

## San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee

### General Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2018

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:33pm, by Acting Chair Karen Maki.

**Acting Chair** — asks for motion to approve September minutes. [the room]: **PASSED.**

**Acting Chair** — asks for motion to approve October agenda. [the room]: **PASSED.**

#### **Introductions**

**Joe Little** — I'm the new alternate for Diana Reddy.

#### **Filling Open Seat in D3**

**Brigid O'Farrell** — I'm here to fill Cecily's seat. We considered Steve Booker and Brent Turner. The District 3 caucus recommendation was for Booker.

**O'Farrell** — Motion, second by Joe Goethals.

**April Vargas** — I support Turner, the other choice. He has years of involvement. He's taken a bold stand on issues. He walked precincts and donated money. His work on election integrity has been good. He goes to convention. Steve is also good.

**O'Farrell** — I appreciate Brent, but I feel Steven Booker would broaden and strengthen. As a union rep, he goes around the county. He provides perspective from labor and a person of color. We need Dems and labor to work more closely. He's an independent voice. His voice will broaden our perspective.

**Sabrina Brennan** — It was a 3-2 vote. I've known Brent from these meetings. He's a hard-working activist. We've all seen over the past year. He's been fighting the battle for so long.

**Joe Goethals** — Steve is tremendous. He's the right person.

**Sandra Lang** — This is like Sophie's Choice. I've come to know Steve recently, but I want to speak on Brent's behalf. I worked on election integrity. It's important.

**David Burruto** — I call the question, the room seconds.

**Acting Chair** — Takes vote.

Motion to select Booker passes, abstentions: Christensen and Wolter (for Eshoo)

#### **Filling Open Seat in D2**

**Nancy Yarbrough** — The caucus met, we came down to support Nicole.

Motion to select Nicole, the room seconds.

**Yarbrough** — She is everywhere, a PDY and PDC member. She's also a person of color.

**Goethals** — I've known her for a long time, she is amazing.

**Diana Reddy** — I wanted to shout out to Chelsea, so much courage.

**April Vargas** — I too support Chelsea.

**Ashleigh Evans** — I also admire Chelsea, but we have an opportunity to pick up Nicole.

**Judith Christensen** — I call the question, Burruto seconds.

**Acting Chair** — Roll call, abstentions: None.

#### **Filling Open Seat for Chair**

**Jon Levinson** — Motion to select Nicole, Christensen seconds. Can this be for all next year?

**Acting Chair** — We could vote on whatever.

**Ashleigh Evans** — How long will that be?

**Sandra Lang** — Motion to select a chair only until January, Woodell seconds.

**Hene Kelly** — You need a procedure on running a meeting.

**Evans** — I withdraw the motion.

**Levinson** — I nominate Nicole, she's wonderful. Nicole is the right person.

**Judith Christensen** — I call the question, Burruto seconds.

**Acting Chair** — roll call on the vote for Nicole.

Motion passes, abstentions: Sabrina, Alexis, and [one other].

**New Chair** — I'm very excited, thank you. My grandmother passed away recently. She was an immigrant that got a job at SF airport in security. She wished she could get involved. I told her about my meetings. I'm here to facilitate us moving forward. I'm so excited to be part of this.

**Ginny Stewart** — Where was your grandmother from?

**New Chair** — Pakistan.

### **Headquarters Report**

**Eric** — We're doing congressional phone banks. Let's flip the house. We have events every weekend, from now until election. Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara will be here precinct walking. Training is at 9:30, Lara arrives at 10, we walk at 10:30. Next week, Anna Eshoo will be here. She will kick off our phone bank.

**April** — Fewer than 3 weeks, GOTV. We need to do more and do better. Voter registration closes on Monday. We have a couple more events. At CSF students get pizza. I live on the coastside. People want to phone bank in El Granada. We have boxes of door hangers. One additional thing, Tony Thurmond fliers. Remind people this is an all-mail-election. Get this into the hands of voters. More organizing, getting people here. We'll have a party here when voting centers close. We'll be watching elections here.

### **Executive Board Reports**

**New Chair** — thanks Karen, thanks Cecily, and Chelsea.

**Northern Vice Chair** —No report.

**Southern Vice Chair** —No report.

**Recording Secretary** — No report.

### **Controller's Report**

**Nancy Yarbrough** — The audit is still on going, with the state. Donors circle going slowly. Last month we talked about Woodbury Iowa. They have not gotten back to me. I asked the accountant. We'll need to know if they filed as a State or Federal group. We're kind of in limbo at the moment. We are authorized to do political ads. April and Eric did the copy. Mitchel did the universe for the ad. It will go through election day. It was seen by 1,100 people so far. Finances: Federal \$51,933.69, State \$347,158.74 (most now dispersed, we kept 7%), Segregated I have the wrong number, I have to get back to you on that.

**Sabrina Brennan** — I looked at these reports, the pass-thru is super confusing. Maybe the accountant can explain pass-thru from real money. I'm confused about this, we have a fiduciary responsibility to know.

**Alexis Lewis** — Do we send the financials out?

**New Chair** — Yes, with minutes.

**Sandra Lang** — It would be good to have a budget.

**New Chair** — We'll have a budget.

### **Correspondence Secretary**

**Alexis Lewis** — I'm working on sending out "thank you" letters.

### **Fund Development**

**April Vargas** — We're busy now. With donation circle, we got \$710 so far, Cecily sent this out.

### **Christmas Party**

**New Chair** —We're most likely on for Thursday December 13.

### **Endorsements Committee**

**New Chair** — We'll be following Roberts Rules

**Karen Maki** — It was discovered Adonica has traffic violation records. Cecily made a decision, there was no time for the e-board to meet. Members wanted to weigh in. We called an e-board, and we brought it here.

**April Vargas** — Motion to reinstate the endorsement, Brennan seconds.

**Sabrina Brennan** — Adonica is my Alternate. How much time to I get?

**New Chair** — Everyone gets two minutes to speak.

**Jon Levinson** — I'd like to speak against, I was very disturbed. I was very disturbed, not only by what happened. I asked her to send me the attorney's information. She sent out a letter. It was disturbing, she should take full responsibility. She says I agreed to a fine and community service. No, the court ordered her to a certain method. We don't need to endorse this time.

**Alexis Lewis** — I believe a mistake was made when we rescinded her endorsement. At the September endorsement meeting we endorsed her. My endorsement is not for anyone else to take. I believe this is not an issue unless a candidate has committed murder, or sexual assault, wire fraud by taking bribes from gang members, racketeering, conspiracy to sell firearms without a license, rape or pedophilia... it's a traffic violation.

**Nancy Yarbrough** — I was involved after the fact. I needed to return slate mailer money. It's about integrity, if you've ever been accused of a crime. She should have answered yes. We are the party that should have integrity. We're not the Whitehouse.

**Judith Christensen** — My concern is we had a candidate who lied. In the past, we've had people that answered yes. They told us, there is no reason not to answer yes. Driving on a suspended license is a serious crime, why not be forthright. The answer was "no" and then "silence." And right on the application it says, "if anything comes up that will embarrass the democratic party, your endorsement will be rescinded."

**Woodell** — Where does it say that?

**Christensen** — On the application.

**Lewis** — It doesn't say anything about "rescinded."

**Christensen** — It has always said that, when you apply, and the endorsement chair always explains that. If there's anything that comes up, that this is not forever. You need to be forthright and honest and that just didn't happen. It seems to me clearly that we need to define more carefully the process for rescinding, and the process for how to deal with this question, but a lot of stuff came up that it can only be five years or two years or whatever. That can happen later.

**Sabrina Brennan** — Some questions have come up. I'm concerned about due process, there wasn't an emergency. I don't think a dismissed traffic incident warrants an emergency. We did vote as a body. Also, who is the initial source? Were all candidates similarly researched by David Burruto? Why was the addition of "charges" added to the questionnaire? Why would a campaign consultant speak negatively about his client? Did racial bias play a role in the decision to rescind Adonica Shaw Porter's endorsement? Difference between arrest records and convictions. The fact that an individual was arrested is not proof that he or she engaged in criminal conduct. Therefore, an individual's arrest record standing alone may not be used by an employer to negative employment actions. That is from the US equal opportunity commission's website. AB 103, Governor Brown signed AB 103 into law on June 27, 2017, which eliminated court notifications to the DMV of failure to pay fines, eliminating the requirement of the DMV to suspend or withhold driver's licenses for that reason. We're Democrats, we shouldn't allow people to be penalized in a way that adversely attacks people of color and people of low income.

**Annette Hipona** — Can we call the question?

**David Burruto** — I call the question, seconded by Hipona.

**New Chair** — Can we please continue and allow Adonica to speak?

**Burruto** — Withdraws motion.

**Adonica Shaw Porter** — For those who don't know me, I'm a wife and a mother of three. I serve on the "health care for the homeless and farmworkers board" as a County Commissioner in San Mateo County, and I work for the State at CIRM, which is California's Stem Cell Agency. Prior to my running for office I was a weatherwoman. I got my break at KRON 4, and I went on to do weather at the CBS and Fox affiliates in Monterey and Santa Barbara. I'm a first-time candidate, and I decided to run for Pacifica City Council because I felt that there needed to be a voice that more actively advocated for families, and one that gave more visibility to the issues facing the middle class. When I saw this "Blue Wave" of women, running for and winning seats, I knew I could be successful too. There has never actually been a person of color to hold a seat on the city council in Pacifica. My candidacy is unique because when I run, I will be the first person of color to do it. I don't come from a line of politicians. I was not groomed to serve in office. Where I come from, a life in politics is out of reach. I was raised by a single mother. My mom worked as an assistant and picked up extra hours at Kmart. My father was a Vietnam War Vet, he struggled with PTSD and ultimately passed away from a drug overdose on my 17th birthday. There was a point when I actually had to sleep in my own car to get through college. I know that I speak well, and I seem accomplished. At first glance it would appear that I was raised in a nice home with educated professional parents, but that only because I worked extremely hard to get where I'm at and I pushed myself to have a better life, and to give that to my children and to my community. Statistically speaking, I shouldn't be here.

**John Woodell** — We did call an e-board meeting to discuss this. There was some concern that there was involvement from Mitchell Oster, who was supposed to be working for the candidate.

David Burruto and Cecily Harris were involved in pulling the endorsement. David, Mitchell and Cecily chose not to attend the special e-board meeting. There was no representation about what happened on their end. I do think that I would like to have heard that in the context of the e-board meeting. My comment then was that we could decide to remove someone from the mailer because it's going to press, but a discussion of re-issuing a press release and make front-page news is completely out-of-hand. I did say at the e-board meeting that we should give Cecily the benefit of the doubt because she did what she thought was appropriate at the time, but now looking back and the amount of drama associated with this process is unnecessary. We don't need to issue a new press release saying, "this woman is a liar and a scoundrel." I don't think that's appropriate. I'd also say that if your attorney gives you advise, you should follow it, even if Jon Levinson doesn't agree with it, you should listen to you attorney and you should be thoughtful. I think Adonica could have done a better job with her questionnaire, but I think we need to do a better job tonight and return this endorsement.

**New Chair** — David Called the question, Judith seconded.

Vote to restore endorsement, roll call.

Motion fails: Yes: 10, No:13, Abstentions: 6

**Ad Hock Committee** — No report.

**Resolutions Committee** — No Report.

**Bylaws Committee** — No Report.

### **Elections Integrity**

**Brent Turner** — On the local level we're seeing the vote-by-mail process. We have problems at the local elections office. We're going with the new program and watching it. The plan for open source voting systems was rolled out in San Francisco. We hope Padilla will understand and certify. Please push our Board of Supervisors on this.

**Data and Communications** — No report

### **Program Committee**

**Brigid O'Farrell** — No committee report, but a side note. Brandon Quan is running for the board of Education. He's pictured with me on a Flier. It has already had gone out quite widely, and he has photos on his website. The library has asked him to take them down. I'm not endorsing him.

### **Outreach Committee**

**Sharrie Kriger** — Thanks to District 1 for munchies; District 2 is next month.

### **Candidate Watch**

**Loew** — I will ask Woodell to send out a flier. if you make donations in the state, know who is endangered. John will distribute this information.

## **DIRECTOR and LEGISLATIVE REPORTS**

### **Regional Director Report**

**Hene Kelly** — We have an e-board meeting in Long Beach. The next convention will be in San Francisco. We need to get as many people there to help as possible. We're having ADEM elections. We have AD22 & AD2. We elect seven men and seven women to represent us, and we have a person from each ADEM district. You have people here that are delegates. We are having the ADEM election in January. On two different Saturdays, we need to have a convener of AD22, I'd appreciate it. I want as many grassroots people as possible involved.

**New Chair** — When is the big convention?

**Kelly** — I need to check on that.

### **Congresswoman Anna Eshoo's Office**

**Helen Wolter** — No report.

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

**Brian Perkins** — Jackie has been condemning the killing of the journalist. Even the president acknowledges it was a murder. She's been condemning the coverup and abuse of power.

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

**Mark Hershman** — Next Java with Jerry is on the 26th at 9:30, Jerry welcomes questions. Senate race 12 is a seat held by a Republican. Anna Caballero is running in the valley. Feel free to lend a hand.

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

**Jeff Sparks** — We passed SB 822, Net Neutrality bill, then were sued by the Federal Government. We're confident the AG can defend it.

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

**Nicole Fernandez** — Back to school fair in North Fair Oaks at Hoover community school. Free back packs and flu shots hosted by the County. We'd love to see familiar faces out there.

### **Assemblymember Phil Ting's Office**

**Alex Walker** — He has a last public event in the Fall. We'll have folks at Seaton Medical Facility. We had a few bills: Police body cam footage, third party rent payments (non-profit that will pay rent to help people stay in their homes), taxing Uber and Lyft. Disappointing, the Governor vetoed the gun violence bill to expand restraining orders and banning guns from the Cow Palace.

## CLUB REPORTS

### **Democracy for America**

**Ashleigh Evans** — Nov 7 meeting, celebrating blue wave.  
"what it all means, where we go from here"

### **Peninsula Democratic Coalition**

**Zack Ross** — Our news is that we gave out \$30K to the DVC, and \$17K to compensate candidates, all the ones we think are close.

### **Coastside Democrats**

**April Vargas** — TJ Cox came to our club. We had 30 people at Kathy Klein's. His wife is a pediatrician. We registered lots of people. We have another phone bank, you don't need a reservation, just show up. This is where we win elections. We have food, fun, we're going to win.

## LIGHTING ROUND

**Nicole Fernandez** — I denounce the disgusting mailer on Diana, very underhanded by the CAA.

**Sabrina Brennan** — In Pacifica, there were a slew of horrible mailers. This past week at the coastal commission hearing, both State agencies have voted for including of women in Mavericks with equal pay for woman athletes, equal pay globally in pro surfing.

**Maurice Goodman** — Here tonight, I want to see us do better. For years the Democratic Party has stood for a system that harms minorities and women. I'm not talking about individuals, as we open arms, we need to embrace and teach them. I will not ask for an endorsement if that question is there in the future.

**Brent Turner** — I think we've had a bad look tonight. In this environment, that embarrasses and saddens me. We've had eleven years to get it together, I'm not seeing it tonight.

**Ginny Stewart** — We need to support each other.

**Hene Kelly** — The Convention is May 31 to June 2 at Moscone Center. Don't ever do anything you'd be embarrassed to read in a news headline. You are the Democratic Party.

**Dana Smith** — I think past legal problems should be on there. There was a person that was accused of beating his wife.

**Jon Levinson** — I want to stop people bashing our party. Basically, we're a hell of a lot better.

**Alexis Lewis** — Chelsea is my new alternate.

## AJOURNEMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22pm.