

Sun City West General Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2026
Sagebrush Room Beardsley Rec. Center

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1. The meeting was called to order by Cynthia Hurst, President, at 9:00 am. Other Board members present were Cathy Sherrill, 1st Vice President, Heather Sherburn, 2nd Vice President, Deb Harwell, Treasurer, and Laura Nemetz (Secretary). With forty-nine members present, there was a quorum for voting.

2. Cynthia Hurst requested approval of May 14, 2026, minutes as documented. The motion was made by Norene Harmon and seconded by Debbe Manchester. **Motion carried**

3. President Cynthia Hurst

3.01-Mural

- Mural has been installed at the front entrance to the Arts and Crafts wing of Beardsley. Grout and finishing still to come.

3.02-Membership

- Last official count is our club is at four hundred members.

3.03-Club Express-Natalie Putman

- Speckled Buff should be in by Friday, Sept 11 (off topic, but first announcement!)
- Natalie, as head of transition team, wants to assure club members we are still in “testing phase”; NO money has been spent, and none WILL be spent until we are satisfied the program will benefit our club.
- Club Express will be App based.
- Huge benefit will be the ability to use texting for certain situations.
- Program is VERY user friendly.
- Natalie reiterated some history-Club Express has been in business for 23 years; based out of Schaumburg, IL; Thousands of clubs across the nation and worldwide utilize the system.
- An issue we (and other clubs) are still working on includes the ability to record monitor hours.
- Why do we need this? The negatives we face with current program:
 - Cash/checks only in certain situations.
 - System, though created and built by very competent member volunteer, she is still the only one with access and answers – WHAT HAPPENS WHEN EVEN A CAPABLE VOLUNTEER BECOMES INACCESSIBLE?
- We will come up with the RIGHT ADMINISTRATION; with an AFFORDABLE, SUSTAINABLE program for our club.
- We are attracting younger members who have higher expectations of our club and its ability to address technology; younger members who do not use cash.
- We need to be able to share and access information with club members who are far away, in a timely, secure, efficient manner.
- Question raised about 3% credit card usage charge (2.9%):
 - Members will NOT be charged that fee.
 - The fee applies to both credit and (Deb Harwell stated “we assume”) debit card usage

- Natalie acknowledged the tremendous work by her team. Debbe Manchester, Karen Vincent, and Linda Kanable.
- She closed with the statement, “it is not a done deal.”

3.04-Media-Rita Ward

- Rita announced she will be stepping down as Media Coordinator.
- She emphasized it is NOT a one-person position.
- Rita suggests that three-four members take on the coordination of this particularly important aspect of our club.
- What qualifications are needed:
 - People with a “love for writing”
 - People who are interested in AI BUT also those who do not necessarily embrace that technology.
 - Members who have an interest in photography
 - Those who like doing interviews.
 - Artistic
 - Need “behind-the-scenes contributors”
 - The ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP needs to let the Media team know what they are doing; what they would like to see offered; suggestions to correct, add to things that are being done in the club. The newsletter should be stories about our members-and only our members know what those are.
- Rita will remain as active as possible.
- She will be available to help integrate the media program into Club Express, should that be needed.
- Rita will help train those taking over the coordination of the Mudd Times.

3.05-Maintenance-Mike Deal

- Mike gave a brief review of important operational items for the benefit of new members and to remind experienced members of what is available regarding equipment and materials at our club.
 - Downdraft table-Ask for instruction if unfamiliar.
 - Grinder-wear eye protection.
 - Spray booth-have training before using.
 - Pneumatic Extruder- get training.
 - Kilns-emphasized kilns are checked monthly to keep in working order.
 - Slab rollers-turn slowly.
 - We have 18 potter’s wheels.
- Thank you, Mike Deal, for your constant attention to keeping our club in good repair and running smoothly.

Further comments from the President

- Please note that 2 shelves in the back drying room near patio door are designated for THROWING ONLY.
- Sink traps have recently been installed to help alleviate clogging the drains. SCW maintenance workers empty them. PLEASE try to acknowledge them if you see them working, with a “THANK YOU”.

4. Treasurer's report Deb Harwell

August		Year	2026
Western Bank Checking	\$7,073.02		
Western Bank Savings	\$21,226.16		
CD1-7394 Matures 12/10/2026	\$10,250.33	\$115.89	interest accrued, not deposited as of 9/1/2026
CD2-7395 Matures 4/10/2027	\$25,625.84	\$291.33	interest accrued, not deposited as of 9/1/2026
CD3-7397 Matures 4/10/2027	\$25,625.84	\$291.33	interest accrued, not deposited as of 9/1/2026
TOTAL	\$89,801.19	\$698.55	

5. 1st Vice President Cathy Sherrill

- All bottled glazes (that we sell) and Wax Resist will be moved up to the back of the monitor desk in preparation for the new Point-of-sale program.
- Monitors will now sell those items; dispensed into your own containers or you may purchase a 1-cup clear plastic container
- Cathy asked for all members present at the meeting who work in the kiln room for their service hours to please raise their hand. Three members raised their hands (two others and Odette Johnson, who is a coordinator)
 - Bottom line is we need volunteers to help in the kiln room.
 - We need coverage three days a week.
 - Please reach out to Odette Johnson if you are interested or need more answers.
- New GR forms are in the drawer ready for check-out. Patt Prill was kind enough to make new fabric mesh bags for storage to help prevent these forms from warping. Thanks to Patt.
- Patt Prill also mentioned if there are members on the wait list for the GR class, she will continue to post classes. September and October GR Form classes are filled.

6. 2nd Vice President Heather Sherburn

6.01 Monitors

- Thank you to all who have stepped up to fill Monitor openings.
- Some have suggested the possibility of canceling some evening or Sunday club hours to alleviate the desperate need for monitors.
- As of today's meeting, eighty (80) spots between now and the end of the year remain open.
- Members still need to cover 270 hours of service time. What this means is there are plenty of members that NEED hours and eighty (80) sessions to be filled.
- There are 5 spots that are open in September. Seventeen (17) sessions are available in November. Between October and December that means 58 more are available for you to satisfy your volunteer requirements.
- The question was raised "what happens if a member does not fulfill their hours?" The answer is the member will not be able to work in the club until those hours are accumulated.

- Members may not double up in January and February to satisfy those hours. The only time doubling up is allowed is when an experienced member is paired with a new member monitoring for the first time.

6.02 Lockers-Donna Hengstler

- As of next week, our total membership figure will be 406.
- Our Locker total is still, 290.
- Please remember, to maintain your locker, the requirement is you must be at the club 24 times in one year. If you do not meet that 24-visit requirement, you will lose your locker.
- There are exceptions made for validated temporary and permanent hardships, however misuse of this policy will result in loss of access to locker space.
- Donna shared a note from the wife of long-time member Werner Knuth on his passing in August. She wanted us to know many of his pieces were on display at his service.

7. Secretary-Laura Nemetz

7.01 Education

- Norene Harmon will now be serving as our Director of Education
 - Norene is updating the Education policies for uniformity.
 - Any new classes wishing to be presented must be first brought to Norene, who will either approve or in the case of a class never taught in our club, bring it to the board. Written guidelines for classes and instructors will be available.
 - Lori Bunn is the coordinator for in-house instructors.
 - Michelle Judge will be coordinating the outside instructors.
 - We are looking for new instructors for single, 3-hour classes. If interested and have an idea, contact Lori Bunn.
 - At this time, we have two tentative classes to be taught by outside instructors. Both will be on Saturdays. The first will be in November. The other scheduled for January. More information will be sent out as we get closer.
 - The display windows have been updated. Thank you, Norene Harmon, for your beautiful work. The object is not to just display for those of us inside the club, but for guests out in the courtyard. Samples of upcoming class items will still be displayed.

7.02 Summer Fun/Wednesday Morning Fun-Betty Cool

- The last Summer Fun meeting will be next Thursday afternoon, September 17, from 2:00-5:00. The project is carved coasters by Colene Clark.
- Wednesday Morning Fun will begin Wed, October 16, presented by Deb Gibilisco. She will demonstrate how to make GHOSTS for the coming season.
- The second October WMF will be October 28. CHRISTMAS TREES will be the theme, with Glora Bertoncini.
- November 11 Linda Kanable will lead CHRISTMAS WALL HANGINGS. December 9, Susan Scheren will teach REINDEERS.
- **Please note: The December 9 WMF class will be IN THE AFTERNOON-12:30-3:30**
- WMF will meet from 8:30-11:30 in the DLS.
- Watch your Mudd Times and Facebook postings for any further information.
- Space is limited to 15 participants.
- The Facebook page is going well. We have approximately 350 members.
- The Facebook administrators are Betty Cool assisted by co-admin, Linda Hall.
- Reminder-no politics; no controversial subjects. Pottery/Clay Club event discussion only.

- A member asked who sends cards on behalf of the club; Renee Anderson handles them.

8. Treasurer-Deb Harwell

8.01 Social Committee

- The August root beer float social was well attended, but the committee found that a large amount of ice cream left over.
- September 23 from 1-3 PM we will have an Ice Cream Bar open for members.
- Next Social, after ice cream, will be a Brunch, catered by our own Social Committee. Members only. Sign up by October 12.
- Western Bank has graciously donated \$450 to the club to use for our December Holiday party.
- Western Bank, additionally, remitted \$100 to SCW Clay Club as part of their ongoing referral program. The Glass Fusion Club transferred their banking business to Western Bank after Deb Harwell informed them of the service we have received. If a member or non-member opens a checking account at Western Bank and mentions that they heard about the bank from SCW Clay Club, Clay Club will earn \$100.
- Cathy Sherrill is going to check with the bank after the first of the year about the possibility of getting bottled water supplied to the club by them. They do that for ARC here in SCW.

Unfinished Business

Question: Where are we with the expansion?

- At this point we have no new information.
- The Rec Center has allocated \$30,000 for architectural renderings.
- October 16, 9-11 AM there will be a preliminary presentation of the SCW Master Plan. No guarantees on what could be discussed but could be a good source of information.

New Business

- There is one more opening for a Beginning Hand Building TA for 2027. Please contact Norene Harmon if interested.
- Next month's General meeting on October 15 will be in the CHICORY ROOM.

Karen Vincent moved to adjourn the meeting. Donna Hengstler seconded the motion.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:07 AM.

Respectfully Submitted by Laura Nemetz, Secretary, SCW Clay Club