

**Democrats of Rim Country
Minutes for
February 11, 2020**

Meeting called to order at 12:05 p.m. by President Diane Green.

Speaker: Mikel Weisser, State Director, Arizona NORML. Mikel explained that the Arizona chapter of NORML was established in 1990 reform marijuana laws. A bill has been on the State ballot for the previous election cycles and is currently circulating petitions to get the bill on the 2020 ballot. He also outlined all the medical benefits for the use of cannabis and the reasons for the 2020 initiative. It would legalize the safe possession and consumption of one ounce of marijuana for adults at least 21 years old. It would generate \$300 million in new revenue annually to fund community colleges, public safety, public health programs and infrastructure. It would protect children by requiring all packaging be childproof and labeled, ban advertising to children and ban the sale of gummy bears and other products that resemble kids' candy. Also, dedicates more than \$30 million annually for addiction prevention, substance treatment, teen suicide prevention, mental health programs and justice reinvestment projects. Lastly would create thousands of good-paying jobs across Arizona.

Petition deadline is June 2, 2020.

Speaker: Danielle Austin, working for the Mike Bloomberg campaign and opening a campaign office in Flagstaff. Per Danielle, Mike will have 50 organizations in AZ. He is behind the Democrat Party in Arizona and will work to shut down coal power plants, promote climate change initiatives. Mike supports Dreamers and will develop pathways to citizenship. He is opposed to the strangle hold of the NRA and will promote gun safety. His tax policy is to have a better distribution of wealth "All in Economy". Mike will expand ObamaCare. He will be on the March 17th Presidential Preference Ballot.

Minutes of the January 14 minutes were reviewed. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report by Denise VanKueren: In January there was an increase in DRC memberships. Pledges are still needed for operating the headquarters. The Gila County Democratic is paying the March rent for the headquarters. Balance in the account as of January 31 was \$6116.67. Treasurer's report approved.

President Green announced March 3rd at 11 a.m. will be clean-up and move-in for the Headquarters. Sign-up to staff the headquarters which will begin March 6. Still need a Manager for the headquarters.

Pat Edelen-Smith reported a training for Request to Speak will be held on Friday, February 14th at 3 p.m. in the Forest Service headquarters on Hwy. 260.

**Lynnette Brouwer, Gila County Democratic Party chairperson reported on the following:
Petitions for Deborah Savage for County Treasurer are available. Post cards were mailed to get out the vote and register voters. Canvassing will be done for petition signatures.
The next County Democratic meeting will be held Saturday, March 7, 9:30 a.m. in Tonto Basin. Guest speakers will be Felicia French and Coral Evans.**

Bettie Julkes announced a free movie in commeration of Black History Month will be shown On February 10th in the community room at Messenger Funeral Home.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted by
Suzanne Covert
Recording Secretary**