**SUN CITY SHADOW HILLS DEMOCRATS MEETING FEB 17, 2022**

Meeting was held outside at the Montecito Clubhouse Patio.

**Presentation**

Guest speaker, Judge Burke Strunsky, was introduced by his assistant, Francisco Ramos. The judge is running for Riverside County DA against incumbent Mike Hestrin. He is the only Democrat in the race. Strunsky noted that since Biden was elected, there are 100,000 more Democrats in Riverside County.

Differences between Hestrin and Strunsky were emphasized. Hestrin considers himself a real “law and order” DA and has sent more people to death row than anyone else in the country, yet the last execution of a person convicted in Riverside County was in 1961. Strunsky noted that money saved by not sending offenders to death row could be used to purchase rape kits, diversion programs, etc. The DA’s office budget has increased by fifty million dollars since Hestrin took office. He is doing less with more money and crime is way up. While homicides are up in our county, they are down in other places.

Strunsky noted that the DA has oversight over the sheriff. While Hestrin and Bianco are both funded by the police unions, Strunsky is refusing to accept campaign contributions from them. Since Bianco is running unopposed, one way to possibly reign in his power would be electing a Democratic DA.

**Call to Order -** Meeting called to order at 6:45.

**Treasurer’s Report – Judy Wilson**

We are now up to approximately 60 members.

Judy gave us a rundown on budget, expenses, and holdings. We have $705 from 2021 plus $560 in membership renewals. Expenses may include:

* Charter fee RCDP - $50/year
* Democratic Headquarters of the Desert - $240/year
* Riverside Democratic Party - $40
* Cambria Room rental $40 per meeting. Proposal to change location to eliminate fee.
* Proposal to cancel Zoom to eliminate monthly fee.
* Web services - $180.85/year
* Posters - $60/year ($5 plain, $10 glossy. Glossy posters preferred.)
* Flyers $32/year
* Educational symposiums- 3 events at $100 each, totaling $300

**President’s Report – Peggy Mathieson**

Our charter should be approved in March by the Riverside County Democratic Party.

The Code of Conduct of the Riverside County Democratic Party was discussed. Many provisions are already included in our club’s bylaws. The Code will be posted on our website.

**Report On Indio City Council Actions – Howard Daniels**

The City of Indio is wrestling with short term rentals. They are permitted only in your primary residence and require a permit.

**Report on Political Action Committee**

Our Dems Committee for our Assembly District area (AD 56 prior to redistricting, now AD 36) will be getting a new secretary.

At the RDCP general meeting in February, two of the candidates running for California Controller’s office spoke. It was discussed whether the club would like to have one or more of the candidates as speakers.

**Postcards -** Volunteers still needed. Contact Carol Nelson if you are interested. It was discussed whether the club should contribute to the post carding effort as each packet costs the organizer $25. Our objective for 2022 is getting a majority in the Senate, defeating Ken Calvert (CA 42) (this Congressional district now includes the western area of Coachella Valley), and getting out the Democrats vote in swing states.

**Publicity & Public Relations Committee**

As previously discussed, there are two different Facebook pages for Dems of SCSH. One belongs to our club and the other to Democrats living in the community who have no affiliation with our club. We can’t log into either one. We need a functioning Facebook page. Anyone who knows how to get into a Facebook account when the password and username have been lost, please contact Peggy. As an alternative, we may be creating a new Facebook account for the club.

**Business**

A motion was made to approve **the minutes of the January** meeting by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The minutes were approved.

A motion was made to approve **the budget of $1573** by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and was seconded by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The budget was approved by the membership.

The **pre-endorsement conference** directions were confusing. Examples included being told all ballots would be mailed and then being told no ballots were mailed unless a request was made. In addition, delegates were required to have a voter ID number to vote, but none of our delegates received one.

As most of our candidates were incumbents, who are automatically endorsed, we hope to learn from this experience and be better prepared for handling the next endorsement conference.

We still need **speakers,** if anyone has ideas or contacts. People running for office want endorsements. While we are unable to contribute donations to candidates as a club, we each can provide our own donations.

Meeting was adjourned at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pm.

Next meeting is Thursday, March 17th. Social time starts at 6:00 pm; meeting starts at 6:30.