

COMPUTER CLUB OF SUN CITY (azccsc.com)

MINUTES

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: THURS., NOVEMBER 14, 2024

ROOMS 1, 2 – FAIRWAY RECREATION CENTER

<https://azccsc.com>

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PRESIDENT’S CALL TO ORDER, COMMENTS + ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

President: Alan Ruda	Vice President: Gene Stashick
Treasurer: Joe Janos	Secretary: Nolli Hartwell
Membership: Dick Dudden	Property: Charley Housler
Education: Michael Wendel	Apple Group Leader: Isaac Bonifas
Monitors: Lori Daly	Linux Group Leader: Neil Feinglass
Public Relations: Zenon Sokolowski	

Also Present: Nominating Committee Chairperson: Patti Rabe

ABSENT: Charley Housler, Property

Meeting **called to order** at 1:08 p.m. President Alan Ruda opened the meeting by introducing board members, committee chairpersons and group leaders. This was an open meeting where Club members could meet and vote for prospective Board Members. With **82 members in attendance**, the meeting **met the requirement for a QUORUM**, per RCSC BP12 and CCSC Rules and Regulations.

Suzanne Swann made a motion to accept the Minutes and Ed Damron seconded. Passed. The president stated the Minutes from last year’s General Membership Meeting (November 9, 2023) appear on the Club’s website.

ELECTION: The president introduced **Patti Rabe, NOMINATING COMMITTEE Chairperson**, who stated our board has nine members and that terms are for three years, with three positions coming up every year. With no one requesting nomination or having been nominated from the floor, current nominees are declared elected by acclamation. They are **Alan Ruda, Lori Daly** and **Joe Gislason** will be our new board member effective January 1st. Joe stated he is a four-year member of the Club. He has been assisting Dick (Dudden) with membership matters for approximately the past six months. He is from Chicago and has lived in Sun City for 30+ years. Having spent most of his life in retail, he believes his background in customer service will be an asset to the Club.

President Alan Ruda advised the Club’s **membership as of today is 798** -- and that we’ve had a good year. He mentioned having attended the October COC meeting, (Clubs Organization Committee) and “they gave us kudos for building our membership.” While part of the growth came from the Mac Club joining us, he believes the fact people have needed help with Windows 11 has also contributed to our growth.

Additionally, he mentioned that at yesterday's COC meeting, the Club received the okay to go forward with getting a **TV above our double doors so people can see our schedule** and what's coming up. He added, "So, we'll have a nice monitor up above our entryway, enabling people to check at any hour of the day to see when we're open."

Introducing **Web Designer Rich Cornwell**, Alan then announced our **new web page went "live" yesterday**, and Rich will demonstrate the site later in today's meeting. He announced that Rich will be teaching an **AI** class and a **CANVA** class, stating we're going to try one-day workshops of two to three hours – which seem a little easier for people to attend than the 3-day classes.

REPORTS:

FINANCES - TREASURER, Joe Janos: Joe reported the Club has taken in \$7,225.00 in membership fees to date, along with \$630.00 in class registration fees. Total income to date is \$9,565.00. We've spent \$3300.00 on our internet and telephone service, another \$3,000.00 in miscellaneous computer accessories, another \$1600.00 for office supplies. Total expenditures are \$8,928.00. So far we're \$617.00 to the good and we have \$11000.00 in cash in our checking account and \$20,000.00 in CD's. So we're solvent for this year and for some years to come, depending on what Microsoft does with office and what advancements are made in computers.

CLASS & WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE - VICE PRESIDENT, Gene Stashick: Gene reported that up until the end of October, we had 1,038 people attend workshops and 122 people who attended classes, with a total of 1160 people who have attended classes and workshops so far this year. Gene announced we'll have **new classes in AI and CANVA** starting on **December 2nd and 16th**.

APPLE GROUP – GROUP LEADER, Isaac Bonifas: Isaac advised the Ancestry classes will be back next month. He asked if anyone has a class they'd like him to teach, to please let him know.

In answer to a member's question asking if there will be any more **Beginning Investing** classes, Alan replied that if we can find an instructor, we'll certainly try to hold further Beginning Investing classes.

LINUX GROUP – GROUP LEADER, Neil Feinglass: Come into Linux workshop on Tuesday mornings 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Alan advised **Linux classes** are held on the last Tuesday of the month – but that Neil is here every Tuesday, usually around 9 till 11.

MEMBERSHIP, Dick Dudden: Dick thanked the members for being here, commenting on the nice turnout. He advised the Membership Chairperson basically keeps track of the number of members in the Club who are properly signed up. Mentioning he is phasing

away from the Membership Chairperson responsibilities, Dick thanked **Joe Gislason** who is now taking over Membership reporting. Dick noted we started the year with **540** members, and with total membership now at **798**, we've brought in a lot of new members this year, including the addition of the **130** who came from the **Apple Club**.

He thanked all members present for helping bring those members in. He urged those present to come to classes and to get involved – and to remember our president's motto that **"If everyone does a little, no one has to do a lot."** Dick especially mentioned "We do have one person here who does a LOT and that's our new president, Al." Dick stated he "hopes everyone understands the activity and excitement in the Computer Club today are really related directly to the effort and the energy that Alan has contributed. Dick closed his remarks with a special thank you to Alan, which gave rise to enthusiastic applause from the membership.

PROPERTY, Charley Housler: Alan spoke on behalf of Charley, stating "He's always busy updating computers."

EDUCATION, Mike Wendel: Advising Education is going through a transition, Mike stated people don't want 2 and 3-day classes and that one-day Workshops have been found to be more popular.

MONITORS, Lori Daly: Lori thanked Alan for all the work he has done and thanked all the Monitors, stating she appreciates all the work they do, adding "Without our Monitors the Club would not be open." She closed her remarks with a big thank you to all Monitors.

PUBLIC RELATIONS, Zenon Sokolowski: "Z" advised he's the one who sends all the emails. There was some "back and forth" between Z and one member regarding graphics.

RULES & REGULATIONS – Committee - Progress Report: Mike Poore, R&R's committee chair stated Alan had asked him if he'd look at the Rules and Regs and see if we could bring them in line with the template RCSC has. This is a work in progress and in answer to the question "How long is the template," Alan answered "19-pages," suggesting we're trying to trim it down and get rid of all the bloatware. He expects we'll soon have to vote on the new Rules and Regulations and turn them in to RCSC.

WEB PAGE – RICH CORNWELL: Rich displayed the Club's new website, noting there are still a few issues which they're working through, stating "We'll be filling in quite a few more details as we go along." On a large screen at the front of the room, he displayed our new **Home Page** with the Menu Bar across the top, and then the different pages in succession, showing among other things, the ease with which Club members will be able to create a **"help"** request. He explained that on the Home Page there's a sub-menu called **"News"**, which automatically updates every day advising what's going on today and what's coming up. All classes will be highlighted here. Rich mentioned

numerous additional features including the new **"Translator"** capability which was well received by members. In time, Rich said, he'd like to do a class on the new site.

The "About Us" page basically introduces the Club to new people. There's a link from this page to the Board where each board member will have a "hot link" to themselves so that Club members may contact them via email.

There are **two reasons for logging into the Club site**. One is to view **Board documents** which will be behind a "member wall," giving members access to "for-members-only" items, such as our financials. The second reason for logging in is that when you go to Calendars, you'll be able to **register for classes** which have the \$5 fee associated with them. Until you receive your password, you can continue to sign up for classes and view documents the same way you've done for years. To renew your membership, you will **not** need to log in.

Rich advised **"We will supply you with a password**. It will be your password, but you will not be able to change it on your own." The reason for that is that we don't want to manage or store passwords for everybody. We're storing **one** password so you can access the site. If for any reason you can't get into the site, please let us know.

Members will be able to sign up and pay for membership via the Club's site. There will be different tiers or membership levels. If you sign up in September of any year, your membership will be valid for the entire following year. Should you happen not to have your RCSC membership number with you as you're completing the form, the site will keep your draft application for a full three days so you won't have to re-type everything.

There's no money involved. If you're using a credit card, you'll be directed to a secure site. They send back a "hook" notifying us the fee has been paid. This makes things more secure for us and involves less liability for the Club.

Rich displayed **photos of the Club** which will appear on the site.

To the question of whether the membership roster will appear on the new site, the answer was no, with Rich stating members will not likely want their names or phone numbers generally available as public information.

Drawing attention to the page currently displayed, Rich informed members they'll be able to enter their RCSC number and all their information on this page whether they're renewing, or new, or a returning member, stating "You'll be able to pay by check, cash or credit card." Once the membership team has verified your information is correct and payment has been made, they'll send you back an email verifying your membership and providing you with your password.

Rich then referred to **Calendars**, stating there are two calendars, with the first being a Google Calendar, and the other being a Club Calendar which includes the **Monitor Calendar**. He said these will populate and update with class descriptions, etc., as the site moves forward.

Rich will introduce **CANVA**, an online design platform which will allow users to create visual content for personal or business use. **CANVA** will introduce members to a large variety of **AI** features – graphic cards, cards, calendars, photo montages, etc. He displayed the logo for **Chat GPT**, which is part of AI. He commented that **CANVA** is free and can replace Publisher “big time,” stating it’s easier to use and more up to date. Rich also mentioned AI is a “huge thing” which is going to be “everywhere.”

Members applauded Rich’s presentation and Alan thanked Rich, suggesting to members that his being a part of the Club is among the assets and “pluses” involved in the fact the Apple Group has joined us.

NEW BUSINESS: In answer to Alan’s request for New Business, member **Cliff DeVlieg** proposed that the Club expand its base to become a **Computer and Technology Club**. He feels that with **AI** and all the newer technologies coming out, including even medical devices now and the requirement for interfacing, and how to adapt to technologies such as TV streaming, etc., a new name would be appropriate.

Secondly Cliff stated, there are a lot of scams going on and we could be having speakers who will advise how to avoid scams. He indicated the Attorney General’s office sends out speakers who teach how to avoid scams.

His suggestion is to change the name to make it evident to all of Sun City that the Club encompasses all these various technologies which go beyond “just the box which sits on our desks.” In response, Alan mentioned that while we’ve had workshops on some of these technologies, changing the Club’s name is a “big deal,” involving considerably more than just calling the Club something else. It would involve all kinds of documents being changed, to which Cliff replied he would like to see the idea considered. Alan acknowledged Cliff’s suggestion, assuring him it will come up for discussion at our next board meeting.

Regarding Security and in answer to a question from Alan, Mike Wendel stated he has been teaching workshops on Security and Passwords. This past summer he presented Security Workshops five times, and the first time 16 people attended. Stating Security is a big area, he asked for a show of hands regarding whether members are interested in afternoon and evening classes. There was a large show of hands for both, with Mike stating a personal preference to instruct afternoon workshops.

Isaac Bonifas stated he does two security classes a month. He asked members to “let me know what you want.” One member thinks there may be a lot of interest in interface, i.e., other devices and the different health monitors, etc. Alan responded by mentioning the Club’s biggest problem is getting enough volunteers to come in and teach.

Another member asked if we send out surveys asking simple questions such as the times people would like and the classes in which they’re interested. In answer to this question, Alan advised the membership we’re looking for a marketing person who will do such things. With regard to our Club’s bank balance, one member asked the question “What do our coffers pay for?” Joe (Janos, Treasurer) explained these monies look after such things as purchasing software which requires licensing, upgrading our computers to Windows 11 and so forth. The answer was no to the question of whether some of this money pays for our teachers, emphasizing that **all the Club’s instructors are volunteers.**

A member asked if we would consider doing evening classes and Rich Cornwell drew our attention to a form on the new website which members will be able to use to ask such questions and make suggestions.

RAFFLE: Prior to the close of the meeting, ALAN conducted the drawing for the raffle of several items.

NEXT MEETING: November 13, 2025, 1:00 p.m. Same room has been reserved.

ADJOURNED: At 2:15 p.m., Dick Dudden moved we adjourn the meeting; and Lori Daly seconded. Passed.

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