

Sun Lakes Republican Club Minutes

When : Tuesday March 12, 2019 6:30-8:30PM

Where: Sun Lakes Country Club in the AZ Room

Who: approximately 200 people

AGENDA

1. Chairman Mike Tennant introduced the veterans in attendance and gave the Invocation.

2. AZ State Senator JD Mesnard gave the update for the State Legislature. They have passed a drought contingency plan. It now has to be approved by the Federal government. JD tried to get a bill passed to conform the State tax code with the Federal tax code but Gov. Ducey didn't sign it.

Therefore if you get your taxes done the CPA will be using last years code. If the code changes between now and when the final AZ code is adopted you may have to file an amended return. That us why he has gotten a bill passed that extends the tax return deadline to June instead of April.

The best way to get Gov. Ducey to change his mind is to email, write or call him at his office. What he would like you to ask him to do is to conform the tax code to the federal code and give the AZ residents a tax break rather than putting excess monies into the rainy day fund.

Governor Doug Ducey

Website: <https://azgovernor.gov>

Email: engage@az.gov <https://azgovernor.gov/engage/form/contact-governor-ducey>

Phone: 602-542-4331

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Office of Governor
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

3. Russel Pearce was the next guest speaker. He introduced a voter initiative that would get rid of the property tax as we know it. He said that for people to be paying a yearly rent for the land their homes are built on is not what the Founders envisioned. The original wording of the Constitution was "Life, Liberty & Property". It was later changed to "Life, liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.". People whose homes are paid off still owe money to the state and could conceivably be taxed out of their homes. He calls the initiative "The Dream Act" . He brought petitions for people to sign. The initiative requires 350,000 signatures to be put on the ballot.

4. The next speaker was Art Del Cueto. Art has worked for the National Border Patrol Council for the last ten years. In 2012 Art was elected President of NBPC Local 2544 by the membership. Local 2544 is the largest local in National Border Patrol Council with over 4,500 members. Art has held several different positions with the Tucson sector local including Executive Vice President and First Vice President. Art is one of the most knowledgeable people on the Arizona border

politics, history and the cultural connections shared between sister cities separated by a border.

Art is originally from Mexico, deriving his U.S. citizenship from his father, and grew up in Douglas, AZ, a city along the US/Mexico border. Art learned early of the challenges border communities face. He has also seen firsthand the growing dangers of international drug cartels.

Prior to joining the Border Patrol, Art worked for a maximum-security state prison in Tucson. Art is active within his community and has volunteered his time assisting many different Tucson charities. Music has always been a large part of Art's life. Throughout his high school and college years he played in a heavy metal band. His love for live music keeps him engaged with communities throughout the West.

He said "I lock my door at night because I love the people inside, not because I hate the people outside." "Illegal is not a race. Border Security has nothing to do with race, or political party." Art has been with the U.S. Border Patrol since 2003, patrolling our Southern Border for the past 16 years. He responds to over 90% of all significant incidents within the Tucson Sector including shootings, accidents, and agent assaults. As an Agent who is fluent in Spanish, he routinely leads the questioning of apprehended subjects.

Del Cueto's first duty station was Casa Grande, where he helped in the effort to establish a new substation at Three Points, AZ. Throughout most of his career, he patrolled on the Tohono O'odham reservation, assisting on numerous drug and smuggling cases.

Approximately 40% of ALL drugs are seized on our AZ southern border. The News medias report a smaller amount because they are only quoting what is apprehended at the "ports of entry", they aren't counting what is captured between ports of entry.

He thinks one solution for cleaning up and securing the border would be to replace former Obama appointments in key positions with new pro secure borders appointments. This is something President Trump needs to do. "Catch & release" still is going on at our border because of the massive numbers of people crossing the border illegally. There is not enough room to hold them. So they are processed and released. The process procedure only can trace what laws the prospective immigrant may have broken while in the US. Because they haven't been in the US, that search usually comes up empty. The border patrol doesn't have the people or time or access to be able to see if they are criminals fleeing other countries. The federal government has cut salaries for border patrol agents. So these agents are moving into other jobs including I.C.E. The border patrol has been losing 300 agents a year because of this.

He invited Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi to see the border but they declined. He invited 435 US Congressmen to do the same. Only 8 ever showed up.

Last year the border Patrol intercepted enough fentanyl to kill the whole US population twice. Fentanyl is 100 times more potent than morphine. None of this is getting accurately published in the news medias.

Some laws need to be amended so that children and parents will not be separated and there is enough time to vet the parents. Many children are arriving with adults who are not event related to them. You can read about the Flores Settlement which is how all of this started, here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reno_v._Flores

Another interesting source he gave us is the CBP (Customs and Border Patrol) site. To show how this is a real crisis, here is one page covering just ONE typical day : <https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/assets/documents/2019-Mar/CBP-Snapshot-03072019.pdf>

5. Darrell Covert is a Precinct Committeeman for our Legislative District 17 and one of the 3 members at large for CD 5. Kelli Ward has appointed him as a member of the subcommittee for candidate recruitment and vetting. spoke briefly about how people can get involved in politics to make a change. He stayed after the meeting for people to talk to him if they are interested in getting involved. Here is his contact info in case you would like to contact him: 480-250-0123 or darrell.j.covert@gmail.com. He plans to be at all of our monthly meetings.

6. The 50/50 raffle winner was Chris Greenwood and he donated most of his winnings back to the club—thank you Chris!

7. A guest requested the SLRC Secretary to send out the "Contact Info for Elected Officials" email. This will be sent out again this month .

8. The speakers next month (April 2019) will be : Southwest Projects Coordinator for Judicial Watch, Mark Spencer and Chairman of the Republican Party of Arizona, Rae Lynn Chornenk. We will meet at 6:30 PM on Tuesday April 9th in the AZ room of Sun Lakes Country Club.