

San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee

General Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2017

Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda & Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

Motion [Levinson] and second [Oster] to accept the June minutes: passed. Motion [Levinson] and second [Oster] to accept the July agenda: passed.

Speaker Series Program — Labor Challenges

Brigid O'Farrell – Speaker Series Committee:

— Other members (several people) signed up. We decided to focus on labor movement, an enormous issue. How we can work closely with labor?

Introduction by **Rick Bonilla** — Long Time Carpenters' Union Member

Melinda Dart – President, San Mateo County Central Labor Council

— I'm glad you invited us. I'm speaking to you as teachers' union and labor council member. The Labor Council brings together all the unions in San Mateo County (flight attendants, carpenters, pipe fitters, and more). It is a body of all unions coming together, working together as a political body. We put on the COPE fund banquet. We also interview and endorse candidates.

— My other affiliation is with California Federation of teachers, Local AFT 3267. A few accomplishments worth noting: Prop 30: huge accomplishment, providing a steady stream into schools. Prop 55: a bright light of 2016, good news, will generate a set amount of money, making up the gap since 90's.

— Local AFT 3267 is working hard to build relationships. We passed a parcel tax in Daly City, which was not easy. Daly City is the largest community, and the poorest city, with a bad record for voter turnout. We were so happy to get that passed.

— We have real challenges for the labor movement. Janus will decimate public sector unions. We won't be able to collect dues as we do now. These kinds of threats have been around for years. We began preparing. We engaged our members. In right to work states, people still belong to unions because they want to.

— We have lots of threats to education with the stuff Betsy DeVos is saying for profit charters and vouchers and private colleges. The public education foundation of our democracy is being challenged. There is an orchestrated campaign that the teachers unions were to blame, similar to a campaign from the 60's and 70's. In reality, public schools take all kids, with services for special education, while private schools don't serve those kids.

— Please help us support education. Stand up for higher salaries: custodians, secretaries, and maintenance jobs. Those people are paid really low. Minimum wage, afford housing, taxes to support education.

— Support unions, progressive school board candidates and parcel taxes. Pensions are not actually breaking schools. Employees are paying more each month. Remember, teachers work for less, to do what they love, while being able to retire. Teacher pensions are 47K, or 40K nationwide.

— Support community schools that support parent involvement. Working people are under attack, not just union members, when we fight, all workers win.

— Work with us, we will all win!

Introduction by **Rick Bonilla** — Long Time Carpenters' Union Member

James Ruigomez — Business Manager, Building & Construction Trade Council

— Thank you Rich, Bridget, and committee. I worked as a drywall finisher, in charge of the building trades council. When I was a painter, had to answer to contractors. Now my audience is city councils, I negotiate with councils.

— I build a market-share for our goals, The big buzz word now is “affordable housing.” We promote a wage to live on, and some retirement.

— We also invest in training apprenticeships. We have the largest apprentice program in the US. We ensure the future workforce: done right, first time, on time on budget. With a fare wage and healthcare, workers want to be union members.

— We partner with the Democratic Party. Together we are successful. We get involved in local races. We want elected officials that believe in the middle class. We don't want to have workers come from out of state, then return to help their community.

— We're also involved in Peninsula Clean Energy. By speaking here tonight, I'm missing the PCE citizens' advisory committee. PCE is better than PG&E (tells personal story about 2010 pipeline explosion).

Brigid O'Farrell — Thanks speakers and ask for Questions: Q&A

Greg Loew — Is it true charter schools won't hire union teachers?

Melinda — Not necessarily, for-profit schools don't want union teachers.

Greg Loew — Are they paid the same?

Melinda — No.

Audience — form the union standpoints, what do workers look forward to, what does retired life look like?

James — We hit job fairs, working with Pine and Burruto. Through department of education, we make sure we go to every high school and alternative college. What's in the future? Great questions. I wish I had crystal ball. Pensions published are for the highest paid, 75% of retirees are people in poverty., retirees making less than \$25K/yr. Some will retire with more based on the stock market. I put 25 cents of each dollar into my pension. If we continue to do that, it goes into stocks.

Jon Levinson — I live in San Carlos. We have a 120 room Hilton hotel. What percentage of those jobs are union jobs?

James — higher average than nation's, 13 or 10 percent. A lot of that work is non-union. Hotel workers try to get card check. We constantly work with elected officials for: prevailing rate, non-union employers are unscrupulous. Employers take half their money. Contractors should just sign the agreement. They get a tax break. With the labor agreement, workers secure benefits. At-will employment is not protecting workers. We don't have seniority. We don't protect lazy workers. Lazy workers are laid off first. We make sure employers are making payments, and help sustain the community.

Brigid O'Farrell – Thanks speakers.

Executive board reports

Cecily Harris — Chair

— Just got off monthly call. 1300 people applied for standing committees. They are looking for more folks across the state. Lots of people are watching the chairs race. The findings will be announced Saturday on Facebook Live.

— During our e-board in August, we talked about streamlining programs and the convention. How do people get caught up on what was said?

— We will have a report later in BBQ. \$5,500 in sponsorship so far, let's hit \$10K! Think about being a sponsor.

— Alternate memberships: if you need help finding someone, we can help. Otherwise, the chair can appoint, with a vote.

Jeffrey Adair — Past Chair

— I'm helping with the clubs (lists new clubs: also on website).
— Please encourage clubs to be involved.

Northern Vice Chair – No report
Southern Vice Chair – No report
Corresponding Secretary – No report
Recording Secretary – No report

Controller: Nancy Yarbrough

— Give me a check or pay on NationBuilder. Full report on the Website.

Summer BBQ Report

April Vargas — Summer BBQ, August 12, 2017, Twin Pines Park, Belmont

— We're having this event because it's good to have fun. The event is from noon to 4pm. The park has everything we like: tables, stage and meadow.

— Top Sponsor and speaker: Michael Bracamontes, running for governor. Another speaker: Sam Hindi will speak. Muslin, he's going to talk about importance of diversity and standing together.

— Let's sell some tickets, we can get about 300 people in the meadow. If you want to help out by volunteering, see **Anastasia**. She has a clipboard, see her to sign up.

— We have a Club Challenge: if the most members attend, you will win a special prize.

— Sponsorships are available for candidates (for 2017 & 2018 races). This is a great time to meet volunteers. Clubs can sponsor as well. Funds pay for our headquarters.

— Have fun and build for the future. Please attend; the food is really good.

Nancy Yarbrough — If you want to buy tickets tonight, I can take checks and cash.

Ashleigh Evans — When folks buy tickets, can they indicate which club?

April — Yes, scroll down, answer a question.

Mitchell Oster — Tell Mitchell (referring to self) about your club.

April — Yes, Mitchell is also the grill captain.

Greg — When folks are retired, the website questions make no sense.

April — Yes, we know.

Mitchell Oster — The FPPC insists that we collect that information; required by law.

Sandra Lang — What are the sponsorship costs for a club?

April — They start at \$100. They go to \$2,500. Sponsors will get their name listed.

Anastasia — Please talk about tables.

April — We've invited affiliated groups from the county, 13 clubs have signed up.

Endorsements/Leadership Development:

Cecily Harris — Interim Chair - Fall 2017

— Karen Maki and I are putting together the fall campaign schedule. We're planning a "meet the candidate's" night. The filing period just opened, so we don't know exactly what races there are yet. Next meeting, we'll have more information.

Political Program Resolutions

David Burruto — Karen passed a resolution out, so I'll turn it over to her.

Karen Maki — I pass out a resolution and supporting information. Forests are important for water and carbon. Clear cutting is destructive. Selective logging is better. Selective logging is the only method that's legal in San Mateo, Santa Clara, Marin and Santa Cruz Counties. Elimination of clear cutting is in the democratic platform. Please send me emails if you have questions.

David — This being a first reading, it now belongs to the resolutions committee and we'll discuss it and bring it back at the next meeting. Greg please hold your question.

Chair Bylaws: Cliff Robbins — not here, no report.

Election Integrity Committee

Brent Turner —hello, I'm working with scientists, even paper ballots are not secure. A "wise guy" can manipulate that system. We're hoping to do good work by 2020. — AB668 gives lip service, but did not adhere to scientific principles. We are opposed because it will give \$450M to Deibold type vendors. We're looking for some revision in the language. Jerry Hill's office reached out to me. We hope the appropriations committee will work on this. Please reach out to Padilla, Deb Bowen found these machines faulty.

Communications Data Management

Mitchell Oster — I want to update you on BBQ communications. We're doing outreach. Elected officials have been notified that they should come and be a sponsor. Share a Facebook post, or just ask people. Call ten people and ask them to come. When you buy a ticket, it lands on page, "are you identifying with club?" Ask club people to identify with a club, or just email me.

— We need more help with the BBQ grill team. My niece is having quinceanera, so I won't be there. Interested in a half hour, please jump in. San is stepping up to head the grill team. It's a super photo-op. Bring an apron and hat.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs and Events

Brigid O'Farrell — We'll probably have a speaker every other month. Next speaker is Sept 21st, Christine Pelosi, CA State Dem Women's caucus. We now have Dem women's club. The committee will meet shortly to come up with 3 or 4 speakers.

Welcome/Outreach Committee

Sharrie Krieger — We were encouraged to look at ourselves and ask if we are a welcoming group. We passed out a blue info sheet, so you folks are guinea pigs. — We want to provide you with information. We came up with informative pieces. We have a website, let's make it better; let's make it relevant and include how we operate with committees and clubs with contact info.

DIRECTOR and LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Regional Director — Hene Kelley — absent

Congresswoman Jackie Speier's Office

Brian Perkins — TrumpCare is probably dead.

Mitch McConnell is convinced he should have a repeal vote.

— Try to catch the congresswoman's op-ed in Cosmopolitan; she's calling for the resignation of Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner.

— As you probably know, Trump is threatening to fire more people.

— The congresswoman is also part of the lawsuit on emoluments clause.

— Tomorrow we'll have groundbreaking for Caltrain electrification.

— Thanks to all that attending the town hall is Pacifica on healthcare. By the way, OBamaCare is not failing despite obstacles Trump is putting in the way.

— Next town hall is likely in August at Skyline College.

Greg — I think Shaub resigns.

Brian — OK, he resigned out of frustrations.

State Senator Jerry Hill's Office — no report

State Senator Scott Wiener's Office — no report

Assemblman Phil Ting's Office — no report

Assemblyman Kevin Mullin's Office

Zack Ross — Recently assigned as the author of the Disclose Act (below)

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo' Office

John Woodell (reads from newspaper)

— Eshoo Town Hall on Saturday, 9:00am to 10:30am at West Valley College

Assemblyman Marc Berman's Office

Zack Ross — Berman finished 7 months in Sacramento. Now he's back in the district and he's having as many coffees as he can. We'll be in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, fliers are up front. The next event is on July 31 in Sunnyvale, partnering with Ro Khanna. Then, we have one in Pescadero on August 10, partnering with Don Horsley. Then we have one on August 15 in Menlo Park, partnering with Kirsten Keith. We'll also be doing them in Redwood City and East Palo Alto.

— We're waiting to see what's going to happen with some of our bills. We had our first bill signed into law, which we're excited about (applause).

Oster — What was that bill about?

Ross — AB323, an enabling law to make it easier for people to access CalWorks.

— Although I'm not with Mullen anymore, his exciting news is that he was recently assigned as the author of the Disclose Act (applause). We're supporting of the bill at Berman's office. I think that it should be moving along quickly.

— A lot of people showed up to the capital (on the Disclose Act). It looks like we were the majority of the people in the photo.

Pam Salvatierra — What is Marc doing in Menlo Park?

Ross — Assemblyman Berman will be speaking with the League of Women Voters.

Woodell — Can you say anything about RM3 funding? I heard that Marc Berman rallied to get Dumbarton Rail funding back into RM3, which it wasn't, so thank you.

Ross — We've been making a big push for the Dumbarton Rail. What happens is San Mateo County gets left out. Every year, we all vote for it, but the projects go to SF or SJ. There has been a push by Mullin and Berman to get funding.

CLUB REPORTS

Sabrina Brennan — Coastside Progressive Democrats

We now have over 70 members. Our 1st event, marched in Half Moon Bay, 4th parade with Coastside Action Immigration Coalition. We had children dancing, banners for healthy California. Our 2nd event, we showed up for the healthcare town hall with Speier, Hill and Mullin. We were supporting healthyCA.org. It was a great and emotional event. Fair Rent for Pacifica is also on our radar.

Ashleigh Evans — Democracy for America

At our next meeting we have the best speaker on surveillance and civil liberties. Adam Schwartz from Electronic Frontier Foundation. A lot of police departments are purchasing new tech without accountability and oversight. He'll tell us what communities are doing to fight back. Santa Clara County recently passed law where all new equipment has to have a public hearing and needs to be approved by the Board of Supervisors. Also, SB21: no police surveillance without accountability. The author is Jerry Hill. See you Wed, Aug 2nd 7pm Woodside Methodist church in Redwood City.

Pam DiGiovanni — North Peninsula democrats

Founders of our club (Gene Mullin, Kevin Mullin and Sandra Lang) will help us celebrate our 10th anniversary. We're also reaching out to Jackie Speier's office. We'll invite the candidates to one of our meetings. Ann Schneider, our president, will be working on that.

Shelly Masur — Dem Fems of Silicon Valley

Thanks to all members. We don't have a website or Facebook page yet. We'll hold our first meeting August 24 Location TBD. We'll select officers and set priorities.

Zack Ross — Peninsula Democratic Coalition

We have our annual picnic coming up on August 19 at Questa Park in Mountain View, a new venue. We expect hundreds of people. Our speaker is Delaine Eastin, candidate for Governor. Please join us.

Zack Ross — Peninsula Young Democrats

We have a meeting coming up, a week from today at Redwood City Library. The speaker is Mark Berman.

Bill Kehoe — Coastside Democrats

We're having a movie night on Aug 4th. "the best democracy money can buy." It will be in El Granada. We also have a happy hour planned for Aug 9th at the "wine room," in Moss Beach. We're planning for another meeting in September on education. We just had our annual meeting with Joe Cotchett. He gave us books; we're donating them.

Connie Menefee — Pacifica Daly City Democrats

We just had a meeting with Jackie Speier at Sharp Park. Our next meeting is on August 19th with Jim Irizarry the assistant county clerk. We'll talk about voter fraud and everything else going on.

Cecily — We don't have information about your club, please give it to Jeffrey.

John Woodell — Mid-Pen Solidarity Democrats

I helped this club charter to get more involved with the Party. They helped with getting people out to support the Safe City ordinance. We're also working on effective ways to lobby for change. Anyone in Menlo Park area should join.

Greg — We should thank Padilla for refusing to give voter data to Trump's committee.

LIGHTNING ROUND

Sabrina Brennan — New segment of Fresh Air on election issues. See KQED website.

Catherine Fundman — Captain of Sister District California 14. I'm here with Lisa Nash and Joe Connis. We're fully underway supporting two campaigns in Virginia. Sister District provides a way to get involved and participate for a Democrat in Virginia.

Mitch Oster — If you have an event, you can send an email to events@smcdems.org, and we're putting together more outreach as a clearinghouse for events.

Sandra Lang — I'm here supporting HR620 before the house. If this passes, it would put the rights of the disabled in jeopardy. If it reaches the floor, we want congresswoman Speier to vote no on it.

Rich Bonilla — I'm running for office and I want to reflect on some things like the COPE event. The City of San Mateo was honored for raising the minimum wage. Other council members should try to do the same thing. I'm also sponsoring new legislation to address wage theft on construction sites.

Pam DiGiovanni — I want to give a "shout out" to Karen Maki on "Stop Clear Cutting California." Two years ago, Daly City was the first city in San Mateo County to sign on to this with support from David Canepa.

Cindy Cornel — We ran Measure R, the Rent Stabilization Measure in Burlingame. Something about democracy, it dies when people don't vote. If you have no housing security, you have no investment in the community. We have 40 to 50 percent renters in city on the move constantly. Please help elect people who will help with renters. Let's get renters registered. We need Dems in Burlingame.

Brian Perkins — The legislation referenced is bipartisan legislation, to take what is California law and make it national. From Congresswoman Speier's perspective, there should be up to 180 days to fix the problem. What's happening now; small businesses pay \$15 to \$20 thousand (they cannot afford) to lawyers to settle, and nothing gets done on the building.

Mark Melville — I'm going to be a candidate for Sheriff in San Mateo County. I've been doing this a long time. I'm not typical. I'm a retired police chief, I'm a retired city manager, I've been on the city council, I've done all that stuff in my career. I've been doing it for 42 years. There were some issues brought up tonight in regards to law enforcement, and what's going on. We face tremendous battles every day. Those issues, I will be addressing them on my website, you can go to it and check it out. I really enjoyed being here tonight. There's a lot of energy in this room. I'm going to join your club and be a sponsor of the BBQ.

John Woodell — If you have written reports, please email them to me. My email address is mr.john.woodell@gmail.com.