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President's Corner

While reading the poetry and songs of the Canadian, Leonard Cohen, best known for his song "Hallelujah", I came across his work called "Democracy" that he wrote in 1992 around the time of the fall of the Berlin Wall. A selection from Cohen's 80 stanzas poem reads:

It's coming to America first,
the cradle of the best and of the worst.
It's here they got the range
and the machinery for change
and it's here they got the spiritual thirst.

It's here the family's broken
and it's here the lonely say
that the heart has got to open
in a fundamental way:
Democracy is coming to the U.S.A.

Cohen, Leonard. The Lyrics of Leonard Cohen: Enhanced Edition (pp. 74-75).

The commentary on Cohen's work says in part: "As a foreign national who has long lived and worked in the USA, Cohen reflects in this song the ambiguities of the "candid friend" – admiring and critical, hopeful and disillusioned".

We think of ourselves as a Democracy. We speak of saving our Democracy. We pride ourselves as the longest existing Democracy. Cohen's words remind us that we are still a work in progress, we have come a long way, inspired other nations to become democracies. We speak of Democracy in contrast to the autocracies, and dictatorships. We speak of Independence of individuals, of cities, of states, and of nations. But we need to remind ourselves that we are not alone in this world, we are not Independent at all, either as a nation or as individuals. We have declared ourselves independent; however, in reality, we are Interdependent on each other and on all nations. We need a new Declaration – one of Interdependence because as Cohen reminds us, we are a work in progress.

- Written over 30 years ago, the author recounts his admiration and his criticism of our nation, and our challenges and our hopes that apply, so it seems, even more today.

Brief Summary of Retreat

In that light, we held what I hope will be the first annual SCDC mini retreat at our regular meeting on April 6, 2022. Each group considered a list of issues facing democracy today and identified the most critical. Then each group identified two action items we can do as a club and as individuals to continue along that progress. Here is a brief description of the outcome of that effort. A more complete report of the day will be forthcoming and published on the website. Five groups were formed and selected the following issues on which SCDC should focus:

- Voting rights/Election rights,
- Healthcare/Universal,
- Guns,
- Education of Self and the Public,
- Climate with Emphasis on Water.

Members of the groups volunteered to work on these issues. Prominent individuals will be invited to address these issues and activities will be planned to take action. Watch the website for more information as it evolves and the Newsletter to keep you up to date.

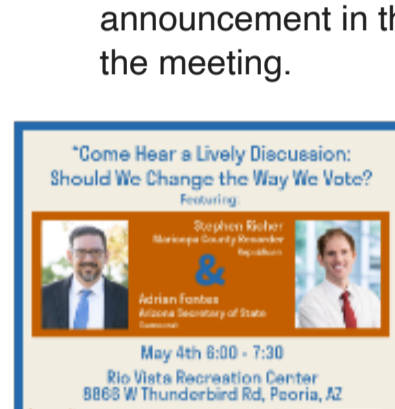
Upcoming Meetings

Over the next few months, our programs will be as follows:
NOTE: We will NOT be meeting at Fairway in May and June. We will be having joint meetings with the Legislative Districts at other locations – watch for more information.

- **April 27, 2023**, Special meeting we are cosponsoring with other groups regarding potential candidates for Congress. Rio Vista Recreation Center, 8866 W. Thunderbird Rd., Peoria, AZ 85381 6:00 - 7:30 pm. You must [register](#) to attend via zoom or the meeting.



- **May 4, 2023**, our regular meeting day, we will be having a joint meeting with LD28. Secretary of State, Adrian Fontes will be presenting information about Voting. Rio Vista Recreation Center, 8866 W. Thunderbird Rd., Peoria, AZ 85381 6:00 - 7:30 pm. See the announcement in this Newsletter. You must [register](#) to attend via zoom or the meeting.



- **June 1, 2023**, our regular meeting day, we will again be joining LD28 with Ruben Gallego being the guest speaker.



- **July 6, 2023**, we will be back home at Fairway and welcoming Ne'Lexia Galloway, the executive director of the Maricopa County Democratic Party.

Joe Piccari, President, SCDC

president@suncitydems.com

Please Join Us For the SCDC Potluck

SCDC Potluck April 23, 2023 Oakmont Recreation Center, 10725 W. Oakmont, Sun City, AZ 12:30 - 3:30.

Members may call or text Susan Brezezinski at 612-720-3783 to sign up and indicate what they will bring.

Need Volunteers in Critical Areas

We have several needs to be fulfilled as we look forward into 2023.

- A permanent vice-president, who will transition into the president position for 2024.
- Technology assistance to provide support for Rich. This work can be divided into several categories including: monitoring the Zoom account for meetings, providing backup for Rich monitoring the website.
- Program chair who will work with the president to plan the program for our general monthly meetings.

Contact either Cathi Reedich or Barb Putzel at Monday coffee at Starbucks or at the meeting.
You can also email info@suncitydems.com.

Monday Morning Weekly Social Time

Come join us at 9:00 am in Starbucks at Del Webb Blvd & Bell Rd every Monday morning to meet interesting people and enjoy lively discussions

Happy Hour Every Third Tuesday

We meet From 4:00 - 6:00 pm at The Copper Penny Saloon 10765 W Peoria Ave, Sun City, AZ 85351 for more lively conversations

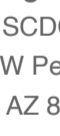
VALLEY VIEW FOOD BANK

We will continue collecting donations for the food bank at our monthly meetings. Now, more than ever, the food bank needs our help. They are in great need of monetary donations at this time and non-perishable food items.

Debi Casados is the board member who is the liaison with the Food Bank and All monetary donations are to be made out to Valley View Food Bank and sent to Debi at 15460 N Ridgeview Rd., Sun City 85351. She will be assisted by Ashley Hibbard and Marvin McCullum, who will collect the food you all donate at the meetings and deliver them to the Food Bank.

Food distribution weekdays 9am-1pm Mon. through Sat. if you need help subsidizing your food supply. <https://feedingaz.org/>

Bring your RCSC Card to our meetings for scanning



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