



Minutes of the General Meeting of the Grand Republicans
December 17, 2022

Meeting opened at 9:30 a.m. by President Phil Axelrod. The invocation was given by 1st VP Jan Shank, followed by the pledge of allegiance led by John Cross.

Congresswoman Debbie Lesko was introduced, and she spoke about the recent election and the state of affairs in Washington. The election resulted in the Republicans obtaining a majority in the House. This means that all committees will be chaired by Republicans instead of Democrats. Our state delegation to the House of Representatives now includes two additional Republicans, which brings the Arizona delegation to six Republicans and three Democrats. We did not gain control of the Senate. The House is planning to introduce bills regarding the border, oil production and mining among other issues. There will also be oversight meetings on Covid, Hunter Biden and other issues.

Surveys conducted show that Independents voted Democrat in the top ten swing districts in Arizona, with sixty one percent voting for Mark Kelly and only twenty percent for Blake Masters. Arizona is 1/3 Republican, 1/3 Democrat and 1/3 Independent. We need to appeal to all groups, not just Republicans. She also said that we were outspent in most races. In the future we need to use ads that relate to all age groups. Also, it's ok to vote early, we need to learn from the Democrats regarding early voting.

Ms Lesko feels we have a good shot at picking up the Arizona senate seat in 2024 as Kyrsten Sinema has become an Independent and will split the democrat vote.

Phil introduced the new 2023 Board members. Mitch Freeland, Bob Helgeson and John Vanderford resigned from the Board. Two new

members at large are Donna Rhodes-Brown and Terry Corcoran. All were sworn in for the 2023 year by Debbie Lesko.

Frank Rizzo introduced the new LD29 President Linda Migliore, who spoke briefly.

Jan Shank thanked the board of the Church on the Green for all they have done for us. She advised that our January speaker will be retired history professor Larry Schweikart. He has written many popular books, including "A Patriot's History of the United States" and "48 Liberal Lies about American History (That You Probably Learned in School.)"

For February we have invited the three newly elected District 29 State Senator, Janae Shamp and Representatives Steve Montenegro and Austin Smith. Janae is confirmed; Austin is out of town; Steve is pending. We want to hold them to their promises to us.

We will also have Dr Nick Damask make a presentation about his upcoming lecture series. Steve Shank will give a presentation about our website.

Jan would like to start a book club for the Republican Club starting with our speakers' first two books. "Your Nation to Save" and "What is Freedom?" We would like to have more social activities and films.

Our guest speaker, Shane Krauser has taught the Constitution, the law and firearms and has had over two thousand speaking engagements. He advocates for free speech, election integrity, border control, equal justice, energy independence, the second amendment and separation of powers.

"Politics is downstream from culture." He pointed out that most executive orders are unconstitutional. He gave us three basic thoughts to use in discussions with liberals and others: Who wants to be left alone? Who believes that the government should follow the rules? and Who believes we should keep what we earn? (We all do.)

There are 7 articles in the Constitution and 27 amendments. The purpose of the Constitution is to restrain government and to secure liberty. The foundation is the Declaration of Independence:

Article 1 - Legislative Branch

Article 2 Executive Branch and
Article 3 Judicial Branch

Books - *Taming the Beast of Washington*, *Your Nation to Secure and What is Freedom*.

After 50/50 the meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted
Gerri Staffieri, Secretary