

Democrats of the Morongo Basin  
 General Meeting Minutes  
 10:00 a.m., May 13, 2023  
 Online using Zoom &  
 Jorge's Place, CMC Campus



Today's Meeting Agenda and Minutes of the April General Meeting were distributed to the membership before the meeting.

Club President Jo Ann Bollen called the meeting to order at 10:00.

<u>Board members present:</u> Jo Ann Bollen Liz Neff Dianne Markle-Greenhouse Deborah Dunaway	<u>Club members present (in person)</u> Matthew Mark Campos Mark Chappell Rich Mettling Gary Neff Debra Gail Savitt Joan Scott Norman Scott Rob Tisdell-Braun  <u>Club members present (Zoom)</u> Stephanie Ballard Deb Bollinger Sheila Goldner Rico Nadjar Ellen Welch	<u>Guest</u> Helen Bright
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The Club recited the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Dianne Markle-Greenhouse.

Gary Neff moved and Rich Mettling seconded approval of the Agenda as presented. *Unanimous.*

Gary Neff moved and Joan Scott seconded approval of the April meeting minutes. *Unanimous.*

Treasurer's Report: \$1,374.02 plus \$69 in the cash box. The check to the County Dems for our chartering fee has cleared; Mara's Wish still has not cleared. Jo Ann will pursue a fee waiver for the stop payment and find another way to make the donation (\$200 if we get a fee waiver, and \$175 if we do not).

Correspondence: The Club's roster at 4/26 was submitted to CADEM, our Regional Director, and the County Dems. This lets us send two representatives to the Pre-Endorsement Conference in October, to vote to endorse the candidates the Club wishes to endorse for Senate, Congress, Assembly, and State Senate. Deborah Dunaway and Cody Briggs volunteered to attend the conference. The Club can discuss which candidates we wish to endorse in September/October.

**Committee Reports:**

Environmental Policy: Debra Gail Savitt gave away 75 plants and trees at the Morongo Basin Healthcare District Fair. Debra also reported that Sewer Phase 2 is anticipated to begin this Summer, and that David Fick is reviewing the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act legislation, and will report on it.

Debra Gail Savitt will chair a Legislation/Regulation committee to keep up with our local and County politics and would appreciate any help.

Other Items

- In accordance with our Bylaws, any officer position may be split between two Club members. It is proposed to split the office of Treasurer between Liz Neff and Rico Nadjar, with Liz handling the in-person cashbox at our General Meetings, and Rico handling the bookkeeping. The Board discussed this and agreed, and Rico will keep the checkbook and the books; we can add him as an authorized signature for checks. Check signing will continue to be approved by the Board for amounts of \$100 or less, and other amounts as approved by the Club at our General Meetings. Debra Gail Savitt moved to split the Treasurer office as outlined above; Diane Markle-Greenhouse seconded. *Unanimous.*
- Our picnic was lots of fun, with pretty good attendance.
- Jo Ann Bollen applied for the Revenue Oversight Commission, and Deborah Dunaway applied for the Planning Commission. Deborah has an Interview May 17.
- Former Congressman Paul Cook appears to be living in Supervisorial District 3 while representing Supervisorial District 1. This is against the rules, and we are hoping to find someone in District 1 to complain. Dianne Markle-Greenhouse suggested journalists may be interested in exposing this.
- Supervisor District 3 is on the ballot March 5. We need a good candidate to make sure the GOP candidate doesn't get 50% +1, so the race will be on the November ballot.

Announcements:

1. Club fundraiser at Las Palmas in Yucca Valley May 16 from 4-7 pm.
2. Mark Chappell told us about the Martha's Village wine tasting fundraiser dinner at the Omni in Rancho Mirage.
3. Juneteenth in 29 Palms at Knotts Sky Park, June 17th 12-8
4. July 8th Beatnik Lounge 2nd Saturday, 6 pm, Social Justice art show (Stephanie Ballard) Info re: submissions [stephanieballard1@gmail.com](mailto:stephanieballard1@gmail.com). At the end of July, there will be a queer comics event.
5. Next Board Meeting: June 5.
6. Next General Meeting: June 10.

Debra Gail Savitt moved and Dianne Markle-Greenhouse seconded adjournment at 10:32.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Dunaway  
May 17, 2023