



Democrats of the Morongo Basin  
General Meeting Minutes  
10:00 a.m., January 8, 2022  
Online using Zoom

The Meeting Agenda and Minutes of the December General Meeting were distributed to the membership before the meeting.

Club President Johnny Tolbert called the meeting to order at 10:16.

Board members present:

Jo Ann Bollen  
Deborah Dunaway  
Paula Durrant  
Dianne Markle-Greenhouse  
Debra Gail Savitt  
Johnny Tolbert

Absent: Yolanda Brown, Beverly Scott (excused)

Club members present:

Cindy Bernard  
Cody Briggs  
Matthew Mark Campos  
Phyllis Lyte  
Gary Neff  
Liz Neff  
Carrie Williams

Guests present:

Toni Stepetz

Matthew moved and Phyllis seconded accepting today's Agenda. *Unanimous.*

There was a discussion regarding the December Minutes: Cindy and Cody noted that the Minutes did not give any details regarding the discussion about the newspaper ad that occurred during the December meeting, or that the ad was to be jointly funded by the DMB and the Morongo Basin Coalition for Social Justice. Paula explained that in the end, it was she who donated the money used for the ad, not the Coalition, but the minutes will be revised to better reflect the discussions that took place. Approval of the December minutes was tabled to next month.

In Yolanda's absence, Paula gave the Treasurer Report: the DMB has \$2,721.67 in the bank and no known bills outstanding.

There was no correspondence, but Paula mentioned that the Mara's Wish letter asking for donations was received late in the season. She proposed that next year the club start collecting donations for Mara's Wish in October, so we can make a donation in the Club's name.

Election

Johnny thanked the members of the outgoing Board for their service during his tenure as President. The Club thanked Johnny for stepping in as President when called upon.

Dianne, head of the Nominating Committee, announced the current slate of candidates for Club office for 2022; hearing no nominations from the floor, it was moved by Dianne and seconded by Phyllis that the candidates be voted on as a slate. The following officers were unanimously elected:

Jo Ann Bollen	President
Carrie Williams	First Vice-President
Cody Briggs	Second Vice-President
Deborah Dunaway	Secretary
Matthew Mark Campos	Treasurer

Debra Gail Savitt  
Paula Durrant

Member-At-Large  
Member-At-Large

### Committees

Jo Ann announced her first priority was to establish a Bylaws Committee to update the Bylaws, in particular regarding the Standing Committees, given so many of our Standing Committees are currently dormant. A discussion followed regarding the existing committees, the committees we would like to see, and which committees could become Ad Hoc committees, to be active for set periods of time. Cindy suggested polling the membership to see which committees they might be interested in being part of, or seeing the Club explore. Jo Ann noted that we had recently sent a poll on this subject to the mailing list of 345, with 12 responses.

Jo Ann, Deborah, Debra, Cindy, Liz, and Dianne all expressed interest in being on the Bylaws Committee.

Cody and Debra are interested in being part of a new Environmental Standing Committee.

Cindy and Carrie expressed interest in being on the Outreach Standing Committee. Cindy noted that she cannot commit to Chairing the committee until the 29 Palms Redistricting concludes, since she is currently heavily involved with that effort.

Jo Ann also is interested in having a committee or team to be a Truth Squad, to combat mis- and disinformation.

### Newspaper Ad

There was a lively discussion about the newspaper ad, which ran in the Hi-Desert Star on December 22 and the Desert Trail on December 25, and whether we should run additional periodic large ads like that one, or weekly small ads; there are also opportunities to advertise on the 107.7 FM website. Debra noted that there are occasional opportunities for free advertising, which we should take advantage of. We applauded Paula and Jo Ann on their recent opinion pieces in the paper. Because Paula ended up donating the funds for the first ad, there is still \$500 of the Club's money that's been approved for a newspaper ad. Paula motioned and Phyllis seconded that the Club approve an additional \$1,000 earmarked for advertising to be determined by an ad hoc outreach committee that she would head. A discussion followed. Cindy proposed taking a step back and making a plan and determining the most effective strategy for advertising (e.g., newspaper or radio, what kind of messaging). Debra wondered whether we should spend such a large portion of our funds on advertising, and whether we would have money to help elect candidates in November.

The proposed \$1,000 was voted on: AYE: Paula, Phyllis, Jo Ann, Cody, Gary, Dianne, Carrie; NAY: Debra, Deborah, Johnny, Matthew, Cindy. *Approved 7-5.*

Jo Ann will look into the cost of advertising on the radio station website, and Paula will share the rate sheet from the newspaper.

- From Paula Durrant: 1. *The December ad was paid fully by a donation from a club member. No club funds were used.*  
2. *When the club voted \$ 500 for these ads our treasurer, Yolanda Brown deposited that money into the Coalition for Social Justice account - because we understood that the ads would be paid from that account until it reached a zero balance.*  
3. *The club then voted another \$1000 for ads. This money was used to pay the Hi-Desert Star \$770 for 6 weeks and KCDZ fm \$150 for a one-month banner ad. [The balance of \$80 from the club treasurer is designated for ads].*  
4. *There is about \$1400 in the MBCSJ account. It is all for club use.*

### Chartering

Jo Ann and Deborah will do the paperwork required for our annual rechartering with the San Bernardino County Democratic Party. This brought up the matter of writing checks, and the changeover to new signatories for the bank

account. The bank will require a copy of the minutes showing the new officers, and Johnny stated that a letter on letterhead would be helpful. Only the new signatories need to go to the bank, with photo ID. The new signatories will be Matthew (Treasurer), Jo Ann (President), and Deborah (Secretary), who will coordinate offline. Two signatures are required on our checks by our Bylaws.

#### Redistricting

Jo Ann and Deborah shared photos and information about the Morongo Basin's new districts. The good news is that new Assembly District 47 is majority Democratic, so Christy Holstege has a good chance of being elected. Unfortunately the Morongo Basin is now split between AD47 and AD34, and AD34 is heavily Republican. Our new Congressional District is also majority-Republican, but there are still many unregistered voters in the Victorville area, who most likely will tend to be Democrats. We have our work cut out for us with voter registration. Our new Senate District is 19, and being an odd number, won't be up for election until 2024. We are still figuring out who will represent us in the interim.

#### Local Office

Deborah shared some of the local offices that are currently open:

MUSD Superintendent (this is a job, not an office, but there is an opportunity to tell the MUSD what you think about who they should hire) <https://www.morongousd.com/SuperintendentSearch.aspx>

Morongo Basin Healthcare District Board: <https://www.mbhdistrict.org/BoardVacancy.php>

Yucca Valley Planning Commission: <https://www.yucca-valley.org/our-town/commissions-and-committees/planning-commission>

Morongo Valley Community Services District Board: <https://morongocsd.specialdistrict.org/mvcasd-board-vacancies>

And the Joshua Basin Water District has four candidates for its vacant position, to be discussed at a special meeting on Tuesday.

#### Meeting Topics

Jo Ann mentioned that we had previously discussed having panel discussions on our local air quality and rising fire insurance costs, and said that if anyone has ideas, please email her at [votemorongobasin@gmail.com](mailto:votemorongobasin@gmail.com). Cody suggested a presentation on the new laws in effect in California as of January 1; Deborah stated that she had wanted to prepare something for today's meeting, but didn't get to it. Jo Ann and Deborah will work on this with Cody for the next General Meeting. Matthew mentioned that at work, he is attending a 4-hour presentation just on new employment laws.

The body gave its thanks to the outgoing board members.

Deborah asked that people email items for upcoming meeting agendas to her at [DemocratsMB@gmail.com](mailto:DemocratsMB@gmail.com) as she will be taking over that account from Paula.

Once everyone had an opportunity to speak about anything for the good of all, at 11:52, Matthew moved and Johnny seconded that we adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Dunaway  
January 8, 2022