to inspire me now: The Framers were not just "arm chair quarterbacks" to the American Revolution and the subsequent founding of our nation, in many cases, they also served in the very government for which they were architects.

A case in point, the authors of The Federalist, later known as The Federalist Papers. They were Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay.

There are a total of eighty-five articles written between 1787 and 1788. If you have not read them, I highly recommend you do so. These three men went on to become, respectively, Secretary of the Treasury, President of the United States and the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court! They had "skin in the game" in the truest sense of the word.

You have to appreciate why this is such a momentous concept. Historically, England and European political life for educated commoners did not lead to holding seats of power. England's Oliver Cromwell, (1599-1658), is the rare exception.

What the Framers did for us was not simply revolutionize government. Indeed, they changed how it functions for the people, rather than just the "ruling class". They created a system that gives all citizens the ability to rise from humble beginnings and be part of the process!

So in spite of the hurdles placed on participation in politics in the modern era: special interest groups, partisan squabbling, fundraising, etc.; it is still possible for each and every citizen to step forward and be part of the legacy created by our Founders.

Is the system perfect? What system ever is? Can we improve upon the original ideas of the Framers? In my opinion, NO! In fact, it is when we try to tamper with the original structure and framework of our Constitution that our nation suffers.

The amendments to our Constitution are purposely made difficult to enact so as to prevent frivolous and short-sighted changes being made.

What is most surprising is that even at this late date, most folks don't study the Constitution, if only to understand their heritage and place in the political process of these United States of America.

Some very clever folks have tried their best to persuade us that any reference or reliance on the Constitution in modern political discourse just reflects mean-spirited, racist and bigoted thinking. I imagine their argument is that the restrictive nature of government proposed by the Constitution is intended to favor wealthy folks who've decided to not spread their wealth in an attempt at "social justice".

Sadly, if you don't know the Constitution, and why it creates American Exceptionalism, then this point of view erroneously gets merit. As Republicans, we know that government intrusion in our lives stifles growth, both individually and for our society as a whole. Dependency on government for one's very

subsistence leads to generational dependency, the evidence is obvious and daily examples are shown in the news.

So what can we do to reverse this course? First, read and re-read the Constitution, it is our nation's blue-print. Second, read and re-read the Republican Party platform, which is closely tailored after the Constitution. Finally, think about how our everyday lives would change if our Constitution didn't exist. Power would be vested in the few, not the many; just look at history to see how that's worked out and is currently on display, i.e., Cuba, North Korea, Venezuela, to name a few.

We are an exceptional nation, no matter who our leaders are, their hold on power is temporary. We, as grassroots Conservatives, have to believe in and make relevant our Constitution to each new generation. That is our noble cause. Don't be distracted by contemporary opinions to the contrary: The Republican Party platform rests solidly on the foundation of the Constitution. We aren't obsolete because we rely on it, rather, without it, we'd be hopeless, directionless folks dependent on a powerful few to dictate what our lives are to be. The Framers were able to foresee this danger and gave us the Constitution to protect us from it.

So let's reclaim our heritage. Let's work to give the next generation their rightful legacy. Let us never give in to what's popular and short-sighted. We are an exceptional nation because WE, by virtue of our Framers, were given the opportunity to be exceptional. Let's not waste it.

Regards,

Joe Meli  
Chairman Emeritus

### **TREASURER - Valerie Giramberk**

DISTRICT 23 REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE  
Statement of Income and Expense  
Month Ended February 28, 2015

<b>BEGINNING BANK BALANCE</b>	<b>\$5,856.39</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>	
Contributions	\$1,210.00
Name Badges	\$ 50.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b><u>\$1,260.00</u></b>

### **EXPENSES**

Office Supplies	\$ 44.58
Website/E-mail	\$ 112.20
Meeting Room/Equipment	\$ 101.50
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>\$ 258.28</u></b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b><u>\$1,001.72</u></b>
<b>ENDING BANK BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 6874.31</b>
<b>PETTY CASH</b>	<b><u>\$ 60.04</u></b>
<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>	<b><u>\$6,918.15</u></b>

We have had 56 PCs pay their dues so far this year and we thank you. If you have not paid your 2015 dues yet, please bring a check to the next meeting or send it in to the POB along with the form that is on the web site.

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## **DISTRICT 23 MINUTES - Judy Lawrence, Secretary**

Arizona Legislative District 23  
District Meeting  
Mustang Library  
February 12, 2015  
7:00 PM

With concurrence of the members present, the District Meeting of the members of Arizona Republican Legislative District 23, held at Mustang Library, Scottsdale was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Jim O'Connor.

Officers Present:

Jim O'Connor, Chairman  
Nancy Ordowski, First Vice Chair  
Rich Rutkowski, Second Vice Chair  
Valerie Giramberk, Treasurer  
Judith Lawrence, Secretary

The Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance were given by Dr. CT Wright

Second Vice Chairman Business - Rick Rutkowski

- 1) The next meeting will be March 12, 2015.
- 2) Dustin Romney, the speaker for the evening, was introduced. He spoke on The Convention of States, The Rule of Law and the the Enforcement of the Constitution. There was a brief question and answer period.

The minutes of the previous meeting were presented in the February 2015 newsletter. A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented by Lori Urban and seconded by Ron Schott. The motion passed.

Chairman Business - Jim O'Connor Spoke on the upcoming PC training to be held on February 31, 2015 for the Area Directors and Precinct Captains. Future training dates will be published in the Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report is attached.

First Vice Chair - Nancy Ordowski

- 1) The Center for Self Governance will be holding classes again
- 2) We were reminded of the need for updated emails on the sign-in sheets.
- 3) She then asked for volunteers to man the sign-in tables at the general meetings as the Secretary needs to be in the meeting room to prepare for the meeting.

Old Business – None

New Business –

- 1) First MCRC Meeting will be on February 5, 2015.
- 2) Boe James announced that the Fountain Hills Great Art Fair was going to be on February 20, 21, and 22. He announced that the Republican Party will have a Voter Registration Booth there and invited all to come and participate.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

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## DISTRICT 23 REPUBLICAN CLUB NEWS:

### **Paradise Republic Women's Club**

Saturday, March 14, 2015

Gainey Ranch Golf Club

7600 E Gainey Ranch Rd, Scottsdale

Special Guest: Clint Bolick, VP of Litigation, Goldwater Institute & co-author of *Immigration Wars* with Jeb Bush

We are so fortunate to have Clint speak to us. When leaders in other states want to propose legislation, they come to the Goldwater Institute for the answers. In addition Clint is the husband of PRWC former first Vice-President Shawna Bolick. Come join us to welcome and learn from this very special speaker.

### **Lincoln Republican Women's Club**

*"A penny for your Republican thoughts"*

The New McCormick/"Millennium" Resort Scottsdale-McCormick Ranch

7401 North Scottsdale Road Scottsdale, AZ USA 85253-3548 (480) 948-5050 *(Between E. Cheney and E. McCormick Rds on the East side of Scottsdale Road)*

Dinner Meeting

Spouses invited!

Monday, April 6th, 2015

5:30 PM	Meet and Greet
6:00 PM	Business Meeting
6:20 PM	Dinner
7:00 PM	Program

*Helen Purcell, Maricopa County Recorder*

*"Maricopa County Voting Issues"*

*NEW\*\*\*\*\*\$35 per person\*\*\*\*\*NEW*

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED  
DEADLINE THURSDAY APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup> 2015

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*Please send check made out to "LRWC" or bring Cash*

A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID!

Patricia Kaufman,

7436 E. Tuckey Lane,

Scottsdale, AZ 85250

480-368-2777

or email her at [patiamiam@gmail.com](mailto:patiamiam@gmail.com)

**Palo Verde Republican Women**

March 18 - 11:00 Social; 11:30 lunch -Beef Bourguignon in Sour Dough Bread Bowl, Seasonal Vegetables Coffee/ Tea/ Rolls/ Butter/Chocolate Ice Cream and Cookie.\$25.00 at the door.

Reservations required to: [pvrwlunch@gmail.com](mailto:pvrwlunch@gmail.com)

Speaker:Frank Riggs from the Joe Foss Institute

**Fountain Hills Republican Club**

- Saturday, March 21st, AZ Attorney General Mark Brnovich will be the keynote speaker for the club's annual fundraising Breakfast. For members who pay in advance, cost is \$12 while cost is \$15 for non-members and members who pay at the door. Reservations can be made by mailing payment to Treasurer, Fountain Hills Republican Club, P.O. Box 17814, Fountain Hills, AZ 85269. For payment/reservation information, contact Nicole Oswald, [RepLady2015@outlook.com](mailto:RepLady2015@outlook.com) or 480 837-7878 or Fountain Hills Republican Club ([fhrepublican@gmail.com](mailto:fhrepublican@gmail.com)). The breakfast will be at the Fountain Hills Community Center, 13001 N La Montana Drive, F.H

*Paid for by Legislative District 23 Committee. Voluntary Dues Are Not Tax Deductible. No Corporate or Foreign national contributions*