

**San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee**

**General Meeting Minutes**

**May 17, 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 Apr minutes. [Burruto, Loew]: **PASSED.**

**Chair** — asks for motion to adopt May agenda. [Burruto, Yarbrough]: **PASSED.**

**FIRST SPEAKER**

**Chair** — Welcomes the Erin Carhart from NextGen America.

**Erin Carhart** — I grew up in a small town, build on the backs of workers. I grew up poor, my mom worked several jobs. I always knew something was not right; running a cord to the neighbor's house for the fridge. When I went to college, I wanted to help. Worked on choice, joined the movement with Planned Parenthood and supported congressional candidates that support choice. I came to the capital and demanded change. I needed to elect people that represent my values. I joined NextGen because I believe we have the power to get young people to vote.

I'm working on congress. In the Senate we have work to turn out voters for Senate races, especially in Wisconsin. We also need to look at down ballot races: Governors, etc. By registering and activating voters we can make this happen. It's not our task to get Republicans to vote for Democrats. We're not here to tell Trump people they should have voted for Hillary. We need to turn out Democrats. We know if we turn out higher numbers, we can win, we've seen that in Texas, Illinois, Virginia, Alabama and Pennsylvania and even Wisconsin. We're actively turning out voters for the grass roots.

NextGen is running the largest youth vote program in the country. We are going to run digital ads, mail programs and knock on doors. We believe we can add to the rolls, and turn out to the polls, we can win. Young people can have an impact. After the election, I could not believe what happened. What do we need to do? We need to learn from our mistakes. We need to talk to young voters to turn them out to the election. When we win, we organize from the bottom. When every age, race, gender, sexual orientation and background comes out, we win. Democracy is something we need to fight for. It doesn't matter if we live in a solidly blue district. On the phone or traveling, we win. I encourage you all to get involved. If we all work, on Nov 7, we'll be in a better position. Do we have questions?

**Sharrie Kriger** — When young voters are registered, do they vote?

**Carhart** — Yes, when young voters register, they turn out to vote.

**Diana Reddy** — What states are you targeting?

**Carhart** — We're targeting New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Nevada, Arizona and California; most battleground states.

**Reddy** — What determined the 11 states?

**Carhart** — We calculate youth percentage and we calculate the political viability of flipping.

**Terry Trainer** — What are you using? Are you texting?

**Carhart** — Yes, we do use new tech, also traditional organizing. Some folks want to be quiet, so they bring a list of folks to turn out voters. We've seen massive results.

**Lisa Nash** — What were they key lessons from Virginia?

**Carhart** — We have to register young people to vote.

**Sandra Lang** — When you do preliminary engagements, do you identify good precinct leaders?

**Carhart** — Absolutely.

**Lang** — Does your group have leadership development with people you develop early-on? I believe there are many people that you can identify in peer groups.

**Carhart** — When we organize, we actively ask them to take on new roles. We have fellowship programs this summer bringing on hundreds of people. We don't just bring on folks, we hire ourselves. We're building an army of activists.

**Sabrina Brennan** — You said texting instead of phone banking, seems like people work in teams. We had a phone banking event. A couple asked me to text them. They were happy to get it. This is something we can start doing.

**Carhart** — Talking to people is rich; texting is faster. We use tools called Relay and Hustle. Relay is on the web. You can have a program. We have an initial text. Because of the law, texts have to be sent individually, then someone can text you back. "Hey are you registered to vote?" In 2017 we didn't have a tool.

**John Woodell** — How do we address fake information?

**Carhart** — We combat this by sending real ads; being "authentic" is a smart strategy. We have people, they know how to share accurate information. Part of the other hope is that the media takes responsibility.

**Karen Maki** — What can older people do to help?

**Carhart** — If you have friends of friends, turn them out. I never understood how important it was until I voted. We have a lot of volunteers that are young people.

**Chair** — The State party has fees for Relay and Hustle. If people are interested in these texting programs, we can do more.

**Diana Reddy** — I use hustle.

## SECOND SPEAKER

**Chair** — Now we'll hear about Voters Edge Project Director Kathee Tyson.

**Kathee Tyson** — I'm here tonight to talk about Voters Edge, the new version of Smart Voter. I know you have participated in both. With the LWV and MapLight, this is part of voter education. We never support or oppose candidates. We do in-depth information about candidates and measures. If you're looking for information, Voters Edge is a one-stop shop. Candidates and measures; we started doing this in 1996. LWV and Smart Valley, at the time, quite revolutionary. Pilot counties were Santa Clara and San Mateo. It was a way to make information more accessible to voters. Before, you were reliant on the voter's pamphlet. You know it costs money. that was a selling point about Smart Voter. In the beginning, it was harder to participate. People said, "I don't know how to use a computer." I like to think we were in the first wave, our goal was to bring the most complete and current information. All candidates are invited to participate. Usually we have a high participation rate. We don't allow you to talk about other candidates. You know that, we are the league. Candidates list profession and top three priorities. From there, you have all kinds of things to do. You can post so much more. When the voters click on it, it will take you to websites. We rotate the list of candidates for each office. You might see candidates A, B then C. Next time the order might change. Voters Edge spun off from Smart Voter in 2014. Their specialty is finding the source of the money. There specialty is for finding where the money is coming from. I know you, I've reach out to you. We get a lot of hits. We have information about local measures. When I work with candidates, I want them to put together their best face. I want candidates to present their best face. We want voters edge to be a positive experience. Last time a city council candidate wanted fictional characters as endorsers. Sorry, you have to have a real person. I like working with candidates. We also have election results on the site. The county site can be difficult to navigate.

**Woodell** — Can we have a static version to link to, like the old Smart Voter one page?

**Tyson** — That's good feedback.

**Brennan** — How do we organize LWV forums?

**Tyson** — Call the LWV and we'll set it up.

**David Burruto** — Thank you for your work.

**Chair** — The Program committee is out. Next month, Shuwaski Young, he's going to tell us what we need to do next.

## FIRST TIME VISITERS

- Kari bull, Anna's campaign manager
- Doreen Gerrity, President of Coastside Democrats
- David Johnson, just a voter
- Dave, I've done a lot of phone banking

## EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

**Chair** — we have lapel pins. I have a few Yes on 68, park and water bond. Also, for the November election, 16 of 20 cities will have elections. We're going to see a lot of new faces. We'll do a candidate orientation night. It could elected officials talking about being elected, then talk about our process, then endorsements. It will help all of you, those of you who are new.

**Northern Vice Chair** — No Report.

**Southern Vice Chair** — No Report.

**Controller** — In Federal: \$79,731.98 (in good shape for HQ season), in State: \$83,434.94, and in Segregated: \$562.34. We're in decent shape.

**Recording Secretary** — Thanks for getting back to me right away with changes to the minutes.

**Correspondence Secretary** — No Report.

**Chair** — Our Comedy Night is a lot of fun, right after the election. We can sell 100 tickets.

**Chair** — great news about a summer BBQ

**April Vargas** — We had a big turn-out for day-of-action (lists names). Now we are encouraging people to phone bank. Find a house with WiFi and laptops, call me. Now for the fun part. It's called "flip it" Sunday Aug 5th, 12 to 4pm at Twin Pines Park. It's going to be a great day, money for our headquarters, and a great way to meet voters. We'd like to invite affiliated groups again, one of the most popular things. Write down Aug 5th, it will be a fun day, totally worthwhile.

**Chair** — Endorsements, anything to say?

**Maki** — No report.

**Chair** — Let's talk about the slate mailer.

**Burruto** — We got our annual slate mailer out. We send 18,200 in San Mateo County. They went to Democratic households. The mailer this year cost about \$10,800 we took in about \$10,500. Thanks to Speier, Eshoo, Hill and others.

**Brennan** — Usually we have an election with more candidates. If there's money, can we start to get a big enough piece to do an introductory letter to the mailer as a way to introduce the Democratic Central Committee to voters, so people know more about it, and who they are.

**Burruto** — It's up to this body to decide.

**Diana Reddy** — Frequent voters, two per household.

**Burruto** — Two or more.

**Harris** — Focusing on districts where there are candidates?

**Burruto** — Yes.

**Loew** — When do we send the mailer?

**Burruto** — When did people get it? When ballots came?

**Loew** — What do you do when two Democrats run?

**Burruto** — They have to be endorsed by the Party.

**Bylaws** — No Report.

## **Election Integrity**

**Brent Turner** — Nothing going on, nothing we can talk about. We need to get people out to vote. SF right now is on the verge of making a decision if they will lead the state with appropriate secure systems; spending \$4 million. The Disclose Act folks have come onboard. There is a dollar match. We're waiting for a new Mayer to come in. If we can get a proper alignment, we can then go Statewide. Maybe not by 2020, but hopefully in our lifetime. On our slate card, I see the people who have stood by cleaning up the system. New Hampshire is missing one piece and still running on corporate owned systems, the tabulation piece. Jackie, Jerry, Fiona and Kevin stepped up recently. If you have contacts in SF, or legislators, let them know we want **proper elections systems**. Jim Woolsey to homeland security, "they are siding with Putin."

**Loew** — By what date does SF move forward?

**Turner** — The budget is already sent to the printer, The Supervisors have the right to add money to the cause since California clean money came in, they feel the public pressure, save our ship. Kevin Mullin is stepping-up, our local board has Pine and Canepa. We need one more vote. Right now, LA is going to take half of the money, SF is right in the decision-making time.

**Woodell** — What is a **proper** elections system, what should we ask for?

**Turner** — Public not private source, printed record to address voter intent issues. It can't be secret from the people.

**Chair** — Brigid asked me to tell you. We can have training. Another training Brigid and I thought would be helpful. We could have a media strategy committee. We can ask him to train us.

**Bonilla** — we need a survey to find dates that work for people.

**Chair** — We will need to ask John what day.

**Brennan** — Can we open it to the public?

**Chair** — Yes, we'll work with him.

## **Voter Outreach Committee**

**Sharrie Kriger** — First timers here, thank you for filling out the form. The blue sheet over there, is a survey to ask about website. Happy news, six people have volunteered to serve on the committee. The format not the content is where the negativity comes from. We need to flip the order of minutes the other way. Interested? Take one of the green things!

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

**Loew** — The last few months, I've been talking about reports, one for Senate. Today four names, for you to send funds: [1] Jacky Rosen in Nevada, [2] Kyrsten Sinema in Arizona, [3] Stanley Baldwin in Wisconsin, and [4] Claire McCaskill in Missouri. If you can help, you will make a difference with Senate positions. In California, we decided to wait for the primary, except the 22nd District, we have an unopposed Democrat, Andrew Janz, with a good chance to replace Devin Nunes, give him money now.

## **DIRECTOR and LEGISLATIVE REPORTS**

### **Regional director**

**Hene Kelly** — They've opened up the registration for the July exec board meeting. It's like \$40 if you're a delegate. Right around the corner in Oakland. It will be easy for us. The real thing is you see real people, good meetings and good workshops. What we do at our Dem club, we pay the way for one member who has never been.

### **Congresswoman Jackie Speier's Office**

**Brian Perkins** — We invite you, Sat. 10-11am at Skyline College Theater. It should be terrific morning. Pulling out of nuke deal is a problem with sanctions.

**Brent Turner** — There was talk a while back, the 25th amendment, what happened?

**Perkins** — Hasn't happened. Nothing will happen until the Mueller information comes out or polls come out, if the information proves what it may.

**Hene Kelly** — The 25th amendment problem, it has to start in the cabinet. The President named the worst people.

**Perkins** — People think Nixon was a foregone conclusion. He thought he had support. When the helicopter picked him up he had 25% support.

### **State Senator Scott Wiener's Office**

**Jeff sparks** — SB-784, immigrant protection bill. A judge can ask questions about immigration status before a trial: 2/3 in Senate, 2/3 in Assembly, and the Governor signed. Takes effect today. SB-322, net neutrality, with Ting, Hill, Mullin... strongest bill to protect net neutrality, bans California from working with ISPs. SB-1045, improving California conservatorship law, unfortunately people are being picked up on the street. psych hold, judge is not allowed to look at prior history. Targeting people, we want to provide housing and mental health. Last bill, youth homelessness, SB-918, creates an office of youth homelessness, money from cannabis.

**Nancy Yarbrough** — What about ending gun shows, is there a press conference?

**Sparks** — I cannot confirm.

**Yarbrough** — I'm President of the Brady campaign to stop gun violence.

**Sandra Lang** — In San Mateo County, half of homeless are seniors. What can Wiener do?

**Sparks** — I'll bring something back.

**Turner** — Scott is our biggest champion; do you know what happened?

**Sparks** — We put in request with Chew, we find out with everyone else what money will come.

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

**Joan Dentler** — Most bills are still in committee. You heard about net neutrality. A quiet week legislatively. Senator Hill is sitting down at the education round table. Nice to go over may budget revisions. Still hoping proposal for 1.2 billion for local school districts... isn't enough with cost of special education, pensions, and cost of trying to hire teachers. Other big-ticket items, request for \$5 million to help with acquisition, county and POST have acquired, now need additional \$5 million budget. Even tomorrow morning, 8-9 bagel street cafe Redwood Shores, then Penelope's in foster city, 9-10 with Hill. Come by say hello. July 4 to Aug 6 is senate break, call the office to setup a meeting.

## CLUB REPORTS

**Coastside Democrats: Doreen Gerrity** — We have three groups: Brady Camp, Swing Left, and Sister District. Thanks April for sheets on Voter's Choice Act. This next meeting will be with Rob Caughlan on coastal preservation.

**Coastside Progressive Democrats: Sabrina Brennan** — On Apr 11, we had a voting rights forum with an ACLU attorney, broadcast on public television. Our club has been learning more. Changes in the county, some of our cities and districts are transitioning to district elections. We've been doing our part to educate ourselves. We came in contact with Common Cause, establishing redistricting districts in the state. This time, common cause is turning attention to local agencies, advocating for establishment of citizen committees. Menlo Park is the first city in San Mateo County to move to districts with a citizen committee. I hope to see more. South San Francisco is transitioning without the aid of committee. We are encouraging Half Moon Bay to establish a citizen committee.

**Democracy for America: Dianna Reddy** — The last meeting was with Norman Solomon, an amazing progressive. He gave us a snapshot in May. In June we'll having annual potluck, the first Wednesday of June.

## LIGHTNING ROUND

**Kirsten Keith** — I wanted to let you know about my campaign kickoff on June 9th, at Flood Park. Jerry Hill and Anna Eshoo will be speaking. Yes, regarding districts, we adopted maps from a citizen committee, and we'll do again after the next census.

**Lisa Diaz Nash** — Kerry and I are representing Sister District. We have a list here, pick up a copy of our events. Rob Banta will talk about activism, then a June 6th fundraiser in Hillsborough.

**Terry Crain** — A have a petition to put this on the ballot in 2020 to close the loopholes in prop 13. It would not affect home owners or small businesses and will bring billions into school districts.

**Sandra Lang** —I just read in the news, my son lives in Idaho. Happy to hear that Paulette Jordan, descendant of a chief, just won the primary for Governor of Idaho.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13pm.

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