



GENERAL MEETING Aug. 28 2013

The Red Rock Democratic Club had its yearly picnic on August 29 2013. The meeting room was transformed into a festive red-white and blue locale with long tables where people could eat, drink and chat before the program started at 7.00.

President Dan Kruger called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Sanje Sedera who is running for Assembly District 4 led the Pledge of Allegiance. Both the minutes from last meeting and the treasurer's report were approved. The president then introduced the speaker, Shelley Berkley.

She started by telling how heartbroken she was after the election where she lost by one point. There was just too much money and too much negativity from the Republican side. She thanked for representing us during her long run in politics and mused about her grandparents who came, one from Russia and the other from Greece, with no money and without being able to speak English. They came because they dreamed of a better life for their children. Could they have imagined that their granddaughter would be a US Congress woman?

Her theme for the talk was: "Why are we Democrats?"

Because we believe in maintaining the Social Security system that Franklin Roosevelt introduced. At that time - in the thirties - old age was almost synonymous with poverty and often with hunger. The Democrats are opposed to privatizing this Social Security system which includes Medicare. A lot of older people don't have children they can depend on to take care of them. Shelley Berkley did not come from a wealthy family; she worked her way through college. The only health care she had access to was Planned Parenthood which does a lot more than family planning. Today, Obamacare is not perfect but without it the whole health care system would be in danger of collapsing. 600,000 Nevadans are still without healthcare and when they get really sick they go to the emergency room - the most expensive form for health care there is. Everybody is entitled to share in the bounty of country; everybody deserves a fair shake.

Another big thing for Shelley Berkley is equal pay for equal work. Over 50 % of American households today are headed by women and when they do exactly the same work as men do, they deserve the same pay.

During the question and answer session someone asked what is going on with the Postal Service. Congress forced the Postal Service to fully fund their pension, that's why they are in trouble. Besides, a lot of rural districts have the Post Office as their link to the world.

On the question of the next nominee for president Shelley Berkley warmly endorsed Hillary and the meeting wholeheartedly agreed.

The Pot of Gold was won by Golda Franklin.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Lisa Kershaw

Recording Secretary 2013