

San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee

General Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2017

Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda & Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the May's minutes.

Cecily announced we need recording secretary and asked for nominations from the floor. John Woodell Self nominated. A motion was made and passed to elect John Woodell as the Central Committee Recording Secretary.

Guests were asked to stand and introduce themselves:

Regina Islas

Charles from San Francisco's Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

Michael Duncheon

Eric Siegel – Associate Member – former Technical Committee Lead for Hillary. Currently the Outreach Committee Chair

Bruce Hargreaves and Stephanie Katz

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the June agenda

Strategic Planning Retreat Group Reports

Sub Committee Reports:

Welcome/Outreach and other Committees: Sharrie Krieger, Anastasia Morrison and Eric Siegel

Eric: The Outreach Subcommittee held its first meeting on 25 May at the Redwood Shores Library in conjunction with the Welcome/Orientation Subcommittee.

The Outreach Subcommittee has two key goals:

GOAL 1. Develop details of what the San Mateo Democratic Party can offer to other groups. (Why would they want to work with us? What is message? What are legalities?)

Accomplishments:

Eric Siegel attended meetings of Indivisible/ San Francisco, Indivisible / East Bay, Indivisible / Berkeley, We The People (San Mateo), and Citizens Rise (San Mateo), meeting with leaders of all these groups to discuss these issues. He also discussed the issues with April Vargas and with Leah Greenberg, co-executive director and co-founder, Indivisible. Meetings with 350.org and #Resist San Mateo are pending.

The committee has six members, with Eric Siegel as the chair, although it's just starting so most members are still inactive.

Preliminary Findings:

-- The number one complaint is that the Democratic Party rarely shows up at the resistance meetings, and, when they do, their presentation is cryptic and low-energy, focusing on the structure of the Party. Some people went to a DCC meeting (SF) and found it cliquish and impenetrable. I found DNC presentations to be low-energy, saying little and saying it badly and slowly, with lots of "filler."

-- The number one wish-list item is for the Democratic Party to have a strong goal and a plan to get there! They want "leadership" (a campaign with action, focus); "agenda" (what is action plan? impeachment? making life miserable for Republicans?); study/post-mortem so that this won't happen again. They want findings and strategy to move forward, to engage those who didn't vote.

-- "When I woke up the day after the election determined to do something, I'd have liked it if I'd thought, 'I need to contact the Democrats ASAP!' But I didn't. A goal of the Democrats should be for that original thought to be the one people would have had and will have in the future."

-- They want a pathway to running for office, and getting access to voter files [MOE database? I assume Democratic Party can provide candidate development and training, helping potential candidates evaluate their candidacy realistically, training them in how to get endorsements, how to do public relations, how to run events, how to raise money, and how to win elections. Democratic Party has a ready-to-go support infrastructure with experienced, paid staff who can get a field operation up and running. The party has access to a wide network of experienced elected officials and others who can mentor new candidates.]

-- The resistance groups are interested in training, especially for voter registration, canvassing, direct action, convincing voters to vote, pathway to running for office.

-- Promising to help run phone banks is probably not a good idea at this time; the San Mateo Democratic Party probably won't be running phone banks until 2018, and any coordination with out-of-district races should be done directly with the outside district's staff. However, we can provide training for phone banks run by others.

-- Legal issues are important, and they are confusing to the resistance groups. What kind of coordination with the Democratic Party is legal? How can they arrange for non-profit status?

-- There's a lack of technical support for web design, smartphone app design!

Action Items:

-- Legal advice on interaction with resistance groups; what can we offer legally without interfering with their non-profit status or the Democratic Party legal situation?

-- The Subcommittee wants to coordinate with other Democratic Party groups in the Bay Area, e.g. San Francisco. What are our contacts with them? Our charter?

GOAL 2. Describe the objections other groups have to working with the San Mateo Democratic Party and other official Democratic Party organizations. (Why aren't they beating a path to our door? When we say, "Democratic Party," what do they immediately think?) Find effective ways to correct misunderstandings, or suggest needed changes to the San Mateo Democratic Central Committee. For example:

-- What do members of some Indivisible, Swing Left, MoveOn, 350.org, and other groups say?

-- What do the leaders of those groups say?

-- What about major blogs (DailyKos, etc.); what opinions and counter-arguments do we find there?

-- What objections have other Democratic Party groups found, and how are they countering those objections and building bridges to the outside groups? What works, and what doesn't work?

-- What are the legal issues involved in partnering? In offering assistance?

(No official findings yet)

Sub Committee Reports: (continued)

Welcome/Orientation Attendees: Anastasia Morrison, Kari Maki, Jill Thomas, Eric Siegel and Committee Chair Sharrie Krieger

We convened as a group at the Redwood Shores Library and discussed the issues that had come our way from the Strategic Planning meeting held on April 2nd. Eric Siegel will be leading the charge for the Outreach Subcommittee which is charged with identifying ways in which the Central Committee can work effectively with other groups.

(The notes below are a recap of the discussion from the Welcome/Orientation Subcommittee portion of the meeting.)

The Welcome/Orientation Subcommittee has three primary goals:

GOAL #1: To provide as warm a welcome as possible to each newcomer or first time visitor at the Central Committee meetings. Many folks are connecting with the Central Committee for the first time. They're fired up – and ready to go – and they are attending our monthly meetings in the hope of finding like-minded individuals and avenues of engagement. Assuming that we'll "never have a second chance to make a first impression," this sub-

committee will develop protocols for greeting newcomers and demystifying our meeting procedures.

GOAL #2: To ensure that newcomers are better informed as a result of attending our meetings and/or making contact with the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee. The subcommittee will obtain, compile, in some cases tweak or develop materials that will provide information about who we are; what we do; and how we “fit” into the larger Democratic picture. We will provide such items as pertinent contact information; a calendar of recurring events; a meeting guide; and list of acronyms, etc. Importantly, the subcommittee noted an urgent need to review the Central Committee’s current website and Facebook page – and to re-tool both, as necessary, for maximum impact and value.

GOAL #3: To identify specific ways in which a newcomer’s time and talents may be utilized productively in pursuit of our collective goals. We realize that by presenting the picture of a robust standing and ad-hoc committee structure, we will ensure early involvement and ongoing commitment. We will work with the committee chairpersons to provide information regarding their charges plus meeting times, dates and locations. Most importantly, we will challenge the committee chairs to identify any specific opportunities for harnessing potential new volunteer effort and energy.

There is a lot of work to be done – and in the coming weeks, we will be seeking your help. Our next step is to fine-tune the MANY steps, timelines and budget to bring each of these goals to fruition. We welcome your good ideas and look forward to hearing from any who wish to get involved. ***Please contact Sharrie Kriger (sharolynkriger@aol.com or phone 650-226-3448) to join this subcommittee and to learn about our next meeting. We will welcome your participation!***

Executive Board Reports

Chair (Cecily Harris):

Clubs need to be re-charted by 07/01/17 – Cecily explained elected committee members, chartered club, there are 4 city council elections
The committee is planning a “Meet the Candidate” Event in September – complete report is on our website

Northern Vice Chair: (Cliff Robbins) No Report

Southern Vice Chair: (Karen Maki) No Report

Corresponding Secretary:

Thank you letters sent to our Convention Luncheon sponsors & SEUI for the use of their office for our MOE training

Recording Secretary: No Report

Controller (Nancy Yarbrough):

Audit is still progressing and will hopefully resolve in next few months. We have submitted information that tax board requested. Our dues are due July 1st, \$70 for Central Committee members and \$35 for alternate members. Our recent luncheon had a profit of about \$3000. Many thanks to our sponsors Jerry Hill, Zach Ross, Marc Berman, Rich Gordon, Lucas Ramirez, Harini Krishnan, Jackie Speier, Anna Eshoo, Phil Ting, Charles Stone, Kevin Mullin, John Woodell and Kirsten Keith

Standing Committee Reports

Fund Development: Alexis Lewis announced the 2017 Summer BBQ Committee members, April Vargas, Sharrie Krieger, Anastasia Morrison, Mitchell Oster, Ginny Stewart, Cecily Harris and Nancy Yarbrough, ticket prizes and start time were announced. Sign-up sheets for volunteer opportunities were passed around were announced. Information and information on ticket purchases can be found on our website. All Central Committee members and guest are encouraged to purchase their tickets early and share information about the event on social media.

Endorsement/Leadership: No Report

Resolutions: David Burrito, Chair Gregory Loew – Second Reading of “Resolution to Dissuade North Korea from Further Developing Nuclear Weapons and Ballistic Missiles Through Proactive Negotiations”. A few revisions were made since the First Reading at May’s meeting. A motion was made, seconded and passed with abstentions for Congresswoman Jackie Speier and Assemblymember March Berman.

Hene Kelly – First reading of Resolution on Accessibility at all CDP Meetings. Hene asked we vote on the first reading, a motion was made, second and passed.

Bylaws: No Report

Election Integrity: Brett Turner - Brett vigorously fight for Open Source System Software. Continues to work to on AB -668 the Voting Modernization Bond Act and supports Secretary of State Alex Padilla’s Open Source Campaign.

Communications / Technology & Data Management: Chair Mitchell Oster – do you have a softcopy

AD HOC Committee Reports

Programs and Events: Brigid O'Farrell

Volunteer Outreach and Engagement: April Vargas

DIRECTOR and LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Region 6 Director (Hene Kelly):

Complaints concerning the recent Chair election are being addressed. There has been a request for an independent audit through the court. This should not affect our work and should be resolved by soon. Clubs must be chartered by July 1, 2017. The form that should be completed is available on the website and she is available for training and help for new members and clubs.

Congresswoman Jackie Speier (CA-14) (Brian P.):

Congresswoman Speier is concerned with the
GOP Senate's Health Care Bill

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (CA-18): (David B.):

Funding for the Caltrain Peninsula Corridor

Electrification Project was approved. In Anna's words:

"This is an 'Alleluia' moment."

1. Buena Vista Mobile Home Park Funding - Congresswoman Eshoo secured \$26 million in federal funding, for the Buena Vista Mobile Home Park in Palo Alto. An agreement with the Santa Clara County Housing Authority (HACSC) will ensure the preservation and upgrade of the mobile home park and allow its 400 low-income residents to remain in their homes.
2. H.R. 390, the Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Accountability Act passed the House of Representatives. - Anna's bill provides emergency relief to victims of the ISIS genocide in Iraq and Syria.

State Senator Scott Weiner (SD-11): Armand Domalewski

Below is a compilation of progress of legislation that the Senator has both authored and co-authored. To find press releases as well as full text of legislation, you can visit sd11.ca.gov.

LEGISLATION:

SB 239- Modernization of HIV Criminalization- Passed out of Senate and headed to Assembly

- Awaiting referral to Assembly committees

SB 35 Affordable Housing: Streamlined Approval Process- Passed out of Senate and headed to Assembly

- Awaiting referral to Assembly committees
- Passed with large bi-partisan support

SB 384 LOCAL (Let Our Communities Adjust Late-night)-- Passed out of the Senate and headed to Assembly

- Awaiting referral to Assembly committees

SB 278 and 282 CalFresh and Food Access-- Unanimously passed out of Senate and headed to Assembly

- Awaiting referral to Assembly committees

SB 149 Presidential Tax and Transparency Accountability Act—Passed out of Senate and headed to Assembly

- Awaiting referral to Assembly committees

SB 219 LGBT Senior Long-Term Care Bill of Rights- Passed out of Senate and headed to Assembly

- Awaiting referral to Assembly committees

SB 658 Passed by Senate, Ordered to the Assembly – Jury Selection

- May 15th, 2017
- Prevents judges from limiting *voir dire* by setting arbitrary time restrictions or restrictions on types of questions – helps create more impartial juries by better identifying bias during jury selection

SB 785 Approved by Senate Public Safety Committee – Evidence: Immigration Status

- May 16th, 2017
- Approved by vote of 5-2
 - Re-referred to Senate Judiciary Committee
- Bill announced with Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher on May 5th
 - Sponsored by San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon
- Prevents attorneys from questioning witnesses about their immigration status without judge approval – allows undocumented immigrants to testify without fear of deportation

SB 71 and 700 Solar Roof and Solar Storage—Passed out of the Senate and headed to Assembly

- Awaiting referral to Assembly committees

San Francisco PRIDE Parade

- Sign up to march in the San Francisco PRIDE Parade with Senator Wiener's contingent
- Sunday June 25th 2017
- Email victor.ruiz-cornejo@sen.ca.gov to sign up

State Senator Jerry Hill (SD-13): No Report

Assemblymember Phil Ting (AD-19): No Report

Assemblymember Kevin Mullin (AD-22):

Assemblymember Marc Berman (AD-24): (Nicole)

For Marc Berman, check his website for upcoming events and news: <https://a24.asmdc.org/>

For the PDC, please come to our summer picnic! <https://www.facebook.com/events/184979362035608/>

Federal Legislation Watch (Greg Loew): No Report

Filipino-American Democratic Club: No Report

Stonewall Democrats: No report.

Hillsborough Democratic Club: No report.

North Peninsula Democratic Club:

Pacifica-Daly City Democrats: No report.

Peninsula Democratic Coalition No Report

Peninsula Young Democrats No Report

San Mateo County Democracy for America (Ashleigh Evans):

San Mateo County Latina/o Democratic Club: No report.

Stonewall Democrats (Pam Salvatere): No report.

Lightning Round

Bernadette Plintkoff – We should not use the word Resistance in our BBQ's name because it sounds negative.

Sam Manneh: Exciting summer BBQ – Adjourn the meeting with a moment of silence for the UPS workers killed at the San Francisco facility

Jon Levinson: Democrats won the congressional baseball game. Adjourn the meeting in a moment of silence for Congressman Scalise

Charles Sanchez: Unite Here Local 2 – He and others are working to expand opportunities to organize unions.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31pm