

## San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee

### General Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2018

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm, by acting Chair Karen Maki (Harris absent).

#### **Introductions from new attendees**

**Chad** — student at UC Davis, studying Political Science and Economics.

**Nancy** — looking for ways to help.

**Steve** — first time at this meeting, volunteered for previous elections.

**Bruce** — second time here, looking for people to attend upcoming Swing Left fundraiser.

**Morgan** — recent grad from Santa Clara University, going to Boston for master's degree.

**Chair** — asks for motion to approve May minutes. [Perkins, Hipona]: **PASSED.**

**Chair** — asks for motion to adopt June agenda. [Evans, O'Farrell]: **PASSED.**

#### **SPEAKER PROGRAM**

**Brigid O'Farrell** — I'm chair of the program committee. I'm excited tonight because we've been trying to flip certain districts, and now we have a Democrat running in all seven of those districts. Tonight, we have a person with us who is an organizer for the entire bay area.

**Shuwaski Young** — I'm the bay area organizer for the California Democratic Party. I'm happy to be here with my wife who is from San Mateo County; I'm from Mississippi. One thing we focused on was flipping seven districts: **7, 10, 21, 25, 39, 48 & 49.** We're working with county parties and resistance groups. Indivisible is a PAC, endorsing candidates, so we can't always coordinate with them, but we've been able to launch a national and state-wide partnership with Swing Left. We achieved our goal of having a Democrat in every targeted district. We pushed support to 10 and 48, we needed to make sure we got a Democrat on the ballot. We have to move the needle 2 to 3 percent. We have to make sure our voters come out. We're at 10 with Josh Harder. I'll be sending around information, there will be voter registration events from now until the election. The Bay Area program will be holding house parties calling into these districts. We're going to open up the process with county parties working together. I'm happy to be a part of it. I'll give information to Brigid and April, and I'm happy to share with you. Questions?

**Greg Loew** — As members of the DFA club, we have been following all these races but we don't want to duplicate your work. In District 48, two Democrats were running neck-in-neck. Do you know which one won?

**Young** — Catherine Mars is our director in that district 48, I have not payed close attention. Now there is an endorsement battle.

**Loew** — Do you think we can flip District 4?

**Young** — I think we can. I didn't mention District 4 because it didn't match our criteria where Clinton won that district in 2016 and we have a good chance to elect a Democrat.

**Sandra Lang** — Will the Democratic party start to do more coordinated support? Will the Democratic Party contribute resources? This is a new political environment.

**Young** — The campaign is only as good as the data. The data wasn't clean in the way it needed to be clean. Here in California we use PDI/MOE. One of the things to combat that issue, campaigns will switch to Mobilize America. It will allow county parties to let people come into the fold. We need candidates to be able to scale. I've approved a bay area wide fellowship group To work with resistance groups and work with county parties.

**Bill Lex** — On the funding of effort, do we have enough?

**Young** — We always need more money. Folks always need extra help, especially when they're spending their own money.

**April Vargas** — Tell us about how easy it is for a club to do phone banking.

**Young** — The way we have it setup, it's super easy; you enter information, hit OK, and the voter file is there. People will come in and help you. Other types of calls are recruitment calls.

**Brigid O'Farrell** — We've never had an organizer for the bay area before.

**Young** — Yesterday I sent out an email to activists, with a list of dates. If you want to go to those events, just reach out to me. We have an agreement with Swing Left. Just let us know. This goes to folks that volunteered with other groups.

**Eric Siegel** — NorCal Blue Wave put up a calendar.

**Loew** — If we could mobilize the Hispanic vote, we could at least win two Districts in the Central Valley.

**Young** — Yes, and we need women and persons of color. What you're talking about is true, something we're been working hard at is Spanish registration drives, trainings in Spanish, training people to make a proper hard ask in Spanish, making sure our messengers match that message.

**Unknown** — There are two groups necessary, Dems who haven't been voting and independents.

**Young** — Right now, resistance groups are leading the move nationwide. Six months ago, when I started going to the meetings, I thought they hated me. There is a strong feeling among independents that establishment is not attentive. What has been positive; those groups come back closer to the center. The only way we can win is to come together. In the off-year, historically, turnout is always lower, but now we are seeing higher turnout.

**John Woodell** — As you bring these progressive groups into the Democratic Party, and they learn about the party establishment, is this seen as a negative?

**Young** — Information is power, we empower them.

**Lang** — I think you could involve community leaders.

**Young** — County committees want to see more diversity. I sat in a diversity discussion in Napa. People want to see more people of color involved.

## **E-BOARD REPORTS**

**Chair** — time to pay up again, \$70 for members, \$35 for alternates.

**Northern Vice Chair** — No Report.

**Southern Vice Chair** — I attended an event about taking back house districts put on by Congresswoman Anna Eshoo and was very impressed with what the state party and other organizations are doing.

**Recording Secretary** — No report.

**Correspondence Secretary** — No Report.

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Resolutions** — No Report.

### **Fund Development**

**April Vargas** — We've been talking about what we need to do. We're having Sun Aug 5, noon to 4pm at Twin Pines Park; \$25 in advance, \$30 at the event, \$10 for under 13, 5 people for \$60.

We're inviting affiliated groups again. Islamic American Associates was there. Sister District. Ay clubs table, we ask volunteers at table buy a ticket. We encourage ticket sales, club challenge.

**Chair** — We won last year?

**Vargas** — Who knows, could have been DFA. Cecily has talked to DeLeon and is reaching out to others. Candidates will want to sponsor; the schedule will be available soon. I've put together signup sheets. If you think you want to volunteer, let us know. We need to fill in 40 people. This year we may add Mexican folk dance. I'll pass the clipboard around.

**Lang** — Sponsors, how does this work?

Vargas — Sponsorships are: \$100, \$250, \$1000 and \$2,500. Individuals are welcome to sponsor.

**Loew** — When you have people speak, there is a complete disconnect. People in the shade are disconnected; we can't hear.

**Vargas** — We need to rearrange the PA system

**Woodell** — We can ask people to speak into the mic, that will help.

### **E-board Update**

**Chair** — In July, the e-board is meeting in Oakland

**O'Farrell** — The e-board is in Oakland, it's a great opportunity to meet candidates. I encourage all of you to come over to Oakland. The party will be sending out an announcement.

**Anastasia Morrison** — You can also go to the website.



## Election and Endorsements

**Chair** — The filing period for county races is July 16th through August 10th. If no incumbent files, an extra five days is added. We'll do interviews after August 25th. The Central Committee will vote on the recommended endorsements at a special meeting on Thursday September 6th.

**Perkins** — Is there enough time?

**Burruto** — Yes, I put together list of potentials.

**Chair** — Any other updates?

**Woodell** — Magee won; Waddell conceded. Measure K also passed.

## Elections Integrity

**Brent Turner** — A lot of counties ran out of ballots due to system design issues. Church could do more, releasing results sporadically is frustrating. The time to count the mail-in ballots can create distrust. We're hoping for an overhaul. When it takes a long time, there are security concerns. We want to hit a sweet spot; same thing in SF, it's taking a long time to figure out who the winner is. Mark Church should get up to speed. At the State level, Padilla says that \$134 million could be applied to better voter systems. We want all private software out. Open source software goes through a public transparent process. We're looking to increase turnout. We're at 48 of 50 states for turnout. You'll be able to vote on your smart phone via Elections Security Act of 2020: currently we're pushing to get "private" out of the voting systems. San Francisco is leading the effort. The new Mayor is going to push to lead the country. This will be beneficial to the Democratic party. San Mateo County still lags behind. We'll circle back; it's best to raise these points instead of pretend it's OK. We want to keep raising the bar. Let's talk about LA; they knocked 120,000 people off the voter rolls. The registrar in LA keeps his job somehow. They went ahead and bought \$300M of voting machines: Smartmatic with strong Venezuelan ties.

**O'Farrell** — Has the all-mail pilot project increased or decreased turnout?

**Turner** — There was a little bump, all-in-all, it went well. We're concerned about closing precincts in communities of color. In coastside, there seems to be limited voting centers.

**Evans** — This Thursday, we'll have a big meeting to work on voter's choice. At first, we thought there wasn't going to be that much of a difference. After Thursday, we'll have a clear picture.

**Loew** — What was the turnout?

**O'Farrell** — 35% to 40%

**Turner** — My only concern about voter's choice act is it wasn't as good as it could be. We should be doing better.

**Burruto** — To be clear about numbers, it will be over 40%. We need to deal with the facts as they are. There are things we can do to do better. I have a problem with taking away precinct voting from people.

**Unknown** — We don't want to be purchasing Open Source. At some point you want it to be secure; it's an age-old conversation.

**Turner** — The Air Force and NASA all use open source. I'd refer you to Nasa.

**Lang** — We need signage out ahead of time, I knew where to find ballot boxes. There was no signage until the week before, is there a rule about this?

## Voter Action Committee

**O'Farrell** — Anyone interested in phone banking for CD-10? Let me know.

**Ad Hoc Committee** — No Report.

**Outreach Committee** — No Report.

## Happening on the Federal Level...

**Loew** — This document gives you the statistics for a number of districts where we Democrats would like to be competitive. I think we could win in at least 5 or 6.

## **DIRECTOR and LEGISLATIVE REPORTS**

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

**Perkins** — Saturday, Congress Woman Speier organized a trip to the Texas border to visit children and adults. She asked, "what's going on." She is outraged. I'm talking to pediatric specialists at Stanford, they will write something up on what happens when you incarcerate children. Trump is not able to muster support for abominable policies; 55% of GOP thought locking up children is OK.

**Loew** — What's up with the wall?

**Perkins** — 1.9 million would have pathway to citizenship. She will vote for money for a wall. When Democrats take control, we can tear down the wall. If it takes \$25M, don't mess around with 1.9M people being deported.

**Lang** — Will Trump use JAGs?

**Perkins** — Two systems: prosecute as misdemeanor or civil proceeding, resulting in departure. The courts are trying to run a real program. I watched a proceeding in Spanish. The attorney was engaged. They are trying to figure out how many tents they can setup.

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

**Nicole Fernandez** — Marc is doing great work, check the website.

## **CLUB REPORTS**

**Democracy for America: Ashleigh Evans** — No meeting the first Wed of July (the 4th) so on we meet on the 11th. A Special program, co-sponsoring with DemFems; "2018, year of the woman," because we had disheartening number of women voting for Trump. All kinds of women running for office. Carol Mayer Marshall: WIRE for women, a non-profit, two counties, identifying elected offices, and commissions to help women find these positions. Another group, Amy Zucchero from IGNITE. Working with young women for careers in politics, chief of staff, campaigns, etc. I have a few brochures, pick one up.

**Coastside Democrats: Doreen Gerrity** — We has two days of phone banking for CD-10. Thanks to April for coming and helping out. Nancy Magee came and we elected a new board. We had a special meeting with Jacki Speier over Memorial Day weekend. People were inspired. Finally, we had a successful happy hour at Miramar Restaurant in HMB.

**Peninsula Democratic Coalition: Nicole Fernandez** — The PDC picnic is on Aug 19th, from 4pm to 7pm at Questa Park. Sadly, PDC suffered losses recently: we lost Jim Thurber, a board member and a board member's husband passed away. Please join me in sending these families our best wishes.

## LIGHTNING ROUND

**Eric Siegel** — Progressive committee NorCalBlueWave.org, twenty or so groups in it. Groups are putting events in that calendar. We'll be coming back to see if we want to join. The plan is to organize all these groups. Blue Wave to send out to all the members two months before the election. There is a Sept 8th recruitment event; I have fliers. I went to the DNC chairman's briefing. They came into a complete mess; good work cleaning up things.

**Brent Turner** — I see Diana Reddy at the Board of Supervisors meetings; I don't see others. Come out right now. At the next meeting we'll ask then to utilize money by joining SF to lead the country for better voting systems. Our Board of Supervisors are not showing leadership.

**Sandra Lang** — At the Bank of America in San Mateo, Saturday at 3pm, we'll have the Peace Action Network bring people out to protest the terrible event in Texas.

**Ashleigh Evans** — During a news conference, while rolling back press conferences, ABC posted, Manafort pleads guilty of 5 counts of manslaughter; no idea how that got there. The first lady went down to Texas, she's a mother and has a heart. She had a jacket, "I don't really care, do you?" Trump tweeted, "she was through with fake news."

**Brigid O'Farrell** — I got an email from a friend on the Coastside, another was from the ACLU. They organized lots of letters; they organized folks to go to Texas. They recommend Catholic charities to help families in Texas. Amazon delivered 3,000 packages in the past few days.

**Diana Reddy** — Thanks for Perkins and Turner for mentioning deportation. The Supervisors agreed funds for deportation defense.

**Woodell** — Anyone with an iPhone should know that Apple requires source code review for any app that goes into the App Store, our voting systems should follow suit.

## MEETING ADJOURNMENT

**Chair** — And now a moment of silence to losses in the PDC.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13pm.