My first interview for this month's newsletter was with Bob Karp. Bob is running for the AZ State Senate Seat, LD14.

Me: Hello Bob. It is so nice to get to interview you.

Bob: Thank you Nancy, I'm delighted to get to speak to the members of DWSEA.

Me: Bob, a lot of our readers know you; but some may not. Would you tell us a little bit about where you grew up and when you came to Cochise County?

Bob: I grew up in Los Angeles, worked my way through college at my family's aerospace machine shop. I got a BA in Political Science from UCLA and then went on to eventually buy the machine shop from my father. In the late 1980s I closed that business and started a software development company that moved to the San Diego area. In 2005 I retired and moved to Cochise County. I currently am a licensed real estate broker.

Me: When did you become interested in politics and why?

Bob: 1968 was a tumultuous year (almost as dramatic as 2020). I was at UCLA and became interested in politics working for Eugene McCarthy when he ran for president. After that I was hooked and worked as a campaign manager for several local candidates while I was still in school and immediately after I graduated from college.

Me: Why did you decide to run for the State Senate Seat?

Bob: I ran for state representative in 2018 because at the time I made the decision, no one else had decided to run. At that time, and now as well, I believe that to be able to hold elected officials accountable and to get the values of the Democratic Party to the public, we must contest elections. The Republicans have had their chance nationally and here in Arizona. They are not able to govern fairly, effectively, and compassionately.

Me: Why do you think you would be the best person for this seat?

Bob: As a business owner with a background in manufacturing, technology, and real estate, I bring a real-world perspective to the decisions needed to create sustained economic growth with good paying jobs in rural southeastern Arizona. Unlike our current state senator, I am not hostile to the mission of government, nor do I have a past that includes ethical issues. I also will respect and listen to everyone, not just those that think like I do or support me politically.

Me: What are some of the issues for Arizona, that are important to you?

Bob: The pandemic has upended this campaign as well as the issues facing our state. The number one issue is the collapse of the economy, nationally and locally and how this will impact budget decisions going forward. How big a hole are we in and how do we allocate resources? The other two issues that now jump to the top are reform of the unemployment insurance system in Arizona as well as making sure that our state and local healthcare system provides access to comprehensive services for all people in the state.

Me: What can our readers do to help you?

Bob: Put a sign in your front yard. Visit my website at BobKarp2020.vote **and read some of my issue statements. Help on social media by sharing my posts on** Facebook.com/BobKarp2020 **or** twitter.com/rwkarp**. You can also still contribute "seed money" to my campaign which will buy additional digital advertising. There is a link on my website.**

Me: What are some other things you would like to tell our readers?

Bob: There are other issues that continue to be important. The under investment in our public schools and infrastructure, water rights in rural Arizona. These are difficult times, and I believe they call for a bold response from government. The best way to create lasting change in Arizona is to flip the Arizona Senate and House. We are only a few seats away from that goal. Remember to vote the entire ballot!

Me: Thank you for speaking to our readers, Bob.

Bob: I have spoken to the DWSEA on several occasions in the past. It is one of my favorite campaign events. I look forward to being with you at some point in the future.