



General Meeting December 16, 2023 Minutes

1st VP Jan Shank opened the meeting with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, presented by 2nd VP-Elect Terry Cocoran.

The first order of business was the swearing in of the duly elected Board of Directors. To that end, Jan introduced our LD29 Representative to the Arizona House of Representatives, Steve Montenegro, to conduct the swearing-in ceremony. All Board members were called to the front of the room, instructed to raise their right hands and repeat after Rep Montenegro (Oath of Office is attached and made an integral part of these minutes.)

Officers of the Board:

President / Donna Rhodes-Brown
1st VP / Jan Shank
2nd VP / Terry Corcoran
Secretary / Gerri Staffieri
Treasurer / Allen Marsh

Other Board members sworn in:

Membership / Toni Helgeson Hospitality / Barbara Verderose
Communications / Tom Zades Webmaster / Steve Shank
Past President & Advisor/ Phil Axelrod
Past President / Frank Rizzo Past President / Sally Cotten
Member at Large 1 / Rosemary Palmer Member at Large 2 / Sally Pihl
Member at Large 3 / Frank Zuckerbrow
Member at large 4 / Christine Corcoran

This concluded, Jan Shank went on to note that January 8th starts a new session of Congress, where our legislators are preparing for a new State budget package. Katie Hobbs has vetoed most bills that have come to her, including all those that were put in place by conservatives. We have to hold the line with her. She will be coming up for recall. We need many signatures, and that will be taken care of in January.

Republicans have to hold the line on the border, school choice, election integrity and CRT. Districts 2, 4, 9, 12, 16 and 23 are all toss up districts. If we can get issues like the border on the ballot, we can by-pass Katie Hobb's vetoes.

Democrats have designated three state chambers to win to take over majority in AZ. Need to inform voters to keep us free. Donna made a plea for all members to do anything they can to help attract more people to our group and to the party. "No one can do everything," she said, "but each of us can do something." We need more PCs. We need more help with this election and we need to inform independents and liberals of the truth of what is happening in the country.

June 6 is Flag Day Celebration Terry and Christine Corcoran are selling T-shirts to help with celebration.

Jan is working hard on the speaker list with the motto that informed members are voters.

Tom Berry, our first speaker, is the President of the Festival Republicans and Independents Club. He started the club when he moved to Surprise. He says that 50% of the Festival Republican population belongs to his Club. There were 9 PC's when he started, and now there are 29. He is working hard to bring Independents on board along with some liberals if possible. He shares all his findings with the 10 republican clubs in the area so we are all on the same page.

- March 19, 2024 is Arizona's Presidential Preference Election.
- July 15-18 is the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee.
- August 9, 2024 is the Primary Election.

Ballot measures (initiative and referendum) Initiatives: Proponents need to gather enough valid signatures to place an item on the ballot.

Initiatives are used to remove and replace government officials before their term of office is up. The Paul Gosar recall, for example, didn't work as they didn't get enough signatures to remove him.

Katie Hobbs requires 639,872 signatures to be recalled. If she is recalled, she will go back on the ballot and a new election will take place. Go to www.firehobbs.com to keep up to date on this removal process.

Ballot measure organized by series:

400 series for local measures like bonds. These are legislative referrals to the ballot.

4465 series: votes to pass bonds. Turnout is so low that only 2.8% of voters have passed some bond measures.

300 series is legislative referrals to get items on the ballot without signatures.

200 series: make new laws, amends current laws. Cost of living plus 1.00: must raise 255,949 signatures by July 1 to get on the ballot

100 series constitutional amendment. For example, the Dems are pushing for a constitutional amendment to allow abortions in Arizona. 383,923 signatures are needed. Dems are well funded and organized.

Rank Choice Voting amendment needs 383,923 signatures to get on the ballot. If you see workers at the malls do not sign anything they ask you as you are not signing for what you think you are.

Kathleen Lyles AZ Free Enterprise spoke on Rank Choice Voting WWW.AZFree.org. AZ Free Enterprise seeks to reverse what the Democrats have done to the voting process.

A Jungle primary or blocked primary is an open primary - non-partisan. All candidates on ballot no matter what party. You must vote your order of preference. All positions must be voted on or the ballot is illegal. Top 2-5 advance to the next round of voting. This tends to help the underdog and not the best candidates. If the signatures are taken incorrectly the candidate is off the ballot. A candidate must get 50% of votes to go to the next category.

HCR 2033 bans Rank Choice Voting and Jungle Primary. Go to protectyourballotAZ.com for more information. Request to Speak is necessary to be able to tell legislators how you feel.

“Goes too Far” campaign is a new initiative to counter the dem’s abortion amendment. Watch for it to be coming.

Meeting adjourned 11:15 am

Respectfully submitted

Gerri Staffieri

Secretary