



Coconino County Republican Committee (CCRC)  
General Meeting  
10-12pm, March 9th, 2024  
Montoya Adult Center Thorpe Park Flagstaff, AZ

1. **Call to Order** @ 10:01 a.m. There were 29 in Attendance.
2. **Invocation:** Doreen Holtje
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Merle Henderson
4. **Reading and Approval of the Prior Meeting's Minutes:** Skipped (secretary not there today so Kris Culbertson offered to take minutes). There was a question from the floor regarding why the previous meeting's minutes were not brought to the floor for approval per Robert's Rules. Meeting minutes were not available because the secretary was not in attendance today.
5. **Welcome and Introductions:** Bill Culbertson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Executive Board was introduced.
6. **Credentials Committee Report and Declaration of Quorum:** A quorum was declared by First Vice Chair, Doreen Holtje. Bill Culbertson read off names for state delegates to confirm if they were state only or state and national delegates. Coconino county is allowed to have 26 delegates for the upcoming state convention and 26 alternates. No proxies are allowed. Delegates do not have to be precinct committeeman to be eligible. There is a meeting April 6<sup>th</sup> to vote for state delegates. A quorum must be present and zoom attendance is allowed.
7. **Rules Committee Report:** Skipped, nothing to report.
8. **Reports of Officers or Standing Committees:**
  - a) Alisa Badenhorst: Treasury report (Skipped)
  - b) PCs: Joe Donaldson reported that a committee is being formed for precinct committeeman. He stressed that each precinct should try to establish a chairperson. Page and the Navajo and Hopi Nations need PC representation. He wants to see PCs out

there to inform voters. Get out the vote! Email is the best way to reach him if you have any questions about being a PC. His email is: [dominuspars@gmail.com](mailto:dominuspars@gmail.com)

- 9. Unfinished Business:** Joan Harris is still working on a new contact list for CCR members (emails). She needs members to send her their email addresses.

**10. New Business**

- Bill Culbertson shared the following:
  - a) **Call to Action**-April 6<sup>th</sup>, Special Meeting to elect delegates to attend the state convention on April 27<sup>th</sup>. A quorum of elected and appointed PCs must be met to vote.
  - b) **Call to Action:** We're still looking for more republican Poll Workers and Observers. See the link on the CCR website about how to get signed up.
  - c) Bill mentioned "Equal-AZ SOS" which is an online opportunity to sign candidates' petitions. Here is the link if you're interested: <https://apps.azsos.gov/equal/>
  
- Doreen Holtje, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, shared the following:
  - a) More PCs are needed. The more PCs we have the more votes we have at the state meetings.
  
- Merle Henderson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, shared the following:
  - a) He is working on perfecting the PC program with Joe Donaldson. The state GOP's mission is to get out the vote.
  
- Joan Harris, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair, shared the following:
  - a) Be prepared for a busy election year!

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

Before guest speakers started, the following person and candidates briefly introduced themselves:

**Richard Stopiello:** He is a state election integrity representative working with counties to promote poll workers/observers and voter satisfaction. He had a sign-up sheet for emails for those who want to be in the loop. Coconino county is a priority for the state.

**Bob Thorpe:** Running for Coconino County Recorder's office. He needs 300 more signatures to be on the ballot. Independent parties can sign. Mail signed petitions to the address on his petition.

**Larry Schug:** District 1, Board of Supervisors. He needs signatures to be placed on the ballot.

**John Fillmore:** LD 7, State Representative

1. Eslir Musta, *Elections Director for Coconino County*. Whitney Juszcak, *Assistant Elections Director for Coconino County*.
2. Focus today was deadlines, filing information, PC forms.
3. Whitney brought several folders of PC packets.
4. Changes: Primary election has been moved from August 6<sup>th</sup> to July 30<sup>th</sup>. Eslir met with Senator Wendy Rogers and Gina Svoboda about bill passed to run elections more fairly, HB2785. He said we may want to thank them for passing that bill.
5. Dates on Petitions: Either date, July 30<sup>th</sup> or August 6<sup>th</sup> will be accepted. Emails were sent to candidates to notify them of this.
6. PPE-Early voting counting starts Monday, 3/11/24.
7. Whitney explained rules for voting PPE. PPE is held every 4 years. ONLY Republican and Democrat candidates are on the PPE ballot. If Independent wants to vote in PPE he/she must ask for a "Republican" ballot or "Democrat" ballot.
8. General election-can vote via ballot or polling place. There are only 2 ballot types: Republican or Democrat. Check if your ballot was counted at [My.Arizona.Vote](https://www.My.Arizona.Vote) where ballots are tracked.
9. If you vote via the "Express" voting machine, you can vote at any polling place. If you are voting with a ballot, you must vote in your precinct.
10. Election Board Workers, Special Boards, Duplication and Drag, Receiving Board are among positions they need filled by Republicans. Trainings are needed. Contact the elections office for training dates.
11. The hand audit is conducted the date after the election. This is machine numbers matching hand count audit...checks and balances process to increase confidence in our elections and rights and fairness in elections and voting.
12. For PC petitions- they are not looking for accuracy of wording in boxes to fill out. They are looking for completeness, must put correct information, e.g. your precinct #, your county, etc.

**QUESTION FROM THE FLOOR:** Are the counting machines connected to the internet?  
**ANSWER:** No.

**QUESTION FROM THE FLOOR:** Are the polling pads connected to the internet?

**ANSWER: The Coconino process is checked by Republican and Democrats.**

**QUESTION FROM THE FLOOR: Are early votes counted before the election?**

**ANSWER: Yes, per legislation bipartisan law was passed which provided stronger language about early voting. Election board will share this information on their website or with us (?).**

**ISSUE WITH EARLY VOTING FROM THE FLOOR: A member and her husband went in person to vote early for the March 19th PPE. The member was given an envelope with an address sticker to place on the envelope as well as her signature required. This showed she had voted. Her husband was given the ballot to vote early but was not given an envelope and address sticker. The had to return to the office to **request** an envelope and address sticker. If they had not caught this, his ballot would not be able to be recorded as having voted.**

**RICH KING, LD 6, STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

**Acknowledged Coconino Elections (Eslir and Whitney) coming to talk with us today. He said he is not seeing this election transparency in other counties, e.g. Apache county.**

**He has all the signatures needed (double actually) for his petition to be on the ballot.**

**He is seeing many Democrats that share republican values. Politicians are creating the divide.**

**Talked about illegal immigration issues and [Hobbs' efforts](#) to move illegals to the dome in Eager (1,700 illegal immigrants).**

**Rich is for representing ALL the people. As a write-in in last election, he received over 4K votes. 300+ votes were from the Navajo and Hopi Nations.**

**He gave a shout out to Jean Ferguson and Doreen Holtje for helping him gain votes.**

**LD 6 Senator (D) and Representative (D) voted against SB 1608. Human smuggling.**

**Talked about illegal immigrants flying unvetted, no ID, on airlines.**

## **11. Announcements:**

**Doreen Holtje:**

1. Charlie Kirk's *Letter to the American Church* documentary being shown at the Mary D. Fischer Church March 26-28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Contact Andrea Kadar for more information.
2. June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Flagstaff Republican Women (FRW) is hosting their annual fundraising picnic at Peaks View Park.
3. FRW's speaker series: 3/21 will be Kari Lake, 4/18 the speaker is Free Enterprise Club to talk about Rank Choice Voting, 5/16 Log Cabin Republicans from "It Goes Too Far" will talk about abortion laws.
4. Young Republicans are having their first meeting 3/23/24 from 2-3 p.m. at the Rodeo Steakhouse in Williams. All are welcome! Young Republicans ages from 18-40, but all are welcome.

**12. Motion to Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.