

Sun Lakes Republican Club Open Meeting

When : March 9, 2021 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Where: Tri City Baptist Church Heritage Chapel, Chandler AZ

Who: Approximately 75 in attendance

AGENDA:

1. Chairman Michael Tennant welcomed everyone and led the attendees in the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Carolyn McCorkle introduced State Senator JD Mesnard .
3. JD began his talk with an update on **“Election Integrity”**. He gave us a short story of events that led up to the BOS (Board of Supervisors) turning over the ballots in response to a subpoena from the court. The court decided that the AZ State Legislature does in fact have the right to subpoena and to do their own forensic investigations of the ballots. Therefore, the Legislature is hiring an auditor to investigate the 2.1 million ballots. The process may take 4-6 weeks to complete. The AZ Attorney General is investigating the shredded ballots that were in the news this week. In JD’s opinion, all we can reasonably do at this point is to make sure elections are done legally next time (ie, 2022). Bills are being heard and passed to assure this. One has to do with the PEVL (Permanent EarlyVoting List). The desire is to add safeguards to these “mail-in” ballots that will be as strong as the safe guards a voter has to produce at the polls before voting. There needs to be assurance that if a voter does not vote in 4 consecutive elections his/her name will be removed off the list. Mass mailings need to be prohibited. Audits need to be made easier to get. All of this he says will help protect our vote against voter fraud. There was a Q&A time after his talk.
4. An announcement was made about the upcoming rally of Mike Lindell (“the My Pillow guy”) which is scheduled for

Thursday March 11. SLRC sent out an email earlier last week announcing the meeting which is being held in the Botanical Garden in Queen Creek (gates open at 5 and rally starts at 6).

5. Carolyn introduced the next speaker Attorney and Certified Financial Planner, Keith DeGreen. He has a personal finance radio show every Saturday from 11AM-1PM on AM radio KFYI 550. Mr. DeGreen, who has lived in Arizona for more than 43 years, is founder and CEO of DeGreen Capital Management—Arizona’s premier fee-only investment advisory firm in Scottsdale. He is a marine who received a Purple Heart for his service and he is married and has 5 children and 7 grand children. His talk was on “**Socialism in American Markets**”. With the “socialist leaning” new Biden-Harris administration there is much concern among the population, particularly those who have invested in the market, as to what affect their new policies will have on Wall Street and their investments.

He explained that due to the National debt (over 28 trillion) , the government is printing money and buying treasury bonds to keep interest rates low. Is this new? No. Other countries around the world have been doing this as well. The process has been done in the past as well. So far there are no signs of hyper inflation”—that is the good news.

6. “Socialism” can be described as when the **state controls** the means of production. “Communism” can be described as when the **government owns** the means of production. What is happening in America, he says, is what he termed “**Socialism on Wallstreet**” and “**Capitalism on Mainstreet**”. Basically the fact that Wallstreet is being kept afloat by the government assuming the debt and Mainstreet is being kept afloat by individual citizens assuming the debt. This, of course, seems unfair risk to put on individuals who have ventured all they have on their small and medium sized businesses.

What is to be done? The government needs to see that more

financial help goes out to small businesses who have been under unprecedented stress during the Covid “shutdowns”. The small and medium sized businesses are the ones who employ 99% of the workforce. Only 9% of the 2 Trillion Covid Relief Legislation passed this week by Congress went to Covid related issues. The rest went to pet projects of the donors to the democrat party and the rest went overseas. One way the government can help small and medium sized businesses is to reduce or remove regulations impeding their growth. The biggest threat to the economy are the “**administrative laws**” written by the Deep State” (ie, unelected people in “the swamp”) that circumvent Congress. Another way Congress is circumvented is by the President’s executive orders. This process of circumventing Congress is used by politicians in DC **seeking power**. The lobbyists who are **seeking advantage** for themselves keep small/medium sized businesses trapped in an overwhelming maze of needless regulations. Why? To benefit those in “Big Tech” and the like to whom they are beholding.

Mr DeGreen said in spite of all this, the market has been doing exceptionally well and the future still looks “bullish”. The biggest risk to the markets right now, in his opinion, is “fear”. Fear creates market volatility. The best weapon against fear is discipline.

In his opinion, the country needs to go back to the intentions of the Founding Fathers: that laws would **ONLY** come from Congress. The elite group of people allowed to make laws and regulations behind the scenes has created what could be called a “4th branch” of the Federal Government. The bureaucracy functioning in this “4th branch” is making laws which surpass state and local law.

So how do we fight back? According to him, there are 3 ways to turn this around: 1) Recognize the problem, 2.) Acknowledge that the Constitution should be held superior to any bureaucracy, and 3.) Educate the next generation to the

“truth”. And lest we forget, the biggest threat to America is not Covid but rather China and its influence within our own government and on our economy.

7. The 50/50 Raffle \$109 winner was Joe Bertuglia who became a member of SLRC this evening and donated the rest of his winnings back to the Club.
8. There will be a meeting of SLRC on April 13th (location to be announced later). The speaker will be Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richer. He will be discussing the 2020 election and Election Integrity.