

San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee

General Meeting Minutes

Aug 17, 2017

Call to Order: Adoption of Agenda & Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm.

Chair — asks for motion to accept the July minutes. [Sandra Lang, Nicole Fernandez]: passed.

Chair — asks for motion to accept the Aug agenda. No second due to Interruption.

Lang — makes Motion to add “current affairs” item to the agenda, seconded by Fernandez.

Chair — asks Lang to elaborate.

Lang — ask for opportunity to give everyone five minutes to discuss Charlottesville.

Chair — asks for motion to accept revised Aug agenda. [David Burruto, Fernandez]: passed.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Lang — take five minutes to share thoughts on Charlottesville, calls on Jon Levinson.

Levinson — my son lives in Virginia, he drove down with his wife to Charlottesville. They were told the synagogue was closed because of threats to the building. They went to Methodist church; members of congregation were there. He wrote a report on the incident. It was a frightening time. He heard the Nazis make horrible comments. It was like the 1930's.

Greg Loew — your son wrote an excellent letter that summarizes everything. Please send it out.

Levinson — yes, I will send the letter out.

Hene Kelly — my daughter was trying to explain what happened in six-year-old terms. She tells the story about the conversation with her granddaughter.

Pam DiGiovanni — reads a press release from National Council of Jewish Women. This should not happen in the U.S. We need to hold Trump accountable for everything happening now.

Nicole Fernandez — One silver lining from Saturday, I got to spend it with you guys at picnic. If you are looking for another place to share, PDC picnic is this weekend.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair — asks new people to introduce themselves.

Joe Goethals — I have not been here for a while. I'm running for San Mateo City Council.

Shiraz Zack — My name is like the wine. I'm a candidate for SMFC School Board.

Joan Dentler — I'm an alternate for Jerry hill, and a proud member of FemDems.

Nevada Merriman — I'm an alternate for John Woodell. I see lots of familiar faces. I work in the affordable housing industry.

Nancy Magee — This is my first committee meeting. I'm joining Coastside Dems, and I'm running for San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools in June of 2018.

Michael Vargas — I'm president of Young Dems. This is my first meeting.

Chair — welcomes new visitors.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

Chair — Several of us will go to the e-board meeting at the end of August: Brigid O'Farrell, Nick Akers and myself. We'll bring back information. The pre-endorsements conference is in January.

Hene Kelly — Yes, pre-endorsements conference is in January.

Chair — The convention will be earlier this year in February. We met some new alternates tonight, welcome to all. In November, there will be another e-board here. They are always looking for volunteers. There's a chairs letter and fliers on the table about our Sept 21 meeting. We have a speaker, Christine Pelosi, and a presentation from the endorsements committee.

Controller Report

Nancy Yarbrough — Our July 31 balance statement: \$68,597 in federal, \$1,625 in state, and \$51,596 in segregated. I've been working on collecting everyone's dues; they were due on July 1st. On the BBQ, we had an enormous number of sponsors. For sponsorships we raised \$8,410, for lunch tickets we raised \$3,415. The total raised was \$11,825. The cost was \$1,918. We had an objective of \$10,000.

Chair — We raised \$9,981.84 (prompting Jon Levinson and Davina Hurt to toss in \$20 each).

Nancy — I will send full financial report with sponsors to the secretary.

Federal	Date	Payee / Memo	Payment	Deposit	Balance
	07/03/2017	River City Business Services	\$615.76		\$62,139.72
	07/05/2017	Deposit		\$468.33	\$62,608.05
	07/06/2017	Harris, Cecily - Reimbursement	\$6.51		\$62,601.54
	07/10/2017	Deposit		\$360.00	\$62,961.54
	07/11/2017	Deposit		\$15.00	\$62,976.54
	07/12/2017	Deposit		\$696.26	\$63,672.80
	07/19/2017	Deposit		\$3,469.77	\$67,142.57
	07/26/2017	Deposit		\$1,455.25	\$68,597.82
State	Date	Payee / Memo	Payment	Deposit	Balance
	07/10/2017	Deposit		\$500.00	\$1,565.86
	07/13/2017	Deposit		\$60.00	\$1,625.86
Segregated Funds	Date	Payee / Memo	Payment	Deposit	Balance
	07/01/2017				\$51,596.70

Northern Vice Chair Report

Cliff Robbins — I just got back from a music festival, raising money for parks and recreation.

Southern Vice Chair Report

Karen Maki — No report.

Corresponding Secretary Report

Alexis Lewis — No report.

Recording Secretary Report

John Woodell — Thanks for sending updates to the roster and feedback on the minutes.

Chair emeritus Report

Chair — Jeffrey helped with chartered clubs. He will rejoin e-board and be more involved.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fund Development Committee Report

Alexis Lewis — It was a success, thanks to volunteers and sponsors. We had a wonderful committee with: Sharrie, Anastasia, Ginny, Cecily, Nancy and April.

Endorsements Committee Report

Chair — When I prepared the agenda, I didn't know

Karen Maki was going to step-up to be endorsements chair.

Maki — read off the names of people on the political committee:

- Sandra Lang
- Nick Akers
- Alex Lewis
- Cecily Harris
- Karen Maki
- Judith Christensen
- David Burruto
- Nicole Fernandez
- Pamela O'Leary
- Brigid O'Farrell
- Diana Reddy

Maki — We're organizing now. Brigid and Dianne agreed to review measures. Nicole and Pamela agreed to research candidates. We decided to add a housing question to our questionnaire. We'll do interviews in Sept 5th and possibly on Sept 7th if we need it. Committee recommendations will be brought to Sept 21st meeting for approval. Questions?

Christensen — Asks about the meeting interview date on the 5th.

Chair — It's a Tuesday.

Maki — I'll send out details. David is keeping track of candidates.

Chair — We did not expect to have so many candidates. We have 8 ballot measures and about 25 candidates to interview. This is a preview of what's happening next year. We'll be busy.

Maki — Please keep the 7th open in case we need another night.

Lang — Is there a deadline for applicants?

Chair — Unclear, some cities have extensions. David, can you help us?

David Burruto — We're working back for the deadline, just closed last night. The email should be going out. Those materials should be returned by end of the month.

Woodell — Remarks related to the brainstorm meeting. Spoke to Cliff about how a bylaws change was not necessary, but we could publish the process for candidates to see.

Rick Bonilla — Tuesday night won't work for San Mateo, we have a city council meeting.

Chair — We're doing our best. We can use the 7th.

Brian Perkins — Last year we had a Federal employee that was disqualified by getting endorsed. The committee should give this some thought. The impact for federal employees is great; they could lose the pension and lose their job.

Burruto — suggest that the burden is on the candidate.

Perkins — David said is that the burden is on the candidate, but I don't believe that. I think the burden is on us. We can put good people out of public office. If we had the information, we wouldn't do it. It's most Federal employees, under the Hatch Act. It happened in Sonoma and other places. It's not perfect, but in our interest to do what we can.

Chair — It's something we can add to our application; "are you a fed employee?" Some people may not know about this, I just found out about this last year.

Nicole Fernandez — "I'm with Brian." Also, instead of Tuesday, maybe move it to a Saturday.

Chair — When we picked an evening, we expected fewer races. We'll try to find a good time and location. As we contact people, we'll come up with a schedule.

Resolutions Committee Report

David Burruto — The chair asked me to briefly detail why we do this. This committee can stake out a position for the outside world. It is a formalized process to adopt a document. There is a required format: 3 whereas, 2 resolved. The committee has first option to review it, then we have time to vote and reflect on it the next time we make recommendation to this body. We also have an emergency option, for items that are timely, with a higher vote threshold. In the case of tonight, last month we introduced this. The committee had opportunity to review and make small changes, to make it more global. I will have the author (Karen Maki) speak to it.

Woodell — David, do we need to have a motion to have discussion?

Burruto — This is through the author right now.

Maki — I've been working to stop clear cutting for 17 years. Clear cutting is bad. Elective logging is the way we log, we get benefits from gentler methods. Clear cutting looks like a bomb hit. It happens two places, national forests and private lands. Federal land is controlled by CalFire. Logging on private land is controlled by the State of California. The rules are created by the Board of Forestry. If we were to stop clear cutting, it's already illegal in three counties, we'd need another law. Legislators hear a lot from timber industry. We're trying to pass resolutions in cities and three entities. I figure that Democratic Party can urge more cities to pass the resolution. Then legislators are more likely to do it, and then we need the Governor to sign it. A ban on clear cutting is in the Democratic Party Platform already.

Burruto — Before we have discussion, we need a motion first. The committee recommends that we pass this. Do we have a motion? [Motion by Lang, second by Reddy]

Maki — It may feel strange to pass this in a city like San Mateo or Belmont because there no clear cutting in those cities, but we get water from the Sierras. We need to address climate change. It makes sense.

Woodell — Are you contacting the League of California Cities, they often lobby for issues like this, and also, why is CalFire involved?

Maki — CalFire approves the harvest from the timber industry. I reached out to league, Catherine Carlton regarding to the League.

Woodell — The Mayor of Menlo Park is on the board.

Maki — I'll contact her.

Lang — Can they clear cut in Yosemite?

Maki — The department of interior and department of agriculture controls that.

Helen Wolter — I'm curious about the economic impacts.

Maki — Over time you make the same money. It depends on how fast trees grow.

Greg Loew — If you want 2 or 3 numbers for why this is so important, this year we are releasing almost 40 billion tons of CO2 into the atmosphere. About 10 Billion are absorbed by the oceans and about 8 Billion by forests. The rest stays up there. If you cut more trees anywhere, it's all bad.

Christensen — I grew up in Washington State. What you miss; is what it does to all species in the forest, they are devastated. They die, starve to death, the streams fill, salmon die. The damage to all species and planet is catastrophic. As a teenager, we drove to the ocean, you could see clear cut for 20 miles. This was the first time I saw my father cry. What it means for all beings. We have to support this, for planet, and beings in forest.

Ashleigh Evans — calls the question.

Burruto — The "I's" have it to end of debate. Calls for the vote; the "I's" have it, motions passes.

Bylaws Committee Report

Cliff Robbins — No Report

Elections Integrity Committee Report

Brent Turner — tells story about why he is wearing sunglasses. Regarding the Presidents commission on elections. Bill Gardner (New Hampshire) got on that committee somehow, he's a good guy. I don't know how Trump missed it. We're looking at that. Our Secretary of State rejected -Trump request for voter data. Article in the New York Times, written by CIA Director Jim Woolsey, raised issue. Microsoft and other IP companies are blocking security progress. We want revise AB-668, or we need to kill it. We appreciate Dems in SMC being at center of this.

Programs Committee Report

Brigid O'Farrell — I'll pass out fliers, Christine Pelosi is our speaker, activist from SF. She chairs the Democratic Women's Caucus, and has written two books: Campaign Boot Camp and 2.0. She goes around encouraging people. Please think about questions. She will speak 10-15 minutes, then we'll have dialog. The committee also met today. We have four issues and we are lining up speakers (lists topics). For November meeting, we're looking for someone on the State E-board to talk to us about the state E-board. Our first speakers were sponsors of the picnic. That's what we want; to energize and have folks work with us.

Levinson — Sept 21 is Rosh Hashanah. That's a bad date. Would it be possible to hold that on Tuesday, or the week before?

O'Farrell — I will need to find out if we can reschedule.

Welcome Committee Report

Sharrie Kriger — Anastasia, Eric and I hosted a meeting. Groups want to focus on welcome and other outreach. People come and wonder what we do. Pick up a blue sheet. We attach a feedback form; we want feedback. Nine or nine people felt welcome, and would come back. If you are looking for have engagements, Jeffrey has a roster of clubs, which will be on the website. Cecily had a brain wave; and room setup crew. If you have time and interest, sign up for setup crew. If you can to that, thanks.

Anastasia — What about sign up to bring food?

Woodell — On next roster, I'll show districts for associates, so we'll more people to bring food.

Kriger — The minutes are very good.

Outreach Committee Report

Eric — We do outreach to resistance groups. I've been gone for two months. College students perceive 2 year old stuff as falling asleep. Indivisible is wide-awake. We're the one's that know where the openings are. We know how to get an endorsement. We can be a focal point. When people land on our website they could see clubs and resistance organizations, maybe even YouTube videos.

Carole Dorshkind — Same information for clubs as well?

Eric — Absolutely, I also went to, "how to talk to trump supporters" meeting. A lot has to do with tone of voice. The reaction is resistance. The point is to ask neutral questions. Information up on their website. Now that I'm back, we'll restart the meetings.

Chair — We want much more info on the web. Some clubs already have websites. Will bring the topic of resistance groups up. Some are not Democrats. As an e-board, we need to talk about how to work with resistance groups.

Eric — That's critically important.

DIRECTOR and LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Region 6 Director Report

Hene Kelly — The e-board meeting is going to be a lot of fun. The pre-endorsement meeting is the one time clubs have a say for state and federal offices. Those meetings are in January. I have everyone's lists and bylaws, more fun than barrel-of-monkeys to read. Once I figure out how many members we really have; I look at those membership numbers to make sure clubs get most members, and other club get remainders. I will ask clubs to give me prospective delegates. You can have the board do it, give a few alternates. Name a non-elected member. I'll get it all fixed up and get correct names. At the meeting, no proxies are allowed. Vote by mail, or come in. You could fax, but now to me. We have a good time. Last time we did it here.

Congresswoman Jackie Speier's Office

Brian Perkins — Congresswoman Speier is demanding the President's removal by the 25th amendment. His behavior is erratic. The language itself is open ended. Mike Pence is not a great alternative, but at least he's predictable.

Chair — How does it work?

Perkins — There are three parts. The last part talks about "unfit to serve." The majority of the cabinet would vote. That would be delivered to the House and Senate. Another way to do it is a body setup by congress.

Woodell — There is a great video on the 25th Amendment from Lawrence O'Donnell.
(see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocMXpqLD5JI>)

Unidentified 1 — What can we do? Can we write in?

Perkins — It can't hurt to write any member. Some of these people may not have read the constitution. It can't hurt to write Pence.

Bonilla — Can we write a resolution?

Perkins — We're all constituents.

Bonilla — Resolution committee can put together draft.

Hene Kelly — Can he still go to prison?

Perkins — Depends on whether there were crimes committed.

Unidentified 2 — Has this been implemented?

Perkins — Yes, when Ronald Reagan was shot. Also used with one of the Bush presidents. It has not been used in fitness, except for when the president is under general anesthetic. On Oct 21, long promised bus trip to the central valley to register voters. No district selected yet. It will be from 7am to 4pm. I'm lobbying to leave from Rollins Road, in front of Sees Candy. The busses can hold 60 to 70 people.

Bonilla — I don't see any place to make a motion for a resolution, can we do that?

Chair — Please write it up.

Perkins — Yes, write it up.

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo's Office

Helen Wolter — She has not done anything with the 25th Amendment. Good news, we kicked off the 3rd annual High School app challenge. Anna wanted to make sure people know she's grateful about support of Obama Care. She's also working on the effort to keep voter data from being passed to Trump. Anna, Jackie and Jimmy Panetta are working to address noise concerns.

Perkins — We have noise issue across the bay. The FAA report was released. Relief will arrive in two years, it takes time to redesign the skyways.

Wolter — On Nov 11, Anna Eshoo is celebrating 25 years of public serve.

Assemblyman Marc Berman's Office

Nicole Fernandez — Marc has good stuff on his website. Also, the PDC picnic this Saturday. Delaine Eastin is our speaker. We are inspired to be as good as the San Mateo County picnic.

Woodell — Do you know anything about this report paid for by Facebook?

Perkins — John is referring to the SamTrans report. You can see the report on the SamTrans website. It is a study of the Dumbarton corridor. It looks at reactivating rail and placing express lanes on the bridge. It is also proposing HOV lanes on 101.

Woodell — Supervisor Warren Slocum was on the news talking about using taxes and fees to make Dumbarton rail happen. I'll send out the link: <https://t.co/qUN8CyAB49>

Perkins — There are three different proposals on raising funds. San Mateo County has been poorly represented when tax dollars are allocated.

State Senator Jerry Hill's Office

Joan Dentler — The Summer recess is wrapping up. The Senator is in the district for one month. The legislative session starts up on Monday, then he'll be in Sacramento until October. Regarding major legislation packages, I think Brian touched on sales tax measures. There is a 1/8 sales tax, proposed in three counties, to design specific funding for Caltrain. The bill is to put the tax on the ballot. We had a judicial victory last week. Three State appellate judges handed a victory to Surfrider Foundation, which opens up Martins Beach. Now we need to see if the access road is appropriate. That will be taken up when the legislative session opens back up. We have no events coming up, we just had a Java with Jerry in Mountain View. We had a Town Hall with Speier and Mullin last month.

State Senator Scott Wiener's Office — no report

Assemblman Phil Ting's Office — no report

Assemblyman Kevin Mullin's Office — no report

CLUB REPORTS

Chair — two clubs close to win prize for most picnic participants.

Democracy for America — Ashleigh Evans & Carole Dorshkind

Dorshkind — A staff attorney for EFF spoke to us about the spider web of police tech. It's a little scary, it could interfere with speech in the future. We endorsed SB-21 from Jerry Hill, which is the Public Surveillance Accountability Act.

Evans — One speaker dropped out, so we're up find of up the air. Someone will speak to us about crisper. Crisper is latest tool in genetic editing; more effective, cheaper. It can take malaria out of mosquitos, fix sickle cell, or engineer pigs for human transplant. Stay tuned, it will be exciting for the first Wednesday of September, the 6th.

No Club (lightning round) — Berie Plotnikoff

Plotnikoff — I was just looking at 1979 convention. We should consider honoring one person each month. We could honor Speier for ousting Trump, or Hill for PG&E.

North Peninsula democrats — Pam DiGiovanni

DiGiovanni — On Aug 19 we're having a candidate event at Peter's Cafe, 9:00am to 10:30am. Everyone is welcome. On Sept 16, Melinda Dart, on the Roots of Charter Segregationist Movement. On Oct 29 we're having our 10th anniversary celebration. Jerry Hill and Phil Ting will be there. It's \$20 per person, which includes a glass of wine. We should come together more often. We can carpool. Candidates are coming as well.

Coastside Democrats — Bill Kehoe

Kehoe — Our membership meeting was rescheduled because it fell on Yom Kippur. We plan to have Nancy and Gerry talk about education. We're trying to get more people active. On Sept 20, from 5pm to 7pm, we're having our Miramar reception.

Peninsula Young Democrats — Michael Vargas

Vargas — We're very active this year, with a whole new crop of people. Anybody under 36, not just college kids. Our regular meeting is at the Redwood City Library with the director of the Pride Center in San Jose. Silicon Valley Pride is next weekend. We'll have a "Legislative Update with the Millennial Caucus" with two young Dems: Evan Low and Marc Berman, it's on Sept 26. (location update: TechCode Accelerator, 1172 Castro Street, Mountain View, California 94040). We're here, if young people are interested. We've got a young Dem group here, having fun.

Coastside Progressive Democrats — Brent Turner

Turner — We had our first meeting, Sabrina Brennan is president. We also had our first event at the weekend of the picnic. We are scheduling out first public event with Ruben Major, candidate for Secretary of State in 2018.

LIGHTNING ROUND

Alexis Lewis – Every day, Monday through Friday, I send out quotes, “...ignorance and prejudice, racism can, will and must be defeated.”

Anastasia — The Greek Festival celebrates Western Democracy. I brought fliers.

Brigid O’Farrell — Last time we had Sister District here. The founder of Sister District, Rita Bosworth, will be at “Brews & Views” at Half Moon Bay Brewing Company, Aug 31, 7pm to 9pm.

Sandra Lang — This Saturday, Aug 19 at 11am. There is an event at the Burlingame Library to give advise for tenants to advocate for rent control.

Pam DiGiovanni — There’s going to be a rally on El Camino Real in San Mateo at 3rd Ave, 3pm-4pm. ADL and indivisible, come bring people, bring signs.

Greg Loew — I have in my hand what is called “the better deal,” few know what it is. The E-board should talk about this. We should have a better message for 2018. This is not bad, but it’s not good enough.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair — We’re going to adjourn in memory of Heather Hire, and take 60 seconds to reflect.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 pm.