

Green Valley Democrats

Minutes of the Board Meeting

June 7th, 2024

George gaveled the meeting to order at 2.00 pm.

Doug took the roll:

Present through the online use of Zoom: George McGaughey, Arlyne Ostlund, Henne Queisser, Judith Holley, Judy Knape, Laura Callejon, Lois Connell, Sandie Stone, Tom Lobb, Tatiana Hladky, Tom Hladky, and Doug Syme

Sandie Stone and Laura Callejon were excused. Laura Callejon had expressed a possibility of joining the meeting later but was not able to.

Minutes

The corrected minutes of the May 9th Board Meeting were accepted as distributed (and will be redistributed as some people had not received them).

Treasurer's Report: Lois

In general, the report is straight forward.

Lois noted that sale of yard signs is taking off as might be expected.

Lois drew attention to her note re. recurring Act Blue donations, and to the fact that those who had paid for the cancelled Trivia Event had asked that their monies be kept as donations.

Lois also drew attention to a concern that people had signed up for Women in Blue Lunches but had neither shown up nor cancelled their reservation. As some restaurants charge for the reserved number, the recent event showed an initial deficit of some \$240 but Lois contacted the eight delinquents, and the deficit was reduced to \$35.72 as of the previous Sunday. Lois still hoped that another person contacted will pay. Generously, she noted that she had pledged to cover the final shortfall. Lois said that this problem will be addressed for future gatherings, perhaps by requiring payment in advance. Henne suggested that this could be done through Act Blue. Lois will coordinate with Jeanne Buell.

George asked that Lois coordinate with Tom and Tatiana to bring the budgeted Fundraising Income Titles for events in line with what actually takes place.

Henne noted that it was good to have more income than expenses last month. Lois said that the cost of signs comes before the related income which should increase as the year progresses.

George thanked Lois for her diligence.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Headquarters: Judy

Judy noted that HQ traffic was increasing nicely.

She will bring merchandise to the debate the next day and George agreed to bring Yard Signs also. George had asked the Sheriff Candidates to bring signs so we will see what they bring.

Judy reported that all shifts have two people working.

Judy has more merchandise on order and has a Graphic Designer helping with Hats and Mugs.

George asked that a sign be created to let people know that HQ will be closed July 4th and 5th. Judy will make the sign and the schedule will be set up to allow for the closure.

George noted that HQ forms are now color-coordinated: Membership – white; Volunteers – green; Donations – orange; Newsletter – purple; and Badges – pink. The forms are in the Master File. Judy asked that a limited number of copies are printed each time.

It was agreed that to find emails etc. more easily, we should all start the Subject with "GVD"!

Fundraising: Tom & Tatiana H

Tom noted that their meeting would be the next Monday – they had submitted the agenda and will distribute the minutes thereafter.

The next event is a Pool Party at The Greens on September 8th from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Tom offered various suggestions re. the format: Beer & Wine, Raffles, 50/50 etc. George noted that the location is his community, and the gate will open if approached slowly. Henne asked about liability if alcohol is served. George said it was not a problem at that location as they are fully insured. George noted that guests that have over-indulged need to be monitored. Glass will not be used. Henne suggested limiting the number of drinks, perhaps to two. Judy suggested BYOB and Arlynne agreed. Tom and Tatiana will discuss ideas with the Committee.

The Halloween Event will be at CPAC on October 27th from 3.00pm to 8.00 pm.

An Election-Night (November 5th) party is proposed – perhaps at Findley's. George noted that they are open to hosting us and expect necessary licenses shortly. Judy noted Brindi's (previously Javelina Run) could be an alternative. Tom suggested that if big screen TVs are not available, laptops could be used. George said we had projectors, if needed.

Good news – Tom announced that John Vandebrooke is to donate a 2007 Kia Sedona as well as some paintings and sculptures. Tom said they will brainstorm how to maximize the income from these items at their next meeting.

They will also talk about to raise income from Restaurant Gift Certificates. George explained that vouchers are bought from Local (not chain) Restaurants and then raffled – LD 17 has raised thousands with such a program. Also, PCDP and LD 20 have raffled off tickets to a Big Name Concert. George said that Judy's concern that we might not get enough sales of tickets to ensure a profit had not been a problem.

Tom also mentioned the possibility of an Oktoberfest or a Wine Tasting event.

George thanked Tom and Tatiana for all their efforts.

Membership: Tom & Nelda L

The merging of Excel and Constant Contact records is progressing. This will eliminate duplication of effort. There is now a volunteer entering data into Constant Contact and completion is expected in weeks.

Paid membership at the end of May is 354 – about the same as last year.

This week emails went out to past members from 2023 not yet paid in 2024 and in a month a follow-up phone call will be made to those still unpaid. Judy noted that, this morning, a payment was made in response to the emails.

Tom and Nelda will have a table at the Sheriffs' Debate tomorrow, and in two weeks, Ray Omdahl will staff the membership table at the Program Event.

Henne agreed that Lois is copying membership forms and they are going where intended.

George thanked Tom and Nelda for carrying out the work which is tedious.

Programs: Sandie was not present -George reported

The Shura Event was standing room only – 64 people were registered, and there were some more who were not.

The Sheriffs' debate is tomorrow. Set-up will begin at 1.30 pm. Questions from the audience will be by cards only. George will put up a surprise sign – come to find out what!

On June 22nd the event will feature Vanessa Bechtol – candidate for District 4 Supervisor, and Brian Johnson (who has brought free yard signs to HQ which may be handed out) and Sami Hamed – candidates for Pima County Treasurer.

On July 13th Rosanna Gabaldón and Stephanie Stahl Hamilton will talk about legislative initiatives and the upcoming referenda.

On July 27th all are encouraged to attend the LD 19 Picnic in Benson.

On August 10th there will be a Hybrid meeting with the Corporation Commissioners.

On August 17th there will be a joint meeting with DCQC at the Ballroom for all Pima County candidates. George will invite Adrian Fontes to speak also.

On August 24th Tim Steller and Dan Shearer will talk about Investigative reporting – especially in the context of fewer local newspapers.

On September 16th Pima County Assessor Suzanne Droubie; Recorder's office Gabriella Cázares-Kelly

Henne reminded us that at the Shura Event we forgot to “pass the hat”. George apologized for the omission and suggested that, as we did not have to spend money to advertise the Sheriffs' Debate, we could send the \$250 that was budgeted to the Shura Team. As it was a budgeted item, a motion to approve this would not be necessary. George's suggestion to contact those who had signed in for a donation after the fact was thought to be more trouble than it was worth. George will get contact details to Lois so she can send a check.

Publicity: Henne

Henne drew attention to her report and confirmed Tom Lobb's comment that the effort continues to coordinate the Constant Contact and Excel Databases. She noted that a new volunteer, Becky Beaton is adding new contacts. Henne said that anyone who donates is also added to the newsletter list. Lois confirmed that she will give Henne a copy of the slip from anyone donating.

Henne said traffic to the website was diminishing. She said that a number of hits were from overseas – presumably hacking attempts. Several newsletter sign-ups are from the website.

George will send Henne a new list of candidates with pictures. He will also send Henne the new Volunteer Form after the meeting.

Henne is going out of town next Wednesday, so she needs to get any information for the mid-month update by the weekend. George said he had some things and would get them to Henne after the meeting.

Voter Outreach: Arlynn

The committee did not meet as the usual date would have been on Memorial Day. The next meeting will be June 24th at HQ at 2.00 pm.

Arlynn invited help for the Sidewalk Sale Days on June 27th and 28th. Judith offered to help on 28th. Judy will check her calendar and Lois can help in the morning of 28th.

Arlynn noted that she is organizing postcard writing groups which are a suitable indoor activity in this climate. She encouraged doing this in all neighborhoods.

George showed a postcard which encourages people to get registered to vote – this is particularly needed in CD 6 and LD 21. George will have them at HQ and invited Arlynn's help in figuring how to distribute them. We bought some reams of paper and PCDP will do the printing. Arlynn liked the card as it covers Abortion Access, Voter Registration, and Get out the Vote.

At Large: Judith

Judith is looking for copy of Project 2025. George encouraged her to keep searching and Judy asked Judith to put it in the library. At the end of the meeting, Tom H said it was available online and he would send a link.

Volunteers: George for Laura

George showed the updated form in three-up format. It was developed to meet multiple requests. Arlynn asked that "Out" be inserted between Voter and Reach – George agreed. Committees will be receiving reports for appropriate volunteers - e.g. those in column 1 will be sent to fundraising and so on. A committee may get more than one report where more than one skill is needed. Arlynn asked how to get breakdowns – within Voter Outreach – postcards, phoning, canvassing... George said that breakdowns will be coming later. Judy asked to get volunteers with computer skills as well as those with administrative experience. George said that will be done. George said that already Becky Beaton is working with Henne and Wendy Pendleton is entering data for Laura while she recovers from health problems. Fred D'Angelo will be helping with Constant Contact. George said a ton of people are volunteering so we must put them to good use. George suggested that in the future we consider making the Volunteer Coordinator a full Board position.

President's Report: George

George informed us that a donor has offered to match up to \$5,000 towards Slate cards. DCQC has pledged \$1,000 and likewise Democratic Women of Southeastern Arizona. George asked what GVD could do. Lois felt that even if we agreed to fund this match we should also ask for individual contributions to generate a feeling of ownership. She also explained that LD19 needed more than the matched \$5,000 as costs of this initiative may run beyond \$10,000. Indeed a total of \$12,000 may be needed. Arlynn felt that contributions from individuals should be requested, and generous donations may be generated when the purpose is explained. Lois clarified that the cards will be set up with Statewide candidates on one side and local candidates on the other. Lois said that a final deadline was August 15th, but July 1st was an interim date to judge progress. Henne suggested that LD19 sets up an Act Blue account for all small donations. George agreed. Henne needs this clarified without delay to be in the mid-month newsletter. Doug proposed that a budgeted \$1,000 for LD 19 be earmarked for the matching funds project and Arlynn seconded. The motion carried without dissent.

George said the DCQC had approached him about combination yard signs as sign-spacing limits how many signs will fit in a yard. Suggestions were for one sign including Biden, Engel and Gallego and another for corporation commission – Aguilar, Hill and Polacheck. As this will be shared with DCQC, only 50 of each sign will be bought thus reducing our upfront costs.

Arlynn asked that we develop a sign for Abortion Access. George said it will be done as soon as an initiative number is assigned.

George asked that the flag is flown on 4th July – the right side up! – and suggested that a newsletter item draws attention to this.

The Biden campaign is looking for field office coordinators – if anyone knows of a young person who might be available, let Julia Alexander know (Deputy Organizing Director AZ Coordinated Campaign – jalexand@2024victory.com).

PCDP is looking for election observers.

On August 17th it is hoped to have a rally with DCQC with a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres – more later.

George will be out of town from Sunday to the 13th. He will be back for a week and on Monday 17th yard signs will be put up - meet at HQ at 7.30 am. He will be gone again from 23rd to 30th.

DCQC sent their version of the ad. for GV News – essentially what Henne put together. George said he would see if the flag could be bigger. GVD's share will cost about \$240 (out of the advertising budget).

Angie Dzikoski was selected to attend the DNC in Chicago – she would appreciate any contributions to defray her expenses. Donations should go straight to Angie and not through GVD – there will be an envelope in HQ. Henne will put out an appeal.

Old Business

None

New Business:

None

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on July 11th at 2.00 pm MST.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3.18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Syme

Secretary