

**Democrats of Rim Country
Minutes for January 8, 2019**

President Diane Green called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

Pat Edelen-Smith, coordinator for the Payson Women's March, reported the March will be held on January 19th in conjunction with the Nationwide Women's March in Washington, DC and throughout the Country. This event will be held at the Big Lots parking lot at 10 a.m. The event will include a 1.5 mile march, as well as, local speakers and informational booths supporting the mission of the Women's March.

Minutes for the October 8, 2018 presented by Secretary, Suzanne Covert, and approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report presented by George Schriener. George reviewed the monthly reports for November and December 2018, as well as a year end financial report for the Club. The Treasurer's reports were approved as presented.

Report of Nominating Committee presented by Chairman George Schriener as follows:

**President - Doug Stewart
First VP – Pat Edelen-Smith
Second VP – Teresa McCarville
Secretary – Suzanne Covert
Treasurer – Denise Van Keuren**

There were no nominations from the floor. The election of new officers was approved by accumulation.

Doug Stewart assumed the President position and presented some of his ideas for the direction the Club should take leading up to the 2020 election. Doug stated the Club needs to change the culture of Payson through getting young people involved at the high school, working with Representatives, and getting independents involved to change their voting status to Democrat.

It was suggested that a Committee be organized to brainstorm ways to get high school students involved in the political process. The following women agreed to serve on the Committee: Becky Orahoad, Felicia French, Marianne Connors, Frank Whiteside, Penny Navis-Schmidt, Patty Ryan, Chris Senko, Bettie Julkes, Lynette Brouwer, Donna Taylor, Marian Illingworth, Denise Blanchette, Teresa McCarville.

It was reported the Town Council will be presenting a Proclamation declaring January 19, 2019 as Women's March Day in Payson. The proclamation was presented to Pat Edelen-Smith, Women's March Coordinator.

Resolution was made for new officers, Doug Stewart, Denise Van Keuren and Pat Edelen-Smith as signators on the Club checking account at Compass Bank. Approved

Lynette Brouwer, new Gila County Chair for the Democrats of Gila County, introduced the new County officers: Lenny Leverance, 1st Vice President, Frank Whiteside, 2nd Vice President, Marie Fasano, Secretary, Bettie Julkes, Treasurer. Lynette reported the need for Precinct Committee Chairpersons and will be working to recruit people for these positions. Precinct Committee Chairpersons are vital for turning the State and County blue in 2020.

Felicia French reported an ERA Rally will be held at the State Capital in Phoenix on Friday, January 18, 10 to 11 a.m. Speakers will be urging State Legislators to vote for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, only one more State is needed to make this part of the U.S. Constitution.

Doug Stewart reported on a special project he is organizing with the Mayor of Payson to help the homeless in the Payson area. Doug will be using military size tents from the Payson P.D. to house the homeless from Jan. 21 through Feb. 28, at the Community Garden grounds on Tyler Parkway. The facility will be open from 6:30 p.m. to 7 a.m. for the 4 and ½ week period. The people will be provided (1) meal in the evening. Doug will be soliciting volunteer groups to provide food. Services organizations from around the State are interested in seeing how the project works.

The goal of the project is to feed the homeless, collect data and access needs. He anticipates coverage from USA Today, Arizona Republic newspaper, radio and TV Stations. This project has the potential to become a larger venue.

Motion made by Marie Fasano, seconded by Penny Navis-Schmidt for the Democrats of Rim Country to take a night to feed the homeless at the Community Gardens.

Motion carried. Doug will send out e-mails for the date.

With the retirement of Pete Aleshire as editor of the Payson Round Up, it was suggested DRC members write letters to the editor thanking Pete for his outstanding work at the newspaper.

It was also suggested that the new Round Up editor be invited to the February DRC meeting.

Donations for a 50/50 raffle raised \$47, Carol Waymire was the winner for \$23.50

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Covert,
Secretary**