

San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee

General Meeting Minutes

Sep 21, 2017

Call to Order: Adoption of Agenda & Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Chair — asks for motion to approve Aug minutes. [Diana Reddy, Bill Lex]: **PASSED**.

Chair — asks for motion to adopt Sep agenda. [Diana Reddy, Judith Christensen]: **PASSED**.

SPEAKER SERIES

Brigid O'Farrell — Introduction of Christine Pelosi.

Christine Pelosi — When I was first elected Chair of the Women's Caucus, we had about 615 members; we now have over 1,700 members. When I was growing up, going to caucus meetings with my mom, it was mostly men. With the Women's Caucus, one thing we thought was important was to adopt a cause to make a difference. Now we have amazing meetings. We talk about women's equality. We had a presentation from the nurses association to talk about the need for single payer. We share stories of our constituents.

— The other major piece of legislation we support at the State level is AB 249, California Disclose Act. Right before it passed, it was frustrating. Now we have to say paid for by PG&E. Now they need to list the top three donors. On this issue we had to have a fight with friends in labor. These issues take a long time. This week we're working on ACA and DACA. We have an event to talk about renewal. We have a statewide group in SF. The deadline for DACA renewal is Oct 3rd or 5th. We need to get registration going, we need Republican support to discharge the Dream Act, to come to a vote. We are at 199 in support we need 19 more. If the majority of the room wants it, it gets a vote. It's very important next week, to sign onto the Clean Dream Act.

— On health care, the Gram Cassidy Bill, so far groups are coming out against it. If you know anyone in these districts, call them up. If you have pre-existing condition, a child, etc., you need help. Back in March; we were trying to stop Trump's bill, the Democrats were united. We were polling in places with Republican representatives. They can't save Medicaid because the people they polled don't know anyone on Medicaid. Most of it was culture shame of debt and poverty. We were not willing to accept that. The only way it will work is to poll. We asked what would they think of a Governor who pledged to do Medicaid expansion. We told them what Medicaid was. They said they might want that for themselves. Romney called Medicaid people part of the "takers." There was a waitress that spoke up, and I had my Medicaid mom. I went on Jenny Jones Show. The woman that did my make-up whispered, "I'm a Medicaid mom." She told me, "I can't work too much or I don't qualify for Medicaid. I can only do a certain block of guests, and then I need someone to sub for me. I need to keep my son on his insurance." Then, the veterans spoke up, "We're not ashamed; the government should be ashamed." All of the sudden, saving ACA was about saving Medicaid. There is a reason they want dark money. They don't want us talking about the issues. They want to attack, without us being able to respond. With the Trump administration, just this week, we found out about \$300,000 on chartered jets. They want to silence the story. When people come from shadows, welcome them.

Greg Loew — A number of us have been talking, looking for a better message. What about "the better deal," is that good enough for us?

Pelosi — The theme we took into 2006 was "a culture of corruption." Now people want something better, and the placeholder is "a better deal." What's important is what's underneath: raising wages, fighting monopolies, helping consumers, fighting the cost of prescription drugs, protecting the environment. Know that a better slogan will come along.

Basem Manneh — Healthcare was a big issue this last election. We're blessed with healthcare here. The Flint water issue was huge. How did you perceive the situation in Michigan?

Pelosi — I was just in Michigan. We had a town hall on healthcare. The auto industry did very well, but not all workers get 15/hr. Custodians and cafeteria workers get minimum wage. The UWCF vs UAW salary, they talked a lot about that. They also talked about water quality. Fertility rates plummeted after what happened in Flint. I also thought part of the issues that never got addressed, was why in the last year of the Obama Administration weren't we pushing for a jobs bill but instead pushing for TTP.

Shiraz Zack — Our public high school district has lots of DOCA kids that are feeling anxiety right now. Some were initially not registered under DOCA, but were told to do so. Now they are experiencing so much anxiety while taking challenging courses. There are a numbers of US attorneys attending forums on this. What else can we do?

Pelosi — My daughter is in school in San Francisco. Folks don't know what they're going to do under Trump. A seven-year-old boy is living with sister because he's worried his parents will be taken. One: get the information. Two: talk to school board members, and community college districts. See if there is a way to help them.

ENDORSEMENTS

Karen Maki — We interviewed candidates on Sept 9-10. Seven members interviewed candidates. We made recommendations. We're going to ask if anyone wants to pull a race. Only voting members can pull a race, then we'll move onto the recommended candidates. There are 23 people voting, we need 60% to pass. I'll ask for motion. After that, only members and alternates can talk.

Sabrina — I thought it might be helpful for the public to understand the process. How did the committee reach out to candidates? I know a lot of candidates didn't attend the interview process, but I know candidates don't always attend.

Maki — I sent email to everyone. I followed up with another email and phone call. A number of people did not respond, one said, "I don't want your endorsement."

Sandra Lang — What are we doing about names?

John Woodell — I want anyone who speaks to state his or her name for the minutes.

Lang — I want the names of the people on the endorsement committee in the minutes.

Woodell — Karen sent me those names and I put them in last month's minutes.

Maki — Introduces the members on the endorsement committee and asks for pulled races.

Cliff Robbins — Pulls San Mateo City Council.

Nick Akers — Pulls Burlingame and charters B&H.

Leow — Pulls Measure F in Atherton.

Diana Reddy — Motion to approve remaining recommendations, Akers seconds: **PASSED**.

Maki — Asks endorsed candidates to stand and be recognized.

Akers — Moves endorsement of Ricardo Ortiz, **David Burruto** seconds.

— He was previously endorsed by this committee, and is currently serving as mayor.

Lang — I see him as a leader that has grown, he's approachable.

Woodell — Ortiz was the only recommended candidate, so there was no need to pull Burlingame. We can continue to vote to endorse candidates in each race until we reach the number of open seats.

Akers — Moves to call the question, **Burruto** seconds.

Maki — Calls for the vote to endorse Ricardo Ortiz for Burlingame: **PASSED**.

Robbins — Moves to endorse Joe Goethals and Rick Bonilla. I'll have another motion later.

Cecily Harris — Seconds the motion.

Maki — Asks for discussion.

Nicole Fernandez — I support those candidates.

Nancy Yarbrough — I live in San Mateo, I support their endorsement.

Robbins — They've been great public servants.

Brennan — I want to make sure we're still endorsing Chelsea Bonini.

Chair — We're not there yet.

Woodell — You can make that motion once we vote.

Maki — calls for vote on endorsement of Joe Goethals and Rick Bonilla: **PASSED.**

Woodell — Asks for any abstentions: NONE, UNANIMOUS.

Robbins — Asks to make another motion, moves to endorse Eric Rodriguez, **Akers** seconds. — I've known Eric for a long time; he's on the planning commission. He's a smart guy; he's got good Democratic values. The other candidates are good, but he's most deserving of our endorsement. He's almost a shoe-in to win; it's incumbent upon us to support winners.

Woodell — Democrats came together in this room recently and selected Chelsea Bonini to be the e-board rep for this Assembly District. Maybe we should take that into account and support her as well... as was the recommendation of the endorsement committee.

Reddy — David Lim wrote a powerful letter to all central committee members. I've provided a list of Democratic values that our DFA club is working on. Because of those values, I support Chelsea and do not support Eric. I'd like to ask David Lim to speak; he's an alternate.

Woodell — Someone told me before the meeting that he's no longer an alternate, so he's not.

Reddy — Asks everyone if they received the letter. David was a passionate supporter of measure B in San Mateo, to seek renter protection.

Fernandez — A measure that our central committee endorsed.

Reddy — Yes, and Eric signed the "NO" ballot measure. Fifty percent of residents in San Mateo are renters. Almost a million dollars was spent in the "NO" campaign, using a well-known Republican strategist, and Eric was part of it.

Brennan — Can I amend the current motion to support Chelsea?

Robbins — No, it's been moved and seconded. If we get 60% we're done with San Mateo.

Maki — If it doesn't get 60%, we'll have another motion.

Woodell — We should make it clear; if this passes we're done. People should vote NO if they want to have a vote for Chelsea, but we can come back if we can't decide.

Reddy — There are only three seats in San Mateo, and we've already endorsed two. It really does get down to Eric vs Chelsea.

Maki — We should speak on Chelsea's behalf now.

Woodell — Sabrina said she wanted to make that motion, but Cliff made his motion instead.

Harris — We have a motion for Eric Rodriguez, we need to solve that first.

Reddy — Chelsea is the candidate that was recommended by the endorsement committee.

Maki — Yes, that seems a little odd.

Brennan — I asked to make the motion first.

Woodell — Cliff decided to make a motion and you didn't, so that's how it works.

Robbins — We'll vote yes or no, that's how it works.

Maki — Pamela wants to speak.

Pamela O'Leary — I want to vote against this. This is my district; Chelsea embodies Democratic values. We should support her.

Ashleigh Evans — This is a procedural question. There is only one seat left, so even though the vote is for Eric, people can speak in support of Chelsea?

Maki — That is correct.

Robbins — I respect everyone's opinion. There are good Democrats that don't think rent control is the right answer here. If rent control becomes a litmus test for our endorsement, I'd be very concerned about that.

Reddy — We have thousands of people that have been displaced. The fliers from the group fighting rent control were telling lies from the Republican playbook, very disappointing. I ask you to support Chelsea.

Brennan — I think it's important as Democrats, that we support women candidates. Chelsea is hard working. She has proven herself as a dedicated public servant. She's an attorney. She's qualified for this position. We should be supporting her.

Maki — Nicole wants to speak.

Fernandez — I want to speak as a person of color who sat through the interview and knows Chelsea well. I ask my colleagues to continue supporting her recommendation and her endorsement. She has aligned with underserved citizens in San Mateo. She's done amazing work on the school board. I'm proud to support her endorsement.

Maki — asks to call the question, **Burruto** seconds: **PASSED**.
Burruto — We need to call names from the roster, and restate the motion.
Maki — Calls for vote on endorsement of Eric Rodriguez, ROLL-CALL: **FAILED**.

Brennan — Motion to endorse Chelsea Bonini; Reddy Seconds.
Maki — Calls the question: **PASSED**.
Maki — Calls for vote on endorsement of Chelsea Bonini, ROLL-CALL: **PASSED**.
— Abstentions: Greg Loew and Brian Perkins for Jackie Speier

Maki — Now we're on Atherton Measure F, someone should make a motion.
Loew — My motion is to endorse Measure F; **Woodell** seconds.
— This comes up every second year. We should support it.
O'Farrell — This is to renew a special parcel tax. It was placed on the ballot unanimously by the city council. We reached out to the city, nobody got back to me. We decided to stay neutral.
Loew — I'm going to vote for it. If they asked me, I would have endorse it.
Woodell — If the only person here living in Atherton thinks we should endorse it, I think we should endorse it.
O'Farrell — Nobody got back to us.
Loew — I would have told you yes.
Burruto — I move to endorse.
Woodell — I think David just called the question.
Maki — Calls for vote on endorsement of measure F in Atherton: **PASSED**.
Woodell — Asks for any abstentions: Dentler for Hill.

Maki — Now we're on San Mateo Charter Amendment B, is there a motion?
Akers — Moves to endorse Charter Amendment B, **Annette Hipona** seconds.
Reddy — This is a Performa. The city doesn't seem to care about our endorsement.
Akers — Across the county, lots of cities will switch to even year elections. This is good. San Mateo is a charter city, so they need to go back and amend their charter. I think this is one where we ought to speak out.
Reddy — Redwood City moved to odd years because people don't get down the ballot.
Robbins — People that fear big government speak against this. This is not a power grab.
Joe Goethals — I'm asking for the endorsement, it will increase voter turnout.
Rick Bonilla — I strongly support this measure. We can't just change it; this has to go to a vote of the people. Being the only city with odd year elections will be costly; this will save money.
Ginny Stewart - calls the question: **PASSED**.
Maki — Calls for vote to endorse charter amendment B: **PASSED**.
— Asks for any abstentions: Dentler for Jerry Hill and Fernandez for Berman.

Maki — Now we're on San Mateo Charter Amendment H, is there a motion?
Akers — Moves to endorse Charter Amendment B, **Robbins** seconds.
O'Leary — Our endorsement will help increase voter engagement.
Bonilla — This is a charter amendment to remove arcane language.
Lang — Changing the venue, how would that be done?
Bonilla — As with any meeting, it would be on the agenda. Once in a while we like to have a meeting in the library.
Lang — This could be more accessible, some people can't get to city hall.
Bonilla — That's not the point. Our city hall is accessible, ADA and setup for video.
Maki — Calls the question: **PASSED**.
— Calls for vote to endorse charter amendment H: **PASSED**.
— Asks for any abstentions: Greg Loew, Dentler for Hill and Fernandez for Berman

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair — asks new people to introduce themselves.

Eleni Kounalakis — I'm running for Lieutenant Governor.

Mike O'Neill — I'm mayor of Pacifica.

Kevin Berbail — I moved from Southern California; looking to get more involved.

Rhianon Anderson — I went away to College and just moved back.

Amy — I'm a student from Redwood City.

Dennis — I'm a student from Redwood City.

Metra — I've lived here 25 years.

Ruben Major — I'm running for Secretary of State in California.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

Chair's Report

Cecily Harris — We have great plans for the November meeting which is the night before the November e-board. Also in my chair's letter, I asked about volunteers for Fog Fest. I also got email from April, Pacifica Daly City Dems are looking for folks at Fog Fest to do voter registration. Coastside Dems will have voter registration at the Pumpkin Festival.

Northern Vice Chair Report

Cliff Robbins — No report.

Southern Vice Chair Report

Karen Maki — No report.

Controller Report

Nancy Yarbrough — Our federal account is \$71,481.43, the state account is \$612.34, and the segregated funds are \$53,184.46. This month we will change to River City Associates. Everything was wonderful until last spring when our rep left. The replacement was not working out. The e-board met, and we're going to change. The transfer day will be Monday.

Recording Secretary Report

John Woodell — Thanks for feedback, the corrected minutes will be on the website.

Corresponding Secretary

Report Alexis Lewis — No report.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Endorsements and Leadership Development

Karen Maki — No report

Resolutions Committee

David Burruto — The former Hotel Sofitel, employees are attempting to unionize. You have a copy of the resolution at your table.

O'Farrell — This is in keeping with Democratic values. Several of these workers came to speak here at the central committee. A lot of them asked us to sign this form. It makes sense to support their efforts.

Burruto — This is the first reading. We'll take it in review and put it on the October agenda.

Ginny Stewart — The Community Service League works very hard and deserves our support.

Akers — My first job after law school was an analyst for card check neutrality. The concept it assumes is there will be an election for union recognition in the workplace. When we see elections, we support that, but the reality is that if an employer wants to oppose, it's not free or fair in that environment. I support this on an urgency basis.

Lang - I support this on an urgency basis, no need to go on and on. I worked in a hotel and saw the hard work. I move we support this on an urgency basis.

Lang — Makes a motion to support this on an urgency basis, **Akers** seconds.

Burruto — Asks for a vote: **PASSED**. No abstentions. UNANIMOUS.

Reddy — How will this resolution be used?

Charles Sanchez — We'll share it with the company, and share it with other elected officials for organizing efforts at the hotel. We want to put pressure on the company. We reached out to pension funds to not invest in this. Another tactic they can't ignore is politicians and investors.

O'Farrell — They've written and the company is not responding. The more letter the better.

Sanchez — We've visited their office twice, they're not responding.

Woodell — Asks for clarification of the speaker's name.

Bylaws Committee

Cliff Robbins – No report.

Election Integrity Committee

Brent Turner — I've been reporting on some of the legislation going on around the state. There was a sneaky bill called 840 that took vote-by-mail and provisional ballots out of the audit process. We don't know what's up with Secretary of State Padilla. Also, AB-668 went to inactive. We were opposed by just about everybody. We were lonely and stood alone opposing proprietary voting systems, but now it was placed inactive. Again this bill was supported by Secretary of State Padilla. We will continue to be proponents of open source software.

Technology Management and Data Communications

Mitchel Oster — Absent, no report.

E-board Report

Cecily Harris — Three of us went to e-board in Anaheim.

O'Farrell — Eric Bauman was confirmed as chair. He wants to be more inclusive when building out the standing committees with people of color and more women. There are currently no San Mateo County people on Standing Committees. They live streamed the sessions. They circulated a survey that asked about childcare options. Lots of candidates were there. Saturday was women's equality day with a great poster I brought back. Planned parenthood and single payer were big issues. With the rules committee, candidates must now confirm they have read the platform. Incumbents will now be required to get 60%, not just 50% as before. There is a proposal to eliminate the 30 appointments by elected officials. This will be referred to subcommittee, and will come up in November at the e-board meeting. There were 61 resolutions that were passed, 23 were new, other were carried others from the convention. Because the convention is early this year, Feb. 23-25, the platform committee is very busy. The Northern California Committee Hearing is this weekend in Sacramento. You should participate in hearings. The winter meeting is here. We'll interact with the e-board. You can volunteer and go as an observer to see what the resolutions committee is working on.

Maki — Are we making changes to platform, or does it start from scratch?

O'Farrell — The platform is done every two years.

Akers — We don't have San Mateo County representatives on the committee. If you are interested, we should move people into these positions. There was talk about transparency; we'll see if that happens. They want to meet with the local central committees. They were talking about fundraising for local DCCs. The Orange County DCC was invited to join and introduce women serving in public office. It was a remarkable moment. We host once a year, we should get people to come.

O'Farrell — You can be involved in many ways. One of the people that got singled out was Margaret Okuzumi who found errors in the bylaws that needed to be fixed. Thanks Margaret.

Harris — If you aren't able to go, they are streaming the e-board.

Welcome and Outreach Committee

Sharrie Kriger — Thanks to Anastasia Morrison and Eric for setting up. Thanks to those that brought food. If you're new, please give us feedback.

DIRECTOR and LEGISLATIVE REPORTS**Region 6 Director Report**

Hene Kelly — Absent, no report.

Congresswoman Jackie Speier's Office

Brian Perkins — We heard the impacts of passing TrumpCare. To make more local; if that bill were passed in San Mateo County, 8,500 people would be without health insurance by 2027. California would lose \$57B if passed. Senator McCloskey has not made a choice yet. Senator Paul is apposed, but always votes yes. Collins is opposed, and senator McCain. If you know people in these states, convince them to call their representatives. Under current law, we can't be charged more for pre-existing conditions with the ACA. Under the new law, it will cost much more.

Loew — What happens if this passes the Senate?

Perkins — It will go to Trump. It's not an easy battle in the house. They're under pressure in the house. Now it's 50% plus one, but it goes up to 60% by next month. They want to free up money to give tax cuts to the rich.

State Senator Jerry Hill's Office

Joan Dentler — The State legislature wrapped up last Friday. All the bills that have passed have been sent to the Governor. Senator Hill had 16 bills that passed through. The first bill he signed was SB65, making it illegal to drive while smoking or ingesting marijuana. Also, the Martins Beach bill passed. There will be money put aside for the acquisition and environmental review. There was also the repeal of the school reserve tax. The seatbelt safety bill requires drivers and passengers in busses equipped with safety belts to wear them. The Senator is back in the district. He'll be at "Java with Jerry" next week in Burlingame.

Assemblyman Marc Berman's Office

Nicole Fernandez — Marc is co-sponsoring a soccer event, check the website.

CLUB REPORTS

DemFems – Shelly Masur

Masur — I'm president of the DemFems. We're hosting an event on October 8th, for Democratic women candidates in 2017. This meet and greet is hosted by Davina, at her house. If you want an invite, let me know.

Coastside Progressive Democrats — Sabrina Brennan

Brennan — We have a meeting on Thursday September 28, at 7:30pm in Granada. We have a website which is <http://coastsideprogressive.org>. At meeting we'll discuss SB562 and consider endorsing it. We'll be discussing Fair Rents in Pacifica and consider endorsing that. We have a speaker, who is Nancy Magee who is running to County Superintendent of Schools in 2018.

Peninsula Young Democrats — Nicole Fernandez

Fernandez — We have a meeting on Tuesday Sept 26 at the Tech Accelerator, 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Update from the millennial casus: Marc Berman and Evan Low.

Peninsula Democratic Coalition — Nicole Fernandez

Fernandez — We will hear from Larry Diamond, MA, PhD, "An Agenda for Reforming our Dysfunctional Democracy?" on November 5th 11:30 to 1:30pm, at Chef Chu's, Los Altos. Don't miss the world famous PDC holiday party at the Thurber's, Saturday, December 16 at 7pm.

Democracy for America — Ashleigh Evans & Carole Dorshkind

Dorshkind — A special event at Carole's house to see a film, "best democracy money can buy." An investigative reporter for Rolling Stone uncovered "cross check," GOP-lead organization working on purging 7 million people from voter roles. Friday Sept 29, 6:30. She has giant screen.

Dorshkind — Changes to San Mateo County, pilot project for the Secretary of State. We'll have new voting changes coming to the county, new voting centers, no polling places at precincts, drop boxes around the county, postage free mail-in ballots. The best thing, they are trying same-day registration and voting. There will be public hearings; I'll keep John and Cecily apprised. Participate in hearings if you have time. We need input for where should voting centers be located. We'll keep you informed. The idea is to make it easier, they'll be open all kinds of hours. In 2020 it will apply to the whole state.

North Peninsula democrats — Sandra Lang

Lang — On October 29th we're having a big party for the 10th anniversary of our club. We have sponsorship opportunities. Hope you will come.

Coastside Democrats — Bill Kehoe

Kehoe — On the 6th, we'll show "All the President's Men" with a potluck. We're also having a happy hour at the Miramar in October. If you want to help with voter registration, let me know.

LIGHTNING ROUND

Eleni Kounalakis — I'm running for Lieutenant Governor. I was the US ambassador to Hungary. Before that I worked for 18 years in housing. My first paying job was with the Democratic Party. Before that I was a five-time delegate to the National Convention. I will fight for healthcare for all, and for affordable housing. I will fight to bring down costs on higher education, and fight for immigrant communities. Kamala Harris has endorsed me, and I'm asking for your support.

Ginny Stewart — I have in my hand an invite to Nancy Pelosi's Ultimate Women's Power Luncheon on October 19. I will be out of town, would you like it?

Ruben Major — I'm running for Secretary of State in California. I'm a paramedic by trade, and a paramedic trainer. My wife and three children live in San Diego. I'm running because we have problems with election systems. I grew up poor and had a troubled upbringing; I was raised by a teen-aged mother and had an absentee father. We were on the streets. Don't feel bad, I have law and masters degrees in military history. I will make sure your vote counts.

Lisa Nash — I'm representing sister district to help with purple states. Right now we're working on Virginia House of Delegates. We have two events, on the 27th of September in Hillsborough and one on the 19th in Sam Mateo at my house. Visit <https://www.sisterdistrict.com>, anyone can make a difference.

Bret Turner — Quick update on a resolution, I thought our resolution for Open Source elections was delayed. I understand now it did pass, and will move on to the DNC event in Las Vegas. I will attend to help get this in the National Platform.

Margaret Okuzumi — The City of Menlo Park has been threatened with a lawsuit over how it selects councilmembers, and the City of Santa Clara has been sued. In Menlo Park on October 7th we're having an event to talk about different ways to structure elections.

Eric Siegel — I want to be thankful of "rock the congress," with over 300 activists, it went well. CA-10 coalition, denim will endorse if it's unanimous. Indivisible will endorse. Swing Left won't endorse. With these groups, it's more of a partnership developing.

Sandra Lang — During the last heat crisis, the county notified people, locations were mostly limited to libraries. We need more work to find cooling centers, and to get word out to people who need a place to go. There were three deaths. I spoke to a to someone from the county, they told be to talk to city the councils.

Nancy Yarbrough — I went to the mailbox, I brought a copy of mail piece with childish and vulgar language. We gave a copy to the FBI, they want me to not touch it.

Chelsea Bonini — Thank you for your support. I hope to be successful, and work on solving our housing issues.

Noelia Corzo — Thank you for having me. I'm very grateful of your endorsement. I want to be more involved with the Democratic Party. I want to be voice for community.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 pm.