

COMPUTER CLUB OF SUN CITY
BOARD MEETING: JANUARY 4th, 2024
MINUTES

<https://azccsc.com>

10600 W Peoria Avenue, Room 219 • Sun City AZ 85351
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PRESENT:

Officers: Alan Ruda, Gene Stashick, Joe Janos,

Committee Chairs: Lori Daly, Dick Dudden, Zenon Sokolowski, Charley Housler,
Mike Wendel

Member Guests: Denny Nichols

ABSENT: Nolli Hartwell

Meeting called to order at 9 a.m., with Alan's request for a motion to approve December 7th Minutes. **Lori moved the minutes be accepted and Dick seconded.** Passed.

PRESIDENT, Alan Ruda: Discussion of new positions effective this month, i.e., Michael Wendel as Education Chair and Dick Dudden as Membership Chair. Both accepted.

Additional Agenda Items: None for today.

Correspondence received: Routine

Mike's ability to open Club on Thursdays: Mike is able to open up on Thursdays. Alan advised Mike's FOB should be available now.

OFFICER REPORTS:

TREASURER, Joe Janos: Joe shared his December year-to-date financial statement, advising December was a good month. He reported we started collecting membership dues for 2024 and we took in \$2026.04 last month and spent only \$379.37; so we added \$1646 to our coffers. For the year, we took in \$10,659.00, which we ended up spending due to the purchase of the printer, which was \$4,700.00. So we ended up spending almost \$13,000.00. We depleted our cash by \$2318.72; but "as you can see at the bottom (of Joe's report), we still have \$7000 in the bank and \$20,000 in CD's, so we are solvent."

Joe advised we submitted our report to the Rec Center yesterday, so "we're on schedule."

VICE PRESIDENT, Gene Stashick: Gene shared his report, stating our Learning Sessions total for all of 2023 was 887 people. Our Advanced Investing Sessions brought in a total of 295 people for the year, with Beginning Investing totaling 118.

Alan advised that in the coming year, the Club will offer Learning Sessions on the 3-D Printer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP, Alan: Alan advised total current **membership** is 647.

PROPERTY, Charley Housler: Charley reported there is now a separate category for Software. Computers for sale are going for about \$125. Alan advised there's a new version of **VCarve** coming in, to be updated.

EDUCATION, Dick Dudden: Dick advised we had fifteen students in December for a total of 169 throughout the year. The largest was Computer 101, with a total of 79; and second largest was Excel 502, with a total of 58. The reason Explorer was down (total 32), was because Lula's here for only three months, i.e., Lula Guyton.

We'll have new classes starting this month, one of which will be Microsoft Word taught by Loring Bernhardt. Larry O'Dea will begin teaching Excel 1; and Dick stated he'll be teaching Computer 101 and filling in when they need help. Dick advised Larry just submitted a new outline he is working on, which we'll be able to give to the students. Loring has submitted his outline and he's ready to go. Sign-ups are going well.

In answer to a query from Alan, Mike indicated it's his intention to sit in on some of the classes as an observer and, to get to know instructors.

Alan commented he believes we're off to a good start this year.

MONITORS, Lori Daly: A Monitor Training Session is on the schedule for next Thursday, January 11th at 10 a.m. Lori has sent out about fifty emails and put signs up everywhere PLUS Zen sent the notice out on Group Works. Zen commented he'll send out an additional notice tomorrow; and Alan encouraged the sending out of reminders.

PUBLIC RELATIONS, Zenon Sokolowski: Zen requested "If you add classes and sessions to the Calendar, I need the emails almost a month in advance." He advised he needs to know well ahead of time and also needs to be advised immediately of any changes. He stated that for sessions coming up in January, he has them all done by the middle of December. He can schedule several notices to go out via emails from Group Works. They may be scheduled a week before the class or three days or even one day, "If you'll just tell me how many notices you want, I can schedule notices accordingly."

Lori asked how many people are picking up the notices. Later in the meeting, Zen advised forty per cent of emails are being opened; and when it comes to holidays,

sixty per cent of the emails are being opened. In answer to Dick's question regarding changes in scheduling, Zen advised he can send out corrections immediately.

Lori commented we should try not to schedule classes in the same week. For example, she has noticed there is Excel and something else scheduled on the same day. There was some discussion around this topic, with Dick mentioning the situation is dependent upon teachers' schedules; and Lori suggesting two classes on the same day (or even same week) can be a problem for people who wish to take both classes. Additionally, she suggested we begin scheduling more sessions on Friday afternoons, when Monitors are somewhat discouraged from "sitting here alone," with no activity occurring. When questioning students as to their preferences, Dick has generally been advised that Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays are the preferred days of the week for taking classes. Dick advised he has stopped scheduling classes on Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday, because Mondays were not of interest to people.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

DISCOVER SUN CITY – **January 17, 2024** – Sun Dial. 9 to 11 a.m. shift – Claudia and Dick; and 6 to 8 p.m. shift – Lori and Zen. There was discussion of providing candy, a tablecloth, pamphlets and some flyers for the event. All agreed with Alan's idea to take our pamphlets over to Moore Graphics and have them printed. Lori commented we need to do something with signs, commenting that compared to the way in which other tables are decorated, ours can be somewhat boring-looking with nothing on it but a computer. Michael suggested we might raffle off one of these used computers to attract attention; and Alan will check to see if that might be feasible. Discussion ensued, with varying opinions being expressed.

Unanimously agreed that new **lighting in Reception area** is making a positive difference, with more light coming in; and, as Dick commented, now that both doors are open all the time, it "looks like we're open;" and it was generally agreed the Club appears more welcoming. Alan advised we're adding electrical outlets and data drops in every room, so "all that's in the works."

RE-CONFIGURATION OF C ROOM: Alan advised this is basically on hold until all the electrical work has been taken care of.

VCARVE: VCarve is installed on seven computers, and now we have to "go through and do an update. . . . update the version and re-image it." That's in the works. Alan advised "Not only are they doing the VCarve class – they're going to do presentations in this room, too, so it's expanding."

WEBSITE CORRECTION: Choosing to address the matter of the website itself, Alan opted not to address this particular agenda item at this time, stating later in the meeting that "all concerns will be corrected when we get access to a new web host."

ADVERTISING IN SUN CITY INDEPENDENT: Alan asked if there are any ideas on what we might do regarding advertising in the Independent. It was mentioned that

the publication "Sun Views," has been re-named, "Sun City Update," with Mike advising an online version has just been sent out. He noted it contains a lot more information and is much bigger with an increase in total pages. Alan suggested we should advertise in it, with Mike adding we ought to find something of interest and get an article published with a picture. Lori will call Janece to see if she will remove flyers currently on display at Lakeview and other locations and replace them with updated versions.

Alan emphasized the importance of getting the word out that we're not "just" a PC club.

NEW CLUB WEBSITE - CREATION: Alan advised he met with the Web Team this past week (Tuesday, January 2nd). He advised Laura was out of town and that he met with Diane Prokop, Paul Willemsen and Pam Raisanen, the latter of whom he commented has a lot of insight and was very helpful. He informed us our host is BLUE HOST and that "Somehow we got locked out in October and they haven't been able to get back in to make any changes to the web page; and the only thing they've been able to do is update the Calendar because that's on a Gmail account."

It turns out they (Blue Host) moved us to something called **iPage**, their sister company. "They sent me to iPage and they're not doing anything by phone. It's all by chat. There's no phone number and no way to get hold of anyone; and they sent me back to Blue Host." Alan advised the committee (our Web Team) would like to set up a **GoDaddy** account and move to **GoDaddy**. They all seem to be familiar with it, having worked with it at other clubs. They came up with a name – **suncitycc.com** – if that's available. Charley pointed out that we own the domain name **azccsc.com**, therefore he asserted we do not have to change it. He stated, "We just contact the new web hosting company and they'll transfer this name over to their website."

There exists some feeling amongst board members that azccsc isn't all that descriptive of the Computer Club; and that another name more descriptive of the Club may be worthwhile to consider. Mike mentioned the suffix options of ".org," ".net," and ".computers," with Alan noting that while these were considered by the web team, they feel people are more familiar with ".com."

Alan advised **Go Daddy** would be \$9.99 a month. With a three-year term we'd pay \$359.64 today; and renewal (he believes after twelve months) would be \$503.64. He advised, "What you get with that is ten websites, twenty-five data bases, fifty gigs of storage, free domain valued at \$1199, three Microsoft 365 mail boxes for the first year – which we don't even want to mess with – because we've got 365; and free unlimited SSL for all websites." Having used Go Daddy with the metal club, Alan commented it's a little more expensive, but a lot easier to use. He advised he'll meet again this Saturday at noon with the web team.

There was a brief discussion of proposed names, with Lori mentioning she'd prefer a name with "computer club" in it. There was general agreement with that statement and Alan said he'll mention this preference at the meeting on Saturday. Mike commented it's possible to have both names, i.e., "Computer Club of Sun City," while

also continuing to use "azccsc." "One name is assigned as the "real thing," but the other re-directs you to whatever name you want it directed to," stating "It's not an either/or."

After some discussion, there was **general agreement with the proposed use of Go Daddy.**

CREATION OF NEW LOGO FOR CLUB: Status: Alan advised this will be discussed with the Web Team.

MAC GROUP, PC GROUP: Status. Alan advised Mini Macs' purchase is basically on hold until we can figure out what we'll do with the Mac computers we already have.

IPAD, IPHONE: Alan believes if we can get a group together we'll have instructors. He advised Mike Caplan is interested in chairing this group; and Larry Vose. "We'll just move forward on this a little at a time."

COMPUTER CLUB OPEN HOUSE: Alan advised he asked RCSC, who replied that although this has not been done previously, holding an open house is something we can do. The person with whom he spoke at RCSC suggested we might ask some of the other clubs and "get them excited about it." Mike suggested we could pick a date – possibly sometime in February, and schedule it – and then go out and see if any of the other clubs may wish to join in. Alan commented it would be nice if RCSC would get involved, suggesting such an event would highlight all the activities going on here – and -- that while just one club may not draw a lot of people, the combination of several clubs AND RCSC would likely arouse interest. Discussion ensued relative to open houses already being held at Grand and at Bell.

At this point in the meeting, Alan mentioned he has Mike Blachut coming in today after the meeting to photograph "all of us" for the web team to put onto the website.

"WHAT KIND OF COMPUTER SHOULD I BUY": With regard to Denny's suggestion at our last meeting, Charley commented it's fine with him if a couple of **Chromebooks** are put in the lab, saying he personally does not know anything about Chromebooks. Denny advised there are Chromebooks in the library in this building which may be checked out for three weeks. He stated there are two hundred of them . . . and that there is a waiting list. He suggested to one of his students to "bring a Chromebook up here to the Club and we'll get you started." We can let such individuals know, "If a Chromebook works for what you want, then you can buy one." Conclusion following the discussion was to table the purchase of **Chromebooks** for now. Lori asked if anyone has any questions, "should we send them to the library?" Denny answered we could have them come to our 101 classes or "All Things Google," where we can answer any Chromebook-related questions. Denny offered to donate an older Chromebook for use in our lab.

3D PRINTER Learning Sessions: Alan advised we have Randy Hostetter to give a presentation . . . when he gets over Covid.

NEW BUSINESS:

SIGN-IN PROGRAM: Mike Caplan, the creator of our new sign-in program, has offered his services to do a one-on-one for people who are interested in learning the new sign-in program. Mike has also indicated he is available for one-on-one software lessons, free of charge. Alan advised Mike is in Sun City until Spring. Dick suggested asking Mike to come in on a specific day of the week, as Zen does on Tuesdays. Alan said he'll talk to him about coming in on Fridays.

CLASSROOM AIDES: Dick again expressed concern regarding the fact we're not getting advertisements out for **classroom Aides**, in spite of help having been given to Barbara with her computer. Dick wonders if she is tired of doing this job; and Lori replied that is not the case; yet Dick advises she (Barbara Johnson) is not getting emails out to the Aides who are on the list. Dick is wondering if we might ask Barbara if she would like to train someone to assist in that job. He mentioned this problem has been going on for nearly two years. He is wondering if Pat Rabe might consider learning the job of contacting Aides. Lori will talk to Virginia Gelle and find out what is going on with Barb. Considerable discussion ensued, with Zen suggesting he could get the word out as well, regarding contacting Aides.

OFFICIAL NAMES OF CLASSES, LEARNING SESSIONS: Mike requested confirmation of how we refer to our different classroom offerings. Officially, the Club calls any sessions lasting more than a few hours a "CLASS." Members are required to sign up for classes in advance, and pay \$5 to take the class. Learning sessions are more informal question and answer sessions, where members may drop in and are not required to sign up in advance.

Lori commented monitors are discovering **books are not on the shelf** when members are coming in to sign up for classes which they see are scheduled on the Club's calendar. Considerable discussion ensued regarding this matter. Mike suggested **ON-LINE REGISTRATION** may also help. Lori commented that if on-line registration is implemented, care must be taken to also get that individual's sign-up into the books. Zen suggested we might create a little box which says, "Click here for Club Calendar," "Click here to register for a Class," etc.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Lori moved we adjourn and Joe seconded. Passed. Adjourned 10:20 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1st, 2024, 9:00 A.M.



Nolli Hartwell, Secretary

Assisted by Lori Daly, Monitor Chairperson.

Draft Minutes Distribution: Board and Committee Chair members only

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