

Green Valley Democrats

Minutes of the Board Meeting

May 9th, 2024

George gaveled the meeting to order at 2.03 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

Minutes

The revised minutes of the April 11th Board Meeting were accepted as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Lois

Lois said her report contained nothing unusual and invited questions.

Henne asked how Credit Card Payments at HQ were evolving and Lois said that they were increasing steadily. She noted a problem in that the reports from World Pay did not itemize transactions which makes cross-checking difficult. Lois noted that she has asked Judy to emphasize that receipts need to note what each transaction is for. Lois has suggested that donations can be documented with a revised membership form to help her to fill out the Beacon Reports correctly.

Henne said that Ed had gone to HQ to pay his membership and whoever was on duty had been unable to use the CC machine. Lois said all volunteers had been trained and Judy added that there is a laminated instruction sheet – Judy will remind volunteers. Lois wondered if the machine took overly long to warm up when turned on.

George suggested that procedures be revisited to make sure how the machine is being used as names should print.

George said that the membership form should be revised to add donations and “newsletter only” options. Henne asked that “Newsletter only” forms go to her mailbox but Lois said that if all forms except “sale of yard signs” go to her manilla envelope, then she will separate them as appropriate. Lois felt that would be simplest for the volunteers. Judy agreed. Henne added that, as she deals with Constant Contact, membership forms need to go to her as well as the Lobbs.

Judy noted that she found two envelopes for yard signs and she combined them.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Headquarters: Judy

Judy had nothing to add to her report.

Lois noted that Jane likes to work alone but she felt that that is unwise for anyone, male or female, in view of the upcoming election season. Judy will see if a second person can be added on Wednesday afternoons.

George emphasized that we should not have anyone alone in HQ – he had dealt with two problem visitors already in the past week.

George said the lockbox had drawn positive comments.

Arlynn said that Davis is available to pick up some extra shifts.

Judy noted that there was a huge number of donations for Casa Alitas last month. She wondered if donations would be as plentiful for No more deaths this month and Primavera next month.

Membership: Tom & Nelda L

Tom said he need to leave soon so George invited his report. Tom noted the written report was submitted.

Tom said 310 members had paid in 2024.

A meeting with Henne is planned to resolve differences between Constant Contact and the Excel database. Henne has about 267 of the 2024 members in Constant Contact. She noted that not all members have email addresses.

Henne asked that, going forward, Lois made a membership copy for her. Lois agreed. Lois will get the monthly Act Blue information that she gives to Tom to Henne also.

George thanked Tom and wished him a good trip.

Fundraising: Tom & Tatiana H

Tom noted that their meeting would be next Monday – they had submitted the agenda. They would improve advertising for the Paper Shredding next year. The Trivia Event is planned for Sunday May 19th at Room 203 with plenty of prizes.

Henne asked how sign-ups were going. Tom and Tatiana did not know. Lois said she had received only two forms to date. She will check Act Blue. Henne will send out another reminder in the next days.

Henne has 43 responses to the survey of possible events and will coordinate the results before Monday.

The Halloween event will be at CPAC on 10/27 from 3 to 8.

The meeting on May 13th will be a hybrid meeting so anyone who wishes may join on Zoom.

Judy noted that Susan Partlow was listed for Graphic Design, but she had declined a project for Judy – her availability should be checked. George said he would send Judy some other names.

Henne said she had just checked Act Blue and only one person had registered for Trivia. Judy and Arlynn said they will register.

George asked if posters are up around town – they are. Henne will send a reminder on Sunday.

Tom said the Winter Blues event had a lot of walk-ins and late registering. Tom suggested that walk-ins be charged an extra \$2 which George supported.

Programs: Sandie

Sandie reported that some 200 attended the Pima County Attorney debate – quite a success. Some items will be improved for the Sheriffs' debate.

All is well set through June 22nd.

George suggested at their meeting to have a joint rally with DCQC on July 22nd which will need some planning.

Phil Silvers suggested Bob Karp for a meeting re. the Democratic Platform on August 10th.

George also suggested having Gregg Frostrom.

Arlynn said the Platform will be refined at the State Committee meeting on May 18th. George hoped to invite someone from AZP or PCDDP to explain the choices.

As George has to leave the meeting on Saturday early for the Udall dinner, he asked for help. Sandie said Mark Eckstein would help.

The Sheriffs' debate is firm for June 8th. Henne asked for information thereon – George will send it Monday.

Publicity: Henne

As Henne mentioned earlier, she has entered new members in Constant Contact but needs someone to manage Constant Contact – Laura had given her some names – a detail-oriented individual would be best. Also Henne asked for a volunteer to monitor the GV Dems Inbox for emails.

Voter Outreach: George for Arlynn

Arlynn noted that Mallory had written a very good LTE on abortion.

Fiesta Sahuarita was well worthwhile – they got some voter registrations and five pages of Abortion Petitions, and generally talked to people. For next year Arlynnne requested more men to help. Also the visibility and/or location should be improved. Also, Candidates should be encouraged to attend.

They continue to work on House Parties.

Postcard Parties – rather than two in July, one will be July 27th and the second on a Monday in August.

The Sidewalk Sale days' theme will continue to be “Democracy not Dictatorship”. It will be 10 – 2 on Thursday and Friday. Arlynnne invited help.

LD 19 is starting to work on Slate Cards, and we will help to distribute them as well as working with the Coordinated Campaign.

As the May meeting would fall on Memorial Day, it will not be held.

George will send Arlynnne a flyer re. a Sahuarita 4th July event – Arlynnne will check it out. George apologized that he will miss the Sidewalk Sales.

Volunteers: Laura

There are 146 volunteers listed now. Laura sent out acknowledgements.

Laura and George are working to refine the whole volunteer area and to update the form.

George noted that the objective is to get better, more detailed, information to the committees. The new forms should be in HQ next week. Henne asked that she get a copy to be put on the website. The forms should be blue.

At Large: Judith

Judith was at the Library on Tuesday but did not see anyone.

George noted that more locations are being considered for AA Petitions. George thanked Judith and noted there are four volunteers working on petitions remote from HQ.

President's Report: George

George noted that we had his report.

He will be going to fundraiser for Vanessa Bechtol who is running for Supervisor, District 4. He invited anyone to join him. It would be good to replace Steve Christy.

Jonathan Hill is running for Corporation Commission and still need about a hundred \$5 contributions for Clean Elections – the E-Qual link is in his report.

GOTV – the Neighbor-to-Neighbor link will send a list of 10 Democrats in your neighborhood to help get petitions signed. George answered Judith that it is the same link as Indivisible.

There is a candidate for the AZ House in LD 21 – Brianna Ortega.

A donor has offered \$5,000 to LD 19 to match donations (up to \$5,000). DCQC has offered \$1,000 so we should see what we can do.

Graham County Dems are running short of money to keep the office open – we should see if we can help.

The LD 19 annual picnic will be on July 27th – location may be Benson – Arlyne noted it conflicts with the Postcard Party and Sandie said the proposed meeting with DCQC is July 20th.

George has sent us a list of merchants in the Plaza who offer discounts – he will post it in HQ also. George answered Doug’s question re. how to get the discount – bring a card from HQ or just say you are from GVD. Volunteers in HQ can say the work in the Plaza.

George has found electronic equipment in doing a tidy-up. It includes a soundboard which may be used with our new speaker. There are also an old computer and a projector. George asked for a motion to be allowed to try to sell the latter. Lois proposed such a motion which Arlyne seconded – the motion passed without dissent.

George said he could get blue 1:80,000,000 bracelets for about \$1.00 each as a “give away” conversation starter. Judy wondered if the bracelets the woman left were moving – what does the bracelet mean? Henne proposed that George be permitted to buy up to 100 at about \$1.00 each. Tatiana seconded the motion which passed with two dissenting votes.

Henne noted that Vanessa Bechtol needs donations but, because she is not a Statewide candidate, she is not on E-Qual – George will send Henne the Bechtol website address.

George noted that he got a flyer from the recorder’s office with QR codes that could be posted in HQ – the QR codes show where and how to vote; FAQs; Tracking of Votes; and useful phone numbers. George will post it with Voting and Ballot information.

George requested return of Abortion Access petitions ASAP but certainly before the deadline of June 26th. The past month was very successful.

George said that Jim Jordan will be at the Sahuarita Town Hall on Friday to talk about the Border – probably a waste of time.

A group of women will rally on Saturdays at La Cañada and Esperanza at 10.00 – “Vote like Ruth sent you”. We are not sponsoring it – just FYI.

(At this juncture Judy had to leave).

A discussion re. the June Board Meeting agreed on Friday June 7th at 2.00 pm MST.

Old Business

Bryan Lane will chair the Nominating Committee. He will be in touch re. positions for next year and for people willing to assist him. The choice of Bryan was heartily endorsed.

The Sheriffs' Debate is all set and help is needed. It will not be livestreamed, and it will remain on Mobilize until the event.

New Business:

Open Primaries:

George noted that a visitor to HQ had requested that a petition be signed and got a little upset when George told him that he did not agree with Open Primaries. The next day the individual returned and blocked people from signing AA petitions. The Mall Manager was asked to move him. His affiliation is unclear, but George thought dark money was involved.

Lois not only was opposed to Open Primaries but was against anyone who would use such tactics and felt we should not ever agree with such behavior. Arlyne supported Lois' opinions. Lois noted that she did not understand why some Democrats who support Ranked Choice Voting also support Open Primaries. Doug and Lois endorsed Rank Choice Voting – Lois citing its success in Alaska.

George favored separating Open Primaries and Ranked Choice Voting. He felt that revising the number of signatures needed to get on a ballot requires revision. The present requirement is based on registered voters of each party in a given district but Independents must meet State based numbers.

George noted that the League of Women Voters has studied Open Primaries in California and is firmly opposed to them. George felt that Open Primaries in Arizona would also be a bad idea. Tom Lobb agreed.

The meeting supported George asking unruly people to leave HQ.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on June 7th at 2.00 pm MST as discussed above.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3.14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Syme

Secretary