

## DRAFT

**Arizona Democratic Party  
Regular Meeting of the ADP State Committee  
Saturday, January 27, 2018  
Vista Grande High School, Casa Grande, Arizona**

Senior Chair Holly Lyon called the meeting of the ADP State Committee to order at 1:03 pm. Brian Bickel (LD 9) led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Casa Grande City Councilman Ralph Varela welcomed everyone to the city and the meeting.

Finance Associate Chris Kurent read remarks from Acting Chair Bill Roe, who could not attend the meeting, that focused on the 2020 Census and redistricting through the Arizona Redistricting Commission and their impact on future elections. He urged that we work together as a unified party, especially given the opportunities Democrats have in 2018, including the special elections and the Senate seat, noting that these goals are achievable when we work together.

### **SPECIAL REPORT**

Former Attorney General Terry Goddard noted how concerned we should be about Arizona's future with the influx of dirty money into the state. Our state has been the victim of undisclosed campaign cash – from people who don't want voters to know who is pulling the strings; the influence they have had has been very detrimental to Arizona. In 2014, over \$15 million poured into the state. "Arizona is a petri dish for the contamination – test out here and spread out across the U.S. All citizens have a right to know who the original contributor is," he said. In 2018, we need to be focused on state legislative seats, but dirty money also has impacted the Corporation Commission and our utility rates. The Dirty Money campaign must get to 225,000 signatures to get on the ballot and change the direction of dirty money and throw it out.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

A legislative update was provided by Representatives Kirsten Engle (LD 10) and Pamela Powers Hannley (LD 9) and Senator Sean Bowie (LD 18). Rep. Powers Hannley noted that three concurrent resolutions supporting the Equal Rights Amendment were dropped but all were assigned to hostile committees and only two Republican female legislators signed onto them. She urged everyone to write to their Republican lawmakers to get the bills heard.

Rep. Engel said that although the Republicans were trying to foil our agenda, there were a few bright spots. In regard to the opioid bill, she noted that it was a quick caucus because there were many provisions the Democrats supported, such as the Good Samaritan provision. She said that water issues are occupying a lot of time, partly because of the governor's attack on the Central Arizona Project board. Education also is a big topic, and everyone is waiting to see what will happen with the budget. There are bills focused on restoring funding, such as for JTEDs, and charter school accountability. Rep. Engel has teamed up with Rep. David Stringer (LD 1) to work on reforming the criminal justice system. Democratic legislators also have dropped important bills relating to women's issues, health care, and elections.

Sen. Bowie said there was lots of bipartisanship seen during the special session on opioids, and the \$10 million for treatment programs was pushed by both Democratic caucuses and the governor put it in the bill, which passed unanimously out of both chambers. He said that it's apparent it's an election year

because the governor's State of the State address talked about education and bipartisanship. However, the state is still \$1 billion below in K-12 funding, provides nothing for community colleges, and very little for higher education. He said Democrats will advocate for teacher pay. He also talked about the release of the Democratic legislative priorities document, which included a 4% teacher pay raise, protecting women's right to choose, and extending nondiscrimination protections for the LGBT community. Senate Democrats have already stopped lots of bad bills, such as SCR 1001, which would have taken away the ability of citizens to put initiatives on ballot (it was held in committee). He said we need to add seats and turn Arizona blue in 2018.

#### **CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT**

On behalf of the Credentials Committee, Harriet Young reported that for the January 27 meeting, 289 State Committee members were present in person and 103 by proxy, for a total of 392 (of 537) members or 73% of the total membership, indicating a quorum had been met for purposes of voting.

#### **ELECTION OF STATE CHAIR**

Berdetta Hodge (LD 26) nominated and Dante Mitchell (LD 13) seconded **Felecia Rotellini** (LD 28). Roman Ulman (LD 16) and Mikel Weisser (Mohave) nominated **Scott Prior** (LD 16) for State Chair. Woody Thomas (LD 13) moved and Carolyn Warner (LD 28) to close nominations. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Candidates each gave 3-minute speeches. Data Director Sam Almy presented the election process.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Secretary Anne Greenberg presented the minutes from the September 23, 2017, State Committee meeting. Doug Ballard (Coconino) moved and CJ Briggie (LD 18) seconded to approve; the minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote as presented.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Rick McGuire presented the treasurer's report encompassing the 2017 calendar year.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Executive Director Herschel Fink just returned from a DNC meeting in Long Beach, California, and announced that Arizona is one of the first seven states that will get new DNC funding, some of which will focus on the upcoming special election in CD 8 and some on growing the party's digital presence. He said that DNC truly wants to partner with the ADP and help us figure out what we need to do to win. He then recognized ADP staff members and discussed what each does. The first meeting of the Coordinated Campaign was held at the end of 2017 and the partners are in the process of hiring a director. A Regional Council has been added to the Coordinated Campaign to ensure that all parts of the state are represented. Executive Director Fink noted that, per requests from the survey of members, the Weekly Insider will now be sent out on Mondays and he urged everyone to read it. Information about cyber security that was discussed at the DNC meeting will be forwarded to as well.

#### **BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Bylaws Committee Chair Doug Ballard noted that four bylaw proposals had been submitted by the deadline and that votes will be taken on individual proposals. The proposal from Sarah Moorhead was withdrawn prior to the meeting.

Maricopa County Chair Steven Slugoeki, several chairs of LDs in Maricopa County, and others submitted an amendment to require one State Committee meeting per year to be held in Maricopa County. Janie Hydrick (LD 18) moved and Berdetta Hodge (LD 26) seconded to approve. If approved, it would go into effect immediately. Maricopa County Chair Slugoeki said that 64% of the vote in Arizona is in Maricopa County and that the county is centrally located, which is why the proposed amendment was submitted.

The proposal generated a great deal of discussion: many opposed because it was felt it did not support the 15-county strategy; many supportive of the concept but felt it should not be enshrined in the bylaws; and many who agreed with it because a central location could increase accessibility and attendance. The question was called, and the call was approved by voice vote. Senior Vice Chair Lyon called for a voice vote but could not determine the outcome by voice vote. The vote was then taken by division. With 338 voting, two-thirds or 226 were needed to pass. The vote was 185 yes and 153 no; the motion was defeated.

The Bylaws Committee presented an amendment to create an Ethics and Conflict of Interest policy. It was tabled and will remain on the table.

Michele Manos (LD 2) submitted a proposed amendment on ethics and conflict of interest that had similarities and differences to the proposed amendment from the Bylaws Committee. After discussion in the morning Bylaws Committee meeting, the committee and Manos decided to work together as a team via an ad hoc committee. Manos noted that she put forth the proposed amendment because ethics and conflict of interest are important to all of us and that there was no disagreement about accountability and accessibility. She felt that the morning meeting was highly productive, and she noted that we need to have legal counsel's help in getting the actual policy in place and making sure that what we do works and does not leave the party vulnerable. She asked that those interested in serving on the ad hoc committee to contact her within a week. She moved and Woody Thomas (LD 13) seconded to refer the matter to the ad hoc committee. The motion passed on voice vote.

#### **ELECTION OF STATE CHAIR**

Senior Vice Chair Lyon announced that the State Committee had elected **Felecia Rotellini** as ADP Chair, based on the following election results: Felecia Rotellini 359 votes; Scott Prior, 25 votes (6 ballots were left blank).

Chair Rotellini said she will recommend open houses around the state as she is big supporter of the rural counties and in engaging in red counties, noting that we need to recognize all people do in the red areas without getting help.

#### **OFFICER AND CAUCUS REPORTS**

Vice Chair Joseline Mata has traveled around the state talking about the work ADP is doing and is very excited about strategy. As the national president of the College Dems, she is now a DNC and Executive Committee member and she hopes to represent Arizona well.

Vice Chair Karyn Lathan also travels around the state, often with Vice Chair Jevin Hodge, talking about how the ADP can help. She also is the liaison with all the caucuses, helping provide strategic plans, and recently joined the Bylaws Committee.

Vice Chair Hodge brought three Young Democrats to the stage who have registered more than 600 people to vote. Last year he committed to reaching every corner of state and he has completed more than 90 of the 150+ invitations he has received to speak throughout Arizona and the nation.

Vice Chair Dante Mitchell talked about how important local elections are, noting that Democrats flipped two city council seats in Yuma despite having much less in campaign funding. He urged all Young Democrats to take their power.

Chair of the County Chairs Mary Darling said that the county chairs have monthly calls as well as meetings. Earlier in the say they talked about different plans for the coming year as well as discussed fundraising, education, structure, and messaging.

Quiana Dickerson, African-American Caucus, said that more than 19 African Americans are running through Arizona. The caucus will have training for candidates and staff February 24 and will hold fundraisers with a goal of \$10,000 to support candidates.

Randall Holmes, Election Integrity Committee, said that we need to get voters to verify registration and urged State Committee members to join the committee's Facebook group.

Carol Comito, Arizona Federation of Democratic Women and chair of the caucuses, noted that Women in Blue will be held March 8 and the National Federation Convention will run June 14 through 17 in Tempe, the first time in 14 years that it has convened in the west.

Sue Breen, Rural Caucus, gave a shout out to Pinal County, and reminded State Committee members that many incumbents are vulnerable and need support. There are events being planned in rural areas.

Sierra Yamanka, Young Democrats, thanked everyone for buying lunch as it raised more than \$1,000. She said that Yds are working to get candidates elected.

Scott Prior, Secular Caucus, said there was a good turnout for the caucus's second-ever meeting, held that morning. The caucus voted to support and endorse Sen. Bowie's anti-conversion therapy bill. February 12 will be secular day at the capital.

Kyle Blackhorse, Native American Caucus, was honored to have Representatives Tom O'Halleran and Raul Grijalva at their meeting, which got caucus members energized. The caucus talked about rural areas and state issues.

Ray Bradford, LGBT, said there was quite a bit to celebrate for 2017, as the caucus had its largest contingency at the Phoenix Pride (>150); members also represented at Tucson, Flagstaff, and Bisbee Pride parades. There are more than 1,000 emails on their list, and the caucus Facebook page has more than 1,200 followers. The goal is to increase membership and visibility throughout state.

Ted Prezelski, Labor, has been fielding candidate calls and talking labor issues with candidates. There are labor and safety issues that need to be discussed. He gave a shout out to new AFL-CIO Executive Director Fred Yamashita.

Jeff Tucker, Environmental Caucus, asked people to sign up as members to form this caucus as our environment is under attack, especially considered current EPA staffing.

Affirmative Action Moderator Damian Preciado talked about the demographic survey he was conducting to get data from individual counties. He also wanted everyone to focus on PC elections to ensure we have the highest number we can.

Rob Kull, Veterans' Caucus, noted that the caucus was able to send someone to Emerge training thanks to coffee and donut sales.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

An ad hoc committee on cultural competency was created at the September 23 State Committee Meeting. Chair Rotellini asked for a report. The ad hoc committee was formed by the deadline; the goal is to ensure that all are represented, and the Democratic party is one of inclusivity.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was a shout out and thanks given to the people responsible for the Spanish web site at [azdem.org](http://azdem.org).

**ADJOURNMENT**

Thereafter, a motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Jevin Hodge (LD 26) and seconded by Janie Hydrick (LD 18). The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Greenberg  
ADP Secretary, 2017-2018  
March 7, 2018