

San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee

General Meeting Minutes

August 18, 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 July minutes. [Yarbrough, Robbins]: **PASSED.**

Chair — We have an agenda change, we'll get to Kevin when he gets here.

Chair — asks for motion to approve August agenda. [Lex, Manneh]: **PASSED.**

DISTRICT 3 CAUCUS

Brigid O'Farrell — We had a caucus. Our dear friend Carol passed away. No one can replace her, we're looking to carry on her legacy. The bylaws ask for us to announce the vacancy, last meeting we send that out to everyone, and the clubs. The person nominated was April Vargas. The caucus voted unanimously. Our recommendation to you is that April take this position.

April Vargas — Thank you, let's get to work.

Motion by O'Farrell for Vargas, seconded by Akers: **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Chair — Our speaker Kevin Mullin is here to talk about legislation.

Kevin Mullin — Talked about AB 84. He explained the bill, talked about his motivation, and talked about how the next few weeks will play out. He understands why there might be concerns.

Nancy Yarbrough — We spend a lot per month already, now we'll have a special accountant. What impact is this going to have? We'd prefer to spend and raise money to elect candidates.

Mullin — I'm sensitive to the additional costs. Perhaps a conversation can happen. We want to be sensitive to your process.

Sam Manneh — Thanks for taking time out, I think you answered our questions. What's the take across the aisle? If Brown doesn't pass it, does it go to Newsom? What's the plan?

Mullin — Because it's a PRA change, it takes two thirds. We're going to need some Republican votes. Yes, the bigger question is, "where is Gavin?"

Loew — All these years, you've been our hero for clean money, so I'm going to be frank, to me this looks like a terrible idea. I don't think you should believe transparency or disclosure makes me feel better. I think it's opening another door, it adds another possibility to raise money; puts it in the hands of others to raise money. The Disclose Act took years, this you want to pass in 2 or 3 weeks. Once you pass this, it will be impossible to undo. I'm hoping you will be able to hear us.

Mullin — I appreciate your passion. Yes, the Disclose Act took years. The disclosure elements of AB 84 are worthy of consideration. It's modeled on DCCC, on party leaders raising money to suggest this doesn't exist is not so. I appreciate your position on it. Your points are well taken. About the prospect of more money, in practice, very few donors max out.

Kelly — I love the disclosure part. I don't like a gut and change bill so much, and I don't like you not talking about this with the Democratic party.

Mullin — If this idea was ready, we would have run it in January. AB 84 was my bill to move the presidential primary to March, which was merged with Assembly member Lara. I had a vehicle, we put language into print on July 6th. I've seen 11:45 "gut and amend," it has to be in print for 72 hours. This has been in print since July. More scrutiny than any other bill. Went through the Senate elections and Senate floor, the press has been all over it. The criticism of "gut and amend" is "no visibility."

Kelly — This was an end around of the party and rank and file. This resolution was passed unanimously, by every central committee.

Mullin — The party is weighing in on the bill.

Ashley Evans — Were struggling to make this more democratic. We see power going to four people. In those terms, it doesn't add up. I've heard the limits on this are higher than what the Federal Government permits. For independent expenditures... what does that mean?

Mullin — There are no limits, none, because of citizens united.

Chair — We've learned a lot, thanks.

Sandra Lang — I was stuck, we have centralization of power in country, and now 4 people control this. My concern is with 4 people, it's obvious to me.

Mullin — Thank you for engagement and commitment. The party is only as strong as the Central Committees.

INTRODUCTIONS

Lin Yang — This is my first meeting, I'm president of PYD.

Marshal Dewits — Vice Chair of Democracy for America.

Ashleigh Evans — I want to introduce Alex Melendrez; he agreed to be my alternate.

Sharrie Kriger — Introduces Bruce Hargreaves, an extraordinary picnic worker.

Erin — I just moved back from Cal Poly, I was President of the Cal Poly Democrats.

E-BOARD REPORTS

Chair's Report

Chair — We're still looking for headquarters, looking in Redwood City and San Carlos. Now I'd like to introduce campaign headquarters staff.

Eric — I'm going to be managing headquarters, yet to be determined. I've been going around the county meeting with groups to find opportunities for collaboration. I subscribe to April's words, "thank you, let's get to work." There is outrage about what's going on in DC. They are tired of being outraged; the solution is to flip the house. We need to commit to volunteering and phone banking. We need to get them back to blue.

April — Eric is an incredible asset. No headquarters, not a problem. We're doing voter registration. We are meeting at Burlingame Public Library. With phone banking, there is a change, Shuwaski Young has left his position. Nobody knows if somebody has been hired to take his place. We are directly contacting the campaign; we have more people wanting to call. Let's have as many events happening at once. This is a huge day, a bug county; let's work together.

Patrick Sullivan — As a commercial broker, I can help with the search.

Sandra Lang — Have you looked into work spaces?

Chair — Yes.

Brigid O'Farrell — Shuwaski Young was great, now we can't get a phone call answered.

April Vargas — He had a great system, all electronic. The night before you receive a link. Every voter comes up, when you're done, CDP gets all the information.

Hene Kelly — I'll call tomorrow, and work with Nancy Pelosi to push for that.

Vargas — Nothing will sour a volunteer more, "sorry no phone numbers."

Chair — I just sent out a request for charter information to the clubs.

Hene Kelly — Two things are required in their bylaws.

Controller's Report

Nancy Yarbrough — For our picnic we sold 179 tickets for lunch, with 39 sponsors. We raised \$15,398 total, under \$4.48 per person, with \$14,245 total raised after expenses.

Vargas — So many volunteers, so many people.

Alexis Lewis — Sherry talked people into giving more money; 39 sponsors is phenomenal. We had very few left overs, purchasing was in line. Great registration table. Volunteers did a tremendous job. The highlight was the dance group, thanks Brigid, it gave it special quality. We had chairs in the shade; were not standing in hot sun. It was successful, everybody was there, we need to work together. Exceeded by thousands of dollars, we're going to flip the house. Bruce fixed extension cords, he refurbished our laptops.

Brigid O'Farrell — Also Belinda Arriaga took a trip to the border because we did immigration event with her before. The whole group sees how we can work together. Having everyone here and being responsive was important.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Endorsement Committee

Karen Maki — The extended deadline closed last night. 24 races we are considering. We have completed questionnaires from 20 people. An additional 15 want to apply. There are another 43. We could have 79 people. Half of the ballot measures have been researched. We'll start on Saturday researching; the 25th, 26th and at the union hall, both days, we'll have two committees interviewing at same time. Sept 6th is Thursday, we vote, only thing on the agenda.

Ashley Evans — Do we have regular meetings?

Chair — Yes at headquarters, and the grand kickoff event.

Resolutions Committee

Cliff Robbins — David is on in the Russian River. We have one resolution submitted by Ashley, it needs two thirds votes.

Ashley Evans — It was wonderful of Kevin to give his blessing to pass this [laughter]. Created by the Democratic Party, this exact resolution was passed by other counties and clubs. I think everyone has a copy [she reads it]. Discussion?

Robbins — Do we have a motion to support the resolution?

Motion to support resolution by April Vargas, seconded by Sam Manneh.

April Vargas — Please explain "bypass" in the 4th paragraph?

Ashley Evans — The Democratic Party just passed rules to not accept money from oil, etc., which is not in this bill. These legislators can take money from anyone.

Hene Kelly — There is disclosure, but they can accept from those the party doesn't.

Maki — Can they get money right now if somebody is targeted?

Kelly — That is excellent question. This will give the caucus the ability to raise money, not necessary for candidates the party endorses. The SF Democratic Party has asked the state to only collect \$500 from any one donor.

John Woodell — We're getting lots of the same comments; somebody want to call the question?

Brian Perkins — The leadership sets the agenda, we have to do something. We get a lot of money that members don't understand. I never felt comfortable with that, and we should make a decision if we want to continue this. I'm voting for this, I don't know Jackie's position.

Brigid O'Farrell — This is bad bill, but we don't work with Democratic leadership closely enough. I'd like to see that when this goes back, we can engage with them to solve the problem.

Kelly — I need to say something. Kevin Mullin had a wonderful bill. He wanted to give California the right to have an effective primary. He did not write this bill, his bill was gutted, written by leadership. I have a lot of respect for him.

Cliff Robbins — Calls the question, seconded by John Woodell.

Vote on the motion: **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** with 4 abstentions.

Abstentions: Nicole Fernandez (for Berman), Pamela O'Leary, Ginny Stewart, Cliff Robbins

Elections Integrity Committee

Brent Turner — We want a higher level of security. Insertion of public software, in conjunction with paper a ballot. This is the kind of software that NASA and DOD use. On a micro level, we're still struggling with the Board of Supervisors. They're looking to buy another round of bad voting systems. An 11-year-old can hack them. On the macro level, we're dealing with NDI and DHS. We're trying to figure out who's in charge. Nobody is in charge on a national level, which makes the task of changing out voting systems difficult. It's not being led properly, except in SF... which is leading the Country and State. We hope San Mateo County with join SF in purchasing proper voting systems. I'll be reporting back as soon as possible

Sharrie Kriger — Left over picnic food went to a 90-bed facility near the airport.

Brigid O'Farrell — Media training was cancelled. We have nothing lined up for next month.

Regional Director's Report

Hene Kelly — In June, this coming June, we'll have a Democratic convention in SF, at Moscone, you have no excuse for not going; be there.

Chair — There will be a lot of volunteer opportunities.

DIRECTOR and LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Congresswoman Jackie Speier's Office

Brian Perkins — We have so many children still incarcerated.

Assemblymember Marc Berman's Office

Nicole Fernandez — Marc is chairing census and master plan committee. We created an office on cyber-crime.

Federal Update

Greg Loew — The situation is not nearly as bad as it was 4 months ago. New pickups that have a change, second part of list, we may lose 1 or 2 of existing incumbents. If we lose 2 and gain 4, we're OK; maybe gain 4 and not lose anybody [clapping].

CLUB REPORTS

Democracy for America

Ashleigh Evans — At our next meeting, Wed Sept 5th, the postponed program is, "The year of the women," wired for women, committed to increasing number of women. Make a career of politics, working in the system. We'll be co-sponsored by DemFems.

Peninsula Young Democrats

Alex Melendrez — We're holding endorsement day from 10am to 2pm on Saturday, Aug 20. We're also having a live debate on prop 10 at the DVC.

Dem Fems

Lisa Nash — We've started the endorsement process. We're sending out a questionnaire. In Sept we'll vote on endorsing candidates.

North Peninsula Democrats

Sandra Lang — I'm here on behalf on Ann Schneider, her father recently passed away. Our Aug 18 meeting was postponed. All people running for office can attend our "speed dating" meeting. Please come to that meeting at Peter's cafe, 9am to 11am on Sept 8 (most likely).

LIGHTNING ROUND

Chair — Rise for Climate, Jobs & Justice California march in SF on Sept 8.

Eric Siegel — The Voter's Choice Act seems to be successful, a big study is coming out with usage patterns. It's costing more than old way of voting, but it is replacing problematic old hardware. Ballots go out beginning of October. You can register and vote on the same day. I'm asking DCC to be part of the fusion calendar. You can go to norcalbluewave.org.

Brigid O'Farrell — On Sept 21, we have a Josh Harder event in Hillsborough, I'll send out specifics. on a fun note, come to half moon bay library on the coastside.

Nancy Yarbrough — Quick shout out to one of our members. Shika Hamilton, she's in Texas doing pro bono work for families separated from children.

Patti Smilovitz — Sister District, As of Aug 13: 6,413 texts, over 8000 addresses from candidates; we have a great post carding team.

Lisa Nash — Texting effort is fantastic. Interested in writing post cards or fundraising? At my house, Hill, Mullin and Berman will be attending. We look forward to seeing you.

Greg Loew — Let's have a minute of silence for Aretha Franklin.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.