

San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee

General Meeting Minutes

Apr 19, 2018

Call to Order: Adoption of Agenda & Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:33pm, by Chair Cecily Harris.

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

Chair — explains that endorsements will come before the speaker.

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

Chair — Before we get to endorsements, let's have introductions by first-timers.

- Jeff Sparks, District Director for Scott Wiener
- Rick and Naomi Hunter from Redwood City
- Amelia and Paul Espinoza

ENDORSEMENTS

Chair — I'd like to go through the roster and make Sure I know who is here:

PRESENT: Sandra Lang, David Burruto, Ashleigh Evans, Nick Akers, Rick Bonilla (for Stewart), Julia Mates (for Yarbrough), Cliff Robbins, Alexis Lewis, Pamela O'Leary, Brigid O'Farrell, Greg Loew, Jon Levinson, Kathleen Klein (for Dorshkind), Cecily Harris, Sabrina Brennan, John Woodell, Karen Maki, Sharrie Kriger, Diana Reddy, Sam Manneh (for Christensen), Bill Lex (for Hipona), Brian Perkins (for Speier), Jeff Sparks (for Wiener), Joan Dentler (for Hill), Alex Walker (for Ting), Nicole Fernandez (for Berman), MISSING: Dana Smith, TARDY: Helen Wolter (for Eshoo), Carol Ong (for Mullin)

Karen Maki — We contacted all the Democrats but one. We heard back from all but two, Mark Church was on vacation. The people on the endorsements committee were: Burruto, Fernandez, Maki, Harris, Robbins, Lewis and Lex. All committee members participated in everything except for David Burruto who did not participate in the Sheriffs endorsement. O'Farrell researched all of the ballot measures except one researched by Christensen. I'm going to ask if anyone wants to pull something from the slate, then we will vote on the slate and back to specific offices.

Comments may come from voting members, alternates and associates.

John Woodell — I'd like to propose that we refer to the "committee recommendations" as such and not as "the slate" which is new and confusing.

Maki — That sounds right.

Evans — Will we have a motion before discussion?

Maki — I want to do it after, let's hear about the people and then have a motion. If somebody pulls a race, I'll ask if we have comments. I want to make sure all sides are heard.

Brennan — What individuals can participate in the discussion?

Maki — Only voting members, alternates and associates can participate.

John Woodell — Roberts Rules requires that we have a motion and then discussion, and that motion must be actionable.

Maki — I want to have a discussion on candidates first; you can fire me next time.

Burruto — John is correct procedurally. We first set aside the consent items, then members can make a motion to endorse a particular candidate. If the motion is seconded, we have discussion. In that context, we discuss the merits of all candidates. If the motion is successful, that's it.

Brennan — Last time it was as Mr. Burruto described, but it was confusing and it wasn't clear to me when it was time to make the motion. If somebody can jump the gun, somebody else doesn't get to make his or her motion. Karen should make it clear when it's time to make a motion.

John Woodell — If we want to have an open discussion, someone can make a motion for "no endorsement" where we can discuss why that's a bad idea and/or discuss the merits of each candidate. There needs to be a motion with a specific action.

Robbins — The state bylaws and ours defer to Roberts Rules. David Burruto and John are correct. I'm sympathetic to Karen's goal, but we need to follow Robert's Rules.

Maki — Does anyone want to pull a race?

Reddy — Pulls the Superintendent race.

Brennan — Pulls the Sheriff race.

Harris — Wants to add the Controller race (Juan Raigoza)

Woodell — Pulls the assessor/recorder race.

Robbins — Moves consent item with races pulled, seconded by Burruto.

Maki — Asks for a vote to approve the consent items: **PASSED**.

Maki — Asks for a motion on the Sheriff race.

Brennan — Makes motion for “no endorsement” in Sheriff’s race, seconded by Harris.

Maki — Would anyone like to have discussion?

Brennan — I appreciate the work of the endorsement committee (and goes on to describe a historical incident that was detailed in an email that went out to the committee).

Levinson — How long ago was this incident?

Harris — 2007

Brennan — It’s my turn to speak (she provides additional backstory), we don’t need to get into the nitty-gritty details of this incident, but if we need to get into more details, I’m happy to do that. This was well reported in the media. This falls outside our values as Democrats.

Levinson — I’ve received a lot of emails. This was a long time ago. This may show some bad judgment at the time, but I reject some of the implications suggested here.

Evans — The fact that this happened so long ago shows changing values; the women were charged and deported but the men were not charged. There was another issue at the time, a number of deputies were there for a relay race, not sanctioned by the county. They used county money to do this, and spent \$10K of taxpayer money. Then supervisor Hill said this was a grave problem and was going to be investigated. Another issue for me; people are saying most races in 2018 will be decided on one issue. The main issue going forward is going to be character. We have to think about whom we are endorsing. We have not had a contested race for Sheriff in this county for 20 years. We have a challenger this time. I’d like to have the voters decide.

Levinson — Prostitution is legal in Nevada.

Evans — There are many legal and licensed brothels, this one was unlicensed and illegal.

James Han — Two decades ago when he was Redwood City Chief of Police, he had a sergeant take a psychological test for mental fitness after that sergeant started criticizing the police department. The details were never given to the sergeant, but this man had to leave the force. There is also a brutality issue and a problem with the culture that needs change. He was undersheriff when an 18-year-old girl was shot to death in Half Moon Bay. The family has never received justice. The court found a young girl with schizophrenia holding a knife was a threat to a deputy with a gun. This is also about cronyism. Please vote for “no endorsement.”

Reddy — I’m an advocate for immigrants, and work to protect them from ICE. To circumvent Sate law, the Sheriff is now putting the names of people on the website who have been charged and not sentenced.

Lang — I support a neutral motion. If we are the Democratic Party, we have values to protect the most innocent and most vulnerable among us. We need to stand up for them now.

Harris — Calls the question, seconded by Lang.

Maki — Calls for a vote on the question: **PASSED**.

Maki — Calls for a vote of “no endorsement” in Sheriff race: **PASSED** with 100%, 8 abstentions: Robbins, Levinson, Wolser (for Eshoo), Sparks (for Wiener), Dentler (for Hill), Walker (for Ting), Ong (for Mullin), Fernandez (for Berman).

John Woodell — Note, please ask permission from the Chair before making video recordings.

Maki — Asks for a motion on the Superintendent race.

Robbins — Makes motion to endorse Gary Waddell, seconded by Burruto.

Reddy — What happened, didn't I already make a motion for no endorsement?

Maki — No, it wasn't time for motions to endorse, you pulled this race from the recommendations. This motion can fail, and then you can make your motion.

Harris — ...or this motion can pass.

Woodell — Everyone can download Roberts Rules and learn about making motions.

We have a motion on the floor; our bylaws dictate this is how it should go.

Bonilla — Nancy Magee presents the best opportunity to do the things we need to do. She was brought here to focus on safety. I vote "no" on supporting Gary.

Reddy — I work for SUHS, Anne Campbell encouraged Nancy to run, I ask that we go neutral.

Jeffrey Adair — I'm the former chair, and I'm in favor of Gary Waddell. I support the committee recommendation. For the first time in a long time, all the ex-officio members are represented here; they are here to vote for Gary. Please vote to keep the committee recommendation.

Levinson — We have an embarrassment of riches here. No offence to Gary, both are qualified. Nancy has been a classroom teacher; that is going to be a huge advantage. Gary has done an outstanding job, but it's more important that Nancy has been a classroom teacher.

Evans — When I did research on Gary, I thought, "he's terrific," then I read Nancy's material, "we really need her." I'm going to vote to remain neutral and let the voters decide.

Shelly Masur — I'm an alternate. I'm going to speak from a couple positions, first as a former school board member. I was a school board member for over ten years. Some of you know I also run an education policy non-profit that works with the California department of education. From those two points of view, I support Gary and hope you will take the recommendation of the endorsement committee. The role of supe has changed. The supe has to cover a wide variety of things. Their job is to support and evaluate districts. They sometimes need to take over districts. I think Gary's breadth of experience is great. One last thing, the labor council has endorsed Gary. All of the unions that have voted support Gary, as well as those Jeffrey mentioned.

Hene Kelly — Thank you for noticing that all the unions have endorsed Gary. The Teacher's Union interviewed from all districts; they voted for Gary Waddell.

Lang — I've met both candidates. I think we're faced with a unique position. We have two valuable people that can both serve the county. I'd like to remain neutral.

Brennan — I met with Nancy, and have been impressed. We've all read a lot of material, both are great. I agree voters should decide, I support "no endorsement." For me, it's really important to have women elected. I'm taking this position but I recognize the other candidate is awesome.

Walker — I haven't had a chance to meet or work with Nancy, but I've had experience working with Gary is that he organizes the Close the Gap Summit. He's the person I work with. In San Mateo County we have great wealth and great opportunity. That is why we support Gary.

Maki — It looks like we're ready to vote. The motion on the floor is to support Gary Waddell. If you want to do something else, you should vote "no."

Woodell — After this motion, if it were to fail, some person can then make a motion for "no endorsement." We are voting now to endorse Gary Waddell. If you want something else there are future motions that can happen.

Maki — Everyone clear, we're doing a roll call.

Harris — To be clear, your choices are: Yes, No or Abstain.

Maki — Takes a roll call vote: **FAILED** with 2 abstentions: O'Leary and Dentler (for Hill)

Woodell — If no majority, I make the motion for "no endorsement," seconded by Burruto.

Maki — There was no majority, we had a couple abstentions.

Robbins — Abstentions don't count, it was not 60%; the motion fails.

Woodell — We have a motion and second; we can have a roll call vote again.

Robbins — Anybody want to discuss "no endorsement?"

Burruto — Calls the question.

Maki — Takes a roll call vote: **PASSED** with 83%, 4 abstentions: Joan Dentler (for Hill), Alex Walker (for Ting), Carol Ong (for Mullin), Nicole Fernandez (for Berman).

Maki — Asks Harris if she has a motion.

Harris — I recommend we endorse Juan Raigoza the current Controller. He's won all kinds of awards for financial excellence; he's great with auditing. He was "decline to state," but recently became a Democrat and has taken pride in the Party. I like to pursue an endorsement for him.

Levinson — Why didn't he apply for the endorsement?

Harris — We missed the race and never notified him.

Reddy — Why should we give this endorsement? He didn't ask for it.

Harris — I ran into Juan over the weekend, he didn't know about it.

Woodell — Asks for a second to the motion by Harris, second given by Bonilla.

Evans — Sometimes candidates for non-partisan seats don't want our endorsement.

Harris — That's not the case.

Evans — So he does what it, OK.

Burruto — Calls the question.

Maki — Asks for a vote: **PASSED** with 100%, 6 abstentions:

Maki — Asks Woodell if he has a motion.

Woodell — I have no idea if Mark Church is a Democrat and I can't look it up because I'm too busy typing, but he did come here and he gave an excellent presentation.

Maki — He is a Democrat.

Woodell — OK, if he is a Democrat maybe we should take a vote.

Maki — Does anyone want to make a motion? I did ask him if he wanted our endorsement and he said yes, but he couldn't do the application until after it was due.

Loew — Moves to endorse Mark Church, second by Woodell.

Vargas — I have concerns about voting systems and the County is buying more proprietary machines. I suggest that the committee not endorse anyone. We've had problems in the past getting people registered. I also asked him questions about challenges for non-English speakers.

Brennan — I have many of my own concerns. I would like to not endorse in this race.

Han — I worked at the elections office over several years. During the transition from Slocum to Church, I saw workers with the right look being promoted over people that did the best work.

Bonilla — I was on the elections integrity committee. I didn't see any change for the better when Church came in. He wants to buy these machines; I would not support Mark Church.

Lang — I worked with Rick on this committee. We were involved in chain-of-custody; here we are again having the same discussion. We really need more focus on having a paper record. I think Brent Turner is doing a lot of great work here.

Bonilla — Brent Turner has raised a lot of serious concerns.

Levinson — Mark Church did not go through the process for the endorsement; call the Question.

Maki — Asks for a vote by raised hands; no hands were raised: **FAILED**

Chair — Thanks Karen Maki for her work and asks David Burruto to talk about the mailer.

Burruto — Every election we do a mailer. We'll try to get out 14,000 slate mailers this year. The Partisan elected officials on the mailer are represented here tonight, and we also have Fiona Ma and Betty Yee. You may not get a mailer; we target pure Dem homes with two voters.

Perkins — This is a very tricky job, and every year David takes it on, he deserves applause.

Burruto — I'm also happy to share the data if anyone wants it.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Programs and events Committee

Chair — Let's have Brigid talk about "Day of Action."

O'Farrell — This will be in three parts. After the Eshoo event we expanded the program idea. From now until he open our headquarters and the election, we want a "day of action." The kick-off for "day of action" on may 5th for the National DCCC. We have 7 to 10 targeted districts to flip from red to blue. Shuwaski Young, the California Democratic Party regional organizer, will be here in the future. We'll have phone banking before our HQ is setup. I want to thank my alternate, Steve Booker, for getting us the union hall in San Mateo. April will go into details. We're going to hear from Eitan Fenson, the DVC Manager. We want to hear more about what they are doing.

Vargas — We all know it's Cinco de Mayo, we'll be calling into CD-10 on May 5th at the Electrical Workers Local at 1701 Leslie in San Mateo. We'll have trainings, 10am to 3pm. If you can only come for an hour, please do. Bring a charger and cell phone, and/or laptop. There will be people to train you. If you're not big on phone calls, you can help with IT and data. The calls are to remind people there is an election, to remind them how to vote, and remind them to look for their absentee ballot in the mail. For those whom are club members, and meet independently, for your club meeting we'll have trainings for you, for a club phone bank. We need 75 people on May 5th. I have two clipboards to send around. Jeff Denham is now working on a bi-partisan immigration bill, but don't be fooled.

Harvey Rarback — How do we prevent splitting the vote?

Vargas — We get people out, we don't have a candidate. All people running will be winners.

Rarback — We'll have a better chance if we tell people to vote for a specific person.

Vargas — We're not setup to tell people that, the Party has not endorsed.

Perkins — We need to expand the elections, get more Democrats voting.

Eitan Fenson — Thank you. I'm not part of this group, but I appreciate watching this. I have materials here. The DVC has been open for two months. We have plenty of opportunities for you to help out at the DVC. We have four modes:

[1] classic phone banking: it's a high tech wonder,

[2] postcard writing: we've never done it before; yesterday we wrote a thousand postcards,

[3] texting: it's the new wave, it's more important, and

[4] staging area for canvassing, we meet at 8am and caravan down to DC-10.

We need to get out the vote, and boy did we get out the vote. In Virginia, 20% of the vote was black. In Alabama, 30% of the vote was black. The more we do the better. We've put together a flier for DVC "Day of Action," and I have a little brochure. Some background, we formed out of the ashes of the 2008 election. We gave our vision to both Santa Clara County and San Mateo County central committees, of an independent volunteer center, and we got their blessing.

O'Farrell — If you want to walk districts, go to the DVC. I want all of you to take the fliers; we have a responsibility to support these actions.

Chair — You know what's important about this? Since the last election, people have been asking, "what can I do?" This is it; it's our time to flip seats. Can't make May 5th; come to the next event. We'll have a link, the signup sheet is going around. Tell people you know, we need a full house.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

Chair — I'm sending out emails about events, the webinar is coming up, watch for emails.

Controller — No report.

Northern Vice Chair — No Report.

Southern Vice Chair — Thanks the endorsement committee.

Correspondence Secretary — No Report.

Recording Secretary — Please try to get changes to minutes back in three days.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Chair — Remember the upcoming Comedy Night at Angelica's.

Endorsement & Leadership — No Report.

Resolutions Committee — No Report.

Bylaws Committee — No Report.

Elections Integrity Committee

Reddy — Several of us are on the voters choice advisory committee for all-mail-ballots. We've heard that a clerk at the DMV won't ask about party preference; then you have no preference. Any of us tabling should add voter's choice materials. Folks can now register up until the day of the election, with a provisional ballot. When people go back to polling places, we'll have signs telling them where to vote.

Evans — You can register up to day of voting. You have to fill out the form and take it to the voting center. May 21 is the last day for regular registration.

Chair — Thank you to the three of you for going. We need to educate people about this.

How many people vote in primary anyway?

Siegel — Nobody wants to give space for 11 days, lots of these places close at 5pm. There will be extensive advertising, and we'll try to get something onto Nextdoor. Brent felt they were relying too heavily on volunteers.

Technology and Data Management Committee — No Report.

Welcome and outreach Committee

Sharrie Kriger — Interested in working on the website? You got the next step from me today, Just a survey. We are gathering data. We currently have a very strange website.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Hene Kelly — Yes, talk about day of action. Tomorrow, Friday April 20, is day that all educators are going to go out and talk about gun violence. They want children saved, and want gun violence to stop. We're for students not the NRA. Teacher's unions and others are coming out. Students are coming out. Also, we'll be working with the clubs to make sure bylaws are correct.

Woodell — Yes, I will help explain how clubs can endorse. We have wording for the process.

Kelly — I'm glad to work with John.

Programs and events Committee

Brigid O'Farrell — People from NextGen, talking we're about outreach and the youth vote.

Anastasia Morrison — We spent a long time getting NextGen people here. In June, Shuwaski Young will be here. After the primary, we'll have a whole new plan.

Chair - Short report from LWV, check out the new website.

DIRECTOR and LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Speier's Office — No Report.

Wiener's Office — No Report.

Ting's Office — Alex Walker says Mullin and Ting will be at the Cultural Center.
(no other legislative reports)

CLUB REPORTS

Democracy for America

Ashleigh Evans — Our next meeting will be May 2nd. The program at next meeting will be Norman Solomon of rootsaction.org, co-author of the highly acclaimed report "[Autopsy: The Democratic Party in Crisis.](#)" He was a delegate to the last convention; he put together a report about what went wrong and what we need to do going forward. He's going to present his program, "Crisis and Opportunity: The Democratic Party in 2018 and Beyond."

Greg Loew — As part of the DFA activities, you should have a sheet about work we are doing right now. This year, we have 51 Republicans and 49 Democrats in the Senate. If we want to flip the Senate, we need to gain two and lose none, or lose some and gain more, all in bold are vulnerable.

Coastside Democrats

Kathy Klein — On May 19th will have Rob Conklin as our guest speaker and we'll have elections for our board. On May 26th we'll have Jackie Speier.

Coastside Progressive Democrats

James Han — On Apr 11th we had a speaker from the local ACLU talk to us about the California Voter's Rights Act and what folks can do to have district elections. We learned a lot, it was recorded by PCTV, you can watch the video online. I'd also like to let you know, next week on Wed the 25th in Redwood City, on Woodside Road, Carlos Bolanos and Mark Melville will have candidates forum.

LIGHTNING ROUND

Jon Levinson — Today is an important day, it's the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel, also Patriot's Day: the ride of Paul Revere, also the anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising: the first revolt against the Nazis, and the anniversary of the first Freedom Riders: important civil rights opposition, and finally today was the first day a baby was on the floor of the United States Senate.

Eric Siegel — Rock the Congress has now done three conferences. We had about two to three hundred people at each daylong training session for resistance groups. It was very successful, around two hundred people, even though it was the same time as March for our Lives. We now also have the NorCal Blue Wave Alliance, at norcalbluewave.org, you'll see a calendar.

Sandra Lang — I wanted to make a pitch for the next headquarters to have a presence in North County. Also, it's great to hear on news 16- and 17-year-old kids are preregistering.

Sabrina Brennan — I want to thank Sharrie for getting out the web survey, and encourage everyone to fill it out. Our website needs help. John should take this project on.

Brigid O'Farrell — A couple of months ago, we passed a resolution supporting the organizing efforts at the Pullman Hotel. Tomorrow, Apr 20, 4:15 to 5:30, there will be a big rally. If you can, please attend to show your support. Also, Eleni Kounalakis will hold a meet-and-greet at Penelope's Coffee & Tea at 3 Plaza View Ln in Foster City on Apr 29, 1pm to 4pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.