

## San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee

### General Meeting Minutes

Mar 15, 2018

#### **Call to Order: Adoption of Agenda & Approval of Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm, by Chair Cecily Harris.

**Chair** — asks for motion to approve March minutes. [by acclamation]: **PASSED**.

**Chair** — asks for motion to adopt Apr agenda. [by acclamation]: **PASSED**.

**Chair** — We had two wonderful events: [1] Cocktails & Candidates. Sponsorship information is on the wall with one correction; Juan Raigoza. We want to thank committee volunteers, [2] Annual luncheon. Sponsors were: Congresswoman Eshoo, Congresswoman Speier, Senator Hill, Assemblymember Berman and Charles Stone. Hosts were: Senator Wiener, Assemblymember Ting, Assemblymember Mullin, and others. Brigid and I attended the activists' summit. Eshoo had an event in Palo Alto with a room full of organizations. It was fun to hear what Swing Left and others are doing. You may remember Comedy Night in 2016. We'll do it again, "Mayhem at the Midterms", Sat June 9, 2018. Dan St Paul is organizing; you'll have a flier soon.

**Nancy Yarbrough** — Thanks to Cocktails & Candidates sponsors. Funds look good this month. Some deposits didn't go in until this month. Fed \$78,415.89, State \$51,834.94, Seg: \$582.34.

• Annual Luncheon — we had a lot of sponsors, after expenses we kept \$3,470.

• Cocktails & Candidates — we had 213 guests (\$19,151), after expenses we kept \$15,786.28.

#### **GUEST SPEAKER**

**Brigid O'Farrell** — Mark Church was born and raised in San Mateo County. Mayor of Millbrae, and served on the Board of Supervisors, San Mateo County assessor-clerk-recorder. Jim Irazari will join Mr. Church. Join me in welcoming Mark Church.

**Mark Church** — Thanks for kind introduction, great to be here this evening. This is an exciting time; the landscape of elections is changing. We're going to talk about a number of new laws.

[ presentation attached ]

Questions:

**April Vargas** — I work at the headquarters; we suggest people call the elections office. With so many more questions, will you increase the number of people on the phones?

**Church** — Yes, good point, my goal is that people understand what to do.

We have plans to staff up, but I don't know exact details.

**Vargas** — Do workers speak the same language at the office?

**Church** — Yes, we'll have multilingual assistance at the front desk too.

**Jim Irazari** — We have one phone line that answers in three languages. We also have many second-language speaking workers.

**Brent Turner** — Thank you Mark, I find you quite likable. As you know, this body continues to highlight the need for open source voting systems to the Board of Supervisors. We're calling for national and state changes, to move away from these faulty systems. You mention buying yet another supply of these systems which may have resulted in an unelected president. We want San Mateo County to move away from Microsoft systems, to open source paper ballot systems. We see this as reshuffling, eliminating places where some people can vote. How do we move you toward secure systems? How do we get our desires addressed?

**Church** — We appreciate your input. To open source, we have a different views on open source. We know some institutions utilize it. We will look at open source and proprietary systems. I know Los Angeles is pursuing this.

**Turner** — San Francisco looking good as well.

**Church** — Thank you Brent.

**Diana Reddy** — Comments from community, one per city, closes at 5pm.  
How about the library for later hours?

**Irazari** — 29 days before the election, we'll have 4 attritional vote centers, especially around East Palo Alto. We're working diligently, going to community organizations like YMCA. It's difficult for these groups to commit to what we are required to provide, but we do use city halls and libraries. I'd like to remind you that with all-mail ballots, only 2.5% of votes were cast at vote centers. Even then, we've increased the coverage. Prior to elections, more vote centers will be open.

**Reddy** — Let us have copies of presentation.

**Church** — We consider you a valuable audience. We want to add 3 more vote centers 90 days out. In East Palo Alto, and the YMCA and Library.

**Ashleigh Evans** — I'm intrigued by the roving vote center. It's a traveling billboard that can go into underserved rural areas. What is the schedule?

**Church** — We have a plan for the roving vote center for the coast, like Pescadero.

**Irazari** — On Election Day, we're one of the first to do that.

**Church** — Two more questions.

**Ian McCullin** — I love it! For a frame of reference, what percentage are perm vote-by-mail?

**Church** — About 67% perm vote-by-mail, and we had one time all vote-by-mail.

**McCullin** — For voters who need assistance, what percentage of voters need assistance?

**Church** — Less than 1%. Every vote counts. We were the first county to do consolidated VMB.

**Sabrina Brennan** — The mobile voting center, good to get it out early, to make rounds, not just functioning as an information tool. To run as a candidate, we get a statement in the pamphlet, but this can be expensive. Ed Larenas ran for a two-year seat, \$8,000 for 200 words. With reduction in election costs, and more people getting pamphlets online, will we see a reduction?

**Church** — I don't know if we'll see reduction of costs, costs are fixed, passed onto the candidate.

**Brennan** — There's no way for a poor person to run. Something needs to be done to make it fair.

**Church** — They can petition in lieu.

**Brennan** — With regard to CA voting rights act, we're seeing more agencies moving away from at-large elections under threat of lawsuit. The harbor district will look at moving to districts at the next meeting. What is the county doing to help agencies avoid lawsuits?

**Church** — We can't tell a jurisdiction they need to move to district elections.

The law is not black-and-white in that area. It depends on demographics.

**O'Farrell** — Thank you so much.

**Church** — Thank you all.

**O'Farrell** — Pennsylvania reminds us every vote counts.

**Chair** — I learned so much, we need to make sure Democrat voters know how to vote.

**Reddy** — I will get the PowerPoint.

**Irazari** — I gave my card, we'll get the PowerPoint to you.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS**

**Northern Vice Chair** — No Report.

**Southern Vice Chair** — No Report.

### **Correspondence Secretary**

**Alexis Lewis** — Thank you letters were sent to sponsors.

### **Recording Secretary**

**John Woodell** — Sorry, we had a mix-up with sign-in sheets. Reps that are also club people, please give club report during that agenda item so that the minutes make sense.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Events Committee

**Alexis Lewis** — April and Sherry did a tremendous job, a round of applause for work on the Cocktails and Candidates event.

**Chair** — We heard so many compliments.

### Luncheon Committee

**Yarbrough** — We sold out.

### Endorsement & Leadership

**Karen Maki** — Next week we'll send out information to candidates, and wrap up in April.

**Chair** — We'll send an electronic form to candidates.

**Maki** — I was hoping interviews could be April 10.

I'll bring this to the committee in mid-April, or a little after that.

**Chair** — We could agendaize at our April meeting. The filing period just closed March 9. If no incumbent runs, March 14 everything closes. The smcacre.org website has a list of candidates and measures (which was previously on sharethefuture.org).

### Resolutions Committee

**Chair** — We were approached to endorse, but we had to make sure it was a resolution. It can only be a resolution until the measure is filed and ready to vote on. We can do a resolution on the issues, but not an endorsement yet. All we can do tonight is talk about the resolution. Not that we are not taking this seriously, we're just making sure we follow the bylaws. Copies of the resolution were passed out. [resolution attached]

**Reddy** — You should have a copy and data points. I'm with DFA, we're pleased that friends of SEIU approached us. Profit Stanford is making is unrelated to care. There is inconsonant patient care. The central Committee is letting Stanford know we have concerns. Later, there will be a ballot measure. For caregivers there is a standard for the number of nurses to patients, but not nursing assistants. I just wanted to let you know SEIU is poised to go after Stanford Hospital in Redwood City. We have standards we expect Stanford to rise to. Alan from SEIU is here.

**David Burruto** — Just read the resolution to your self.

**Ashleigh Evans** — Makes a motion to a support the resolution

**Diana Reddy** — Seconds the motion.

**Marc Hershman** — Did we get this a month ago?

**Burruto** — No, but the urgency vote requires a higher threshold of 60%. Q&A can be done.

**Maki** — Stanford Hospital is relevant in San Mateo County because of Redwood City?

**Reddy** — Yes.

**Maki** — Why is this urgent?

**Reddy** — [asks Alan Wong]

**Alan Wong** — We represent workers, primarily immigrants and people of color. Our patients are suffering for lack of care. Stanford is charging 60% more than other hospitals. Our care givers are directly impacted, they see people die. Stanford is growing all around the bay area.

**Reddy** — What urgency? Patients are dying; Stanford needs a light on this. Patient care suffers due to lack of staffing; we had several incidents. People run all around the hospital. People endorse this, for better staffing and better patient care. I get home at night, I want to do my best.

**O'Farrell** — I've been working on this resolution. These issues have been raised, we need more information to see how Stanford is responding. There is a lot of data. We'll have further actions down the line, more actions they might be asked to take. SEIU has asked us to do this sooner rather than later, supporting this as urgent tonight.

**Chair** — We have a motion and second. Let's vote... unanimous in favor.

Abstentions: Hill, Berman, Levinson, Kriger.

**Bylaws Committee** — No Report.

### **Elections Integrity Committee**

**Brent Turner** — Always be polite. In my opinions, the move to vote-by-mail, will have severe consequences. This plan has objection to no avail. The elections department is going to do what they are going to do. This plan goes against better judgment. The roving bus is ridiculous. I don't think it's Mark Church's fault. He's sold a bill of goods by vendors. Church talked about buying more systems and Padilla says that too. The fact is the science tells us the voting systems are not safe. There are systems that are ready to use. Microsoft is blocking these systems from coming in. Silicon Valley donates too much money. This body has lead the county for years. Don't do proprietary, move toward open source. I'm pushing Canepa and Pine to move the other supervisors toward better voting systems. We need to rally on this. Hopefully we'll have good equipment by 2020. Thank you for your dedication to democracy.

### **Technology and Data Management Committee**

**Chair** — We did Facebook adds, it's always important to add people. We need a small database. We need to tell people.

**Anastasia Morrison** — New people need to be added to Nation Builder.

**Sharrie Kriger** — We gave new people to somebody to add.

**John Woodell** — The future is not email. People opt-out when email is unwanted.

### **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

#### **Programs and events Committee**

**Brigid O'Farrell** — In April we'll has Shuwaski Young, Organizing Director for the California Democratic Party. Cecily and I met him at the Eshoo event. He's eager to come talk to us. He wants to have an action event. He's very excited to come meet with us.

#### **Welcome and outreach Committee**

**Sharrie Kriger** — Thanks for signing in. We've been talking about the website. Can you participate? Will you be willing to review the website?

#### **New Events in March**

**Susan Pfeiffer** — Rock the Congress. The Democratic Party is a resistance group now. This is a one day training for what we can do, and why. Key note speakers: Betty Yee and Donny Fowler. We need to take back congress. Eric Swalwell and Dan Pfeiffer will speak. We need volunteers, captains and leaders. We're going to bring in leaders from CA districts to flip, Mothers Demand Action will talk about sensible gun control laws.

**Eric Siegel** — Here in California we have MOE. The CEO of PDI will be there to talk. To have the table, we need volunteers on Saturday at the crack of dawn to talk to people with questions about Democratic party. Will have something concrete to do. Go out, sign up for a certain day/task. We need people to man those tables: 7:00am to 9:30pm. If you can do it, come to me now.

**Pfeiffer** — If you are phone banking, Swing Left will be there signing up people.

**Pam Salvatierra** — We have a lot going on this Saturday, this is a big event, but so is the Women's March.

**Pfeiffer** — Take BART over to hear Swalwell. A speaker from Balboa High School also.

**Siegel** — They moved the schedule around, all kinds of sessions to help people. After Swalwell hop on BART to the Women's March. One thing going on, they are building a calendar for northern California; a general calendar, not owned by anybody, heads of groups talk to one another to decide what goes on the public calendar. Moving the software up here first, then rolling it out across the country. Trying to build a directory, see a video, we want to make a bat signal. This Rock the Congress is a piece of that. We need volunteers. Go to Rock the Congress SF.

### **Woman's Leadership**

**O'Farrell** — On the 24th of March, Women's Leadership Conference, and Woman's Hall of Fame. Three women inducted: Kalimah Salahuddin, Naomi Patridge and Erin Tormey. We hope you will come.

### **March for our Lives**

**O'Farrell** — At a Park in San Mateo, and Courthouse Square in Redwood City. We have sign-up sheets, registering voters. It's important to do this. Lots of people are parents of high school students. They have a lot of assistance to make this a good event. They've given us the ability to have a table for San Mateo County Democrats. Everyone here who reps for our reps, send me an email so I can have it at the tables. Here we are, I'm interested what people have on their minds. Young people, what's important to you? All that said, I need at least two people. I have a registration list, voter register people signed up. We don't get this many opportunities to work with young people. They will be happy to see us there.

**Vargas** — We have a Democratic Party table in Redwood City, not in San Mateo. Even just an hour, please let's step up.

**Chair** — The state wants to know if we want a voter box.

**Kruger** — I heard a 3rd of voters will be millennials. I'll volunteer for March for our Lives.

**Chair** — We need more CA Voters Act pamphlets.

**Siegel** — The crack of dawn comment was a mistake. You can volunteer any time.

**Pfeiffer** — We want San Mateo County DCC to be represented.

### **DIRECTOR and LEGISLATIVE REPORTS**

**Hene Kelly** — It's getting late, I have 8 positions on a petition to change prop 13 so corporations will be paying their fair share: 40% to schools, other 60% to counties and cities to let us do what we have not been able to do.

### **State Senator Jerry Hill's Office**

**Marc Hershman** — I'd like to invite everyone, on Thursday 22 of March, to an open house with Kevin Mullin. 5028 S El Camino Real. The legislators will be there. Come up to offices look around, 4:30 to 6:30.

### **Marc Berman's Office**

**Nicole Fernandez** — Marc was just appointed to the select committee on the census.

### **Happening on the Federal Level...**

**Greg Loew** — You should have in front of you a provisional list (from me and DFA) of names of CA Democratic Congressional candidates that might win in 2018, but it won't be definitive until the June 5th Primary. At the recent Anna Eshoo event they were talking about 7, maybe 11, potential pick-ups. The list is not complete; some districts have as many as 8 candidates right now. If you look at the details, as many as five Democrats were endorsed at the convention. We will keep you informed

**O'Farrell** — Can I hook in with the Bay Area director? The DCCC has identified districts.

**Loew** — One interesting development is that Michael Eggman, candidate for Congress in the 10th district, is receiving help from the DCCC which has hired and funded a treasurer for his campaign.

## **CLUB REPORTS**

### **Democracy for America**

**Ashleigh Evans** — To most of the people here, when we look at voter's choice, it doesn't look exciting. It can go a long way to ensuring we have all eligible voters. Come 2020, the rest of the counties will look at our pilot. Our next meeting, April 4th program is "let's get on board." We're having a voter's rights person come talk to us. What we can do to make this program successful? Farmers markets, get information out there, call to actions. Come to our April 4 meeting.

### **Coastside Progressive Democrats**

**Sabrina Brennan** — We're working with Magan Ray of NorCal ACLU, working on voting rights act; how it makes a difference. This will be bilingual and open to the public. More information on the website [coastsideprogressive.org](http://coastsideprogressive.org).

### **California Democratic Council**

**Margaret Okuzumi** — We want to thank San Mateo County DFA, the latest club to affiliate. We have a strong team of leaders, so I'll be in touch with you. Progressive Dems are having fundraiser before Easter. Come learn about efforts at the Dem Volunteer Center effort to flip CD10.

### **North Peninsula democrats**

**Ann Schneider** — We're voting on new bylaws with language about harassment. In April we have new officers, contact me, we'd like to help new people get started. We will welcome SEIU, we'll be working on endorsements at Peter's Cafe in Millbrae.

### **Coastside Democrats**

Kathy Kline — We have an activist workshop, "red to turn blue" in April.

### **MidPen Solidarity Democrats**

**Sandy Bardas** — I'm from the Mid-Pen Solidarity Sunday group. We have 200 active members and a nationwide network. We gather at homes. We focus on empowerment and organize activists. We're aligned with the Democratic party. We look forward to making endorsements.

### **Peninsula Democratic Coalition**

**Nicole Fernandez** — I've applied to an opening on Foster City School Board, want to drop a note? I have support from Hill, Mullin and Bonilla. I'm a product of San Mateo schools and Carlmont. I love this county. I love San Mateo Foster City School District. The appointment will happen next Wednesday.

## **LIGHTNING ROUND**

**Ann Schneider** — Our council just approved a new housing project. Sadly, there was horrible targeting of me.

**Nancy Magee** — I'm a candidate for County Superintendent of Schools. About me: thirty-five-year educator, inspired by March on Washington, passionate about every student, want to provide every student grad with skills. I work in the classroom as a teacher providing safe spaces for kids. My second priority is early learning. I look forward to the endorsement process.

**Erin McMullen** — I've applied for San Mateo Foster City School District. Next Wednesday, they will pick from 18 applicants to fill 1 seat. I will keep doing hard work to lower barriers, make sure kids get shepherded and keep doing good work.

**Mark Melville** — I'm a candidate for Sheriff. Welcome to first Sheriff election in 25 years. This time there will be an election. This time people will have a choice. I'm looking forward to the upcoming interview. I want to say thank you, see you in April.

**Gary Waddell** — I spent my career fighting for kids. School is for every child, we need to educate the whole child, starting with preschool. I'm endorsed by: Kevin Mullin, Marc Berman, Phil Ting, Rich Gordon, Scott Weiner and others.

**Diana Reddy** — I'm running for City Council. Many voices in our community are not heard. This is the community's campaign to get a seat. Everyone knows I'm a housing person. We have people with low income and communities of color.

**Dan Stegink** — I'm running for County Supervisor. I want to expedite more single family housing.

**Alan Wong** — I'm from SEIU, we're pushing a ballot measure in May for medicate coverage.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39pm.