

## **Annual Meeting - SCOV Hiking Club March 22, 2025**

Sun City Oro Valley Hiking Club held its annual board meeting and wine & cheese social on Saturday, March 22, 2025. All SCOV Hiking Club members in good standing were invited to this meeting.

President Jake O'Neill made some introductory remarks covering the status of the club and thanked the 124 attendees for attending as well as the many volunteers that made this event happen. He also introduced the current board members.

Jim Williams, Club Historian, spoke about how this is a special anniversary of the club, as it was chartered 30 years ago in 1995. He then gave a short speech in recognition of Rudi Punzmann, who has been with the club since its inception. Rudi was an orientation hike leader and founded the Wine and Cheese Party tradition after the Annual Meeting. Jim and Club President Jake O'Neill presented Rudi with a plaque recognizing Rudi's accomplishments and commitment to the club.

Nominating Committee Chair Ken Percival presented the 2025-26 board slate of candidates. As of the time of the meeting, the office of Vice President was open. He announced that nominations would be accepted from the floor in accordance with club policy. Al Schmidt nominated Doug Gouzie. There were multiple seconds. Ken confirmed that Doug was a candidate. With no other nominees, a vote was taken, and Doug Gouzie was officially approved to join the candidate slate in the VP position.

Board Members volunteering to serve in 2025 include incoming President Bernie Rosling; Vice President Doug Gouzie; Treasurer Nancy McDermott; Chief Guide Byron Wolffing; and Secretary Chris Shepherd. The members present moved and seconded a motion to approve the above individuals for their respective terms. All present were in favor.

Two guest speakers, John Scheuring of the Native Plant Society and Jack Dash, curator for Tohono Chul, presented a slide show featuring interesting facts of the area's plants and trees. Included in their presentation were examples of non-native species that are encroaching and damaging the environment. Several members had questions concerning plant and tree recommendations for SCOV homes and what to do about mistletoe appearing on mesquite trees. The presentation was very well received.

Centerpiece flower arrangements were presented to outgoing Club President Jake O'Neill and Chief Guide Tom Meyer in appreciation for their years of service.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 for the wine and cheese reception.