

LD4 Democrats of Maricopa County

General Meeting Minutes

Total Wine, 1416 N Litchfield Rd, Goodyear



Tuesday, April 11, 2017
6:30 PM

6:32 PM

Call to Order & Welcome

Approval of Previous Minutes

Motion Ingrid Stromberg; Rick Salsman 2nd. Passed unanimously.

Introductions- 26 Present

Several new members – welcome to all.

Guest Speakers

- Bill Mundell, speaking on APS rate hikes & demand charges
- Welcomed our new members
- Part I
 - Koch brothers – establish Freedom Schools - Legislation gave money for schools – earmarked as such.
 - Governor just signed voucher schools. Calls public schools – gov't schools; derogatory inference.
 - Governor advocates their philosophy – 123 million out of trust fund; voucher program – an experiment for Koch Brothers.
 - We must offset amount of money being spent for this in AZ
- Part II – Results of Elections
 - Democrat 2016 Presidential Defeat:
 - Comey letter; Wiki Leaks; and big money coming in
 - Dark money 15 Million; undisclosed; 2014
 - 2016 – Was up then APS invested million directly and 5 million indirectly;
 - Corporation commission has nothing to do with the taxes you pay. But was stressed in campaign to suppress votes.
 - Proud 2.4 million votes; lost by .7% (36,000 votes)
 - 2018 an important election
- Part III – Going Forward
 - A marathon Not a sprint.
 - Bring more neighbors; lot to be proud of, e.g. Fontes; Sheriff Penzone
 - Attend progressive meetings; register voters
 - Without disclosure by corporation our democracy is doomed.
 - Statewide; congressional; legislative
 - Leg. 18 – Mesa – last 60 yrs. Elected Democrat State Senator and Representative. Made significant progress during tenure.
 - Now lives in LD 28 – must get people excited; come to meetings.
 - We're in danger of gutting civil rights laws; voter suppression; we must keep registering more.
- Q & A
 - Might run for next elections; Tom may run for legislative seat in Tucson. People must stay motivated & energized
 - Complimented for coming so close to being elected. Wanted to win a statewide for the Democrats to build momentum for 2018. Historically Democrats don't turn out in Presidential elections
 - Counting of early votes.
 - Use facts and logic in discussions;
 - Dark Money - Jane Mayer – Recommended book to read.
 - Thanks for your support.
- APS Rate Case: Raise rates for citizens and schools.
 - Corp. Commission decides how much is paid for various services. Like a court regulating cost

- Tentative settlement to raise rates
 - Original rate 16 ... now 8. Settlement
 - Still negotiating
 - \$8 – 15 dollars.
 - Demand charge – never required in US. New customer subjected to peak charges.
 - If you change your plan – subject to put in the new demand rate bracket
 - RUCO – (Residential Utility Consumer Office)- www.ruco.az.gov Appt. by Governor
 - ✓ APS not entitled to more money – they’re over-earning 4.8 million last year.
 - ✓ Rates should go down.
 - ✓ Signed the settlement case
 - Camel’s nose in the tent – gradual process to raise rates and crush solar. Grandfathered in to support your current plan.
 - We’re going to have a rate increase; talk to commissioner; send letters; emails; to vote against.
 - Basic rates going up from \$8-15.
 - SRP lowered rates – not APS
 - APS spent 10 million to get these people elected
 - Privately owned monopoly
 - APS CEO earns 12 million per year; SRP 1.2 million per yr.
- Solar energy helps all.
- Brianna Westbrook – Congressional District 8
 - Transgender
 - Take issues directly to Washington
 - Koch brothers own our government
 - Fallen so much from what this country was found own.
 - Wants to run – slim chance, but committed to the cause.
 - Education, clean energy, etc.
 - Education in crisis mode; must invest in education.
 - Women’s issues; clean energy & education.
 - Flashback – people don’t understand the trans-community. Had a YouTube channel.

Treasurer’s Report – Mary

- Membership Dues are due
 - April Fool’s Day Fundraiser – Eileen & Morrie
 - Reported \$522.40 revenues from fundraiser
 - \$1459.93 – Current bank balance

Chair’s Report – Cathy

- Estrella Garage Sale Donation; \$80 – Cathy donated from garage sale.
- Tax March – Apr 15th - 10-2:00p.m. @ State Capitol - every major city Nationwide and worldwide. Put pressure on Trump to show his taxes.
Dem congress today – putting pressure on him that they want to see taxes.
- Who’s running?
 - Governor: David Garcia- ran for Supt for Public Instruction in 2014.
 - Secretary of State: Katie Hobbs, Greg Stanton – Democratic candidates.
 - Public Instruction: Kathy Hoffman; Michelle Robertson – might run again

Old/New Business

- Recruit New Precinct Committee Members – Canvass on Sat, May 6th; keep up resistance; make phone calls; write letters; rally get signatures; to get democratic candidates on the ballot. Have forms for those interested; Judy Bebbe submitted form to become PC.
- PC’s are the social butterflies for their precinct.
- Want to set-up another canvas – sign-up sheet being distributed. On Sat. May 6, 2017. (10-Noon)- Invite to meeting; let them know Dems are here; have handouts and flyers.
 - PC Challenge from MCDP – Pizza for LD who gets the 1500th PC
 - Currently 1400 Dem pc.
 - We’ve increased our PC count; Rep. have lost.

- Committee Reports
 - PC Recruitment/Membership – Need Chair – soliciting a person to chair position; recruit more PC’s and members.
 - Voting body of our Leg. Dis. Ratio is 3/1 for state votes.
 - LD4 - 12 pc = State level meetings.
 - Resolutions and bylaws – platform – have voice
 - Community Outreach – Need Chair
 - Fundraising/Events – Eileen & Morrie – phenomenal event
 - Communications/Social Media – Rick & Ingrid
 - Attended county meetings – Dems decided to communicate via the app – SLACK. Will take the place of email and social media. All can be done on SLACK. We’ll have our own space; channels and folders to allow you to find out something in politics; ask questions and get answers; relevant information distributed. Get the stuff you want to learn about.
 - SLACK – channels: questions; VAN; events centralized; streamlines information. Planning a future presentation to teach others how to use app.
 - Adrian Fonte’s – taking voting out of his domain – what can we do to stop it; - Adrian squashed it already.
 - Legislature – Vic – No report
- Suggestions for Other Events during the Month
 - Example: East valley LD18 – Friday – Dem and Donut; monthly Happy Hour, etc. more social time together; need social outlet.
 - EMR – Friday Coffee – Can we attend and solicit more members.
 - Email Cathy your suggestions.

Good of the Order

- Tony Fusco – good to be back; here to re-enter to Dem. Party. Teaches at EMC. Stated that thirty percent (30%) of citizens under 18 years of age voted for Sanders. Analyzing the direction the party going – concerned about the future of Dem party- like to get a better understanding how to look at the demographic gap.
- Tom Perez – cleaning house and starting fresh; not doing the status quo; attends the Maricopa conventions twice a month – local, state & national for Dem strategies. May 20, 2017 – next Dem state meetings.
- Ashamed of own party – upset about the infighting; Sanders faction of Dem party needs to be represented and supported.

Upcoming Events

VAN training events:

- Intro to My Campaign 4/12/2017 @ 6:00 p.m.
- 4/14/2017 – Mini Van –
- 4/18/2017 – intro to VAN
- 4/20/2017 – virtual phone bank
- 4/24/2017 – targeting Dems; what scores mean.
- To get access to VAN - complete legal document; get notarized and filed with MCDP.
- Sat, Apr 15, Tax March, State Capitol, 10am
- Thu, Apr 20, Flake Town Hall, IBEW Local 640, 5808 N 7th St, 7pm- He’s been invited, but he may not show up.
- Sat, Apr 22, March for Science, 125 W Washington St, 10am-4pm
- Mon, Apr 24, MCDP Executive Board Meeting, 5:30pm
- Mon, May 1, May Day Strike March Protest, State Capitol, 4-7pm
- Sat, May 6, Kick-Off Party! For Kathy Hoffman, running for Public Instruction. Pita Jungle, 7-9pm
- Tue, May 9, LD4 Democrats Monthly Meeting, Total Wine, 6:30pm

Adjournment

8:06 PM

Motion by Ed Stone; 2nd by Wayne Harris. Passed – Good night.