

**San Mateo County**  
**Democratic Central Committee**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
**July 18, 2019**

**Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda & Approval of Minutes**

- The call to order occurred at 7:38 by Committee Chair, Nicole Fernandez.
- The July, 2019 meeting agenda was adopted.
- The June, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.
- New visitors were asked to speak.
  - Des Frazier, CZI, to learn more and listen
  - April Northrup, candidate for school board, thank you for endorsement. As I consider running again, I want to help other Democrats get elected.
  - Bob Franklin, Belmont. Used to be involved. Want to come back.
  - Marni Rubin, Shelly Masur campaign manager, first meeting this year. Have some of our interns here. Wonderful candidate running for State Senate.
  - Jack McGovern, working for Josh Becker for State Senate. He has lots of experience. Excited to be here. Intern here. Here to learn about issues important to this group.
  - Dave Bauer, Belmont, here to learn.
  - Dennis Stupchinski, born and raised in South Bend.
  - Jon Pimentel, Menlo Park, first timer, want to learn more.
  - Chair introduced Michael Brownrigg from Burlingame, also running for State Senate. He said that he's interested in learning more.
  - Chair introduced Emily Beach, Burlingame City Council, and Rick Bonilla, San Mateo City Council.
  - Michael Smith, new alternate for Diana Reddy introduced himself. Long time resident of Redwood City. Happy to be here.
- Please check in on social media.
  - Chair asked people to check in on Facebook or other social media.

**Executive Board Reports**

**Chair (Nicole Fernandez):**

- If any clubs need to submit their documents, please do. If you're not submitted by tonight at midnight, you are not a chartered club of this body.
- Elected, Alternate, and Associate members need to pay their dues by this month.

- Region 6 meeting on Saturday. CDP Chair Rusty Hicks will be there. Hene will be raffling off Challah bread. Preview of things going on at Eboard in San Jose.
- Hene: 8/23-8/25 is Eboard in San Jose. 10/5 & 10/6 are club pre-endorsement meetings. 10/6 for this region. This is the meeting where we will decide endorsements for statewide offices and those in our region.
- Chair: Big fundraiser: Comic Con style event, POTUSCon. Trivia, selfie station, costumes. Moved to October. New date soon.
- Nominating convention in November. Nominees for March 3<sup>rd</sup> primary.

**Northern Vice Chair (Cliff Robbins):**

- No report.

**Southern Vice Chair (Karen Maki):**

- No report.

**Controller (Nancy Yarbrough):**

- On track for our budget. Worked with TJ and we're in good shape. I had some printing problem

**Recording Secretary (Mitchell Oster):**

- No report.

**Corresponding Secretary (Alexis Lewis):**

- Chelsea Bonini: Thank you letters were emailed to all of our convention luncheon sponsors. Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, Senator Jerry Hill, Senator Scott Wiener, Assemblymember Marc Berman, Assemblymember Kevin Mullin, Assemblymember Phil Ting, Councilmember Charles Stone, Councilmember Rishi Kumar, Saratoga, Harini Krishnan, Chelsea Bonini, Councilmember Rick Bonilla, Councilmember Shelly Millar Masur and Councilmember Julia Mates.
- Thank you letters were emailed to Dana Smith and Judith Christensen for their donation of red, white and blue fabric for our decorating use.

## **Standing Committee Reports**

**Finance:**

- Chair: Finance Committee will be meeting soon.

**Endorsements:**

- Brigid O'Farrell: Thank you. My co-chair is in Finland. We've made the final touches on the documentation. Next week, candidates will be pulling papers. There is an election coming this November. The documents will go live this Monday. The process should be much clearer. There will be lots of information, a

description of the process, the entire committee, and a link to the questionnaire. Endorsement meetings will be at IBEW in late August (28 & 29). Robert Bernardo is contacting candidates to invite them to apply and give them links to the appropriate pages. There aren't a lot of races. Also developing some guidelines for propositions and candidates. A set of norms document. Tom Mohr helped create that. To help the teams remember how and why we do this. The Central Committee to vote on endorsements will be Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>. Karen and I will both be traveling. That will be the only meeting in September and it'll be a that special endorsements meeting.

**Events:**

- Chair: We had a great Debate Watch Party. Thank you to Steven Booker for hosting at IBEW.
- New event coming up co-hosting with SMC DFA. Christine Pelosi talking about how to win in 2020 with women. Looking for volunteers to help. Aug. 8.
- Brigid O'Farrell: Trying to get Alex Padilla soon. We're going to an every other month schedule. Ginny Stewart is working on a speaker for the new year.

**Bylaws:**

- Chair: Want to welcome another elected official, Ray Mueller of Menlo Park.
- Cliff Robbins: We added the changes that were generated by the endorsement process. We are giving you a heads up that this process is moving along. We'll have more to discuss in September.

**Resolutions:**

- David Burruto: Introduced the resolution in support of SB 276. Second reading. Chair Fernandez submitted this resolution. Some changes were made from the first reading. Inclusive of recommendations made by Ashleigh Evans last month. Committee recommended support.
- Chair: Science is science. Vaccines work. Can we please pass this resolution.
- Motion to discuss was made and seconded.
- Discussion: Brigid O'Farrell: is there opposition? None in the Senate.
- Motion to adopt was made and seconded.
- Motion to support resolution was passed unanimously by voice vote.

**Election Integrity:**

- Brent Turner: Interesting times in CA. We continue to buy/lease that have corporate owned software. We think this is a problem. Jimmy Carter said that he didn't think that Trump was properly elected.
- SMC Board of Supervisors were forced to make a purchase but they only had a couple of choices. I'm disappointed that the Supervisors were silent and didn't make a statement that they were forced under duress to make the move. I hope they have an opt out clause built in.

### **Voter Registration:**

- April Vargas: A lot of stuff is already happening. We'll be having a phone meeting soon. Many thanks to our volunteers who went to Central Park this last week. Although we only registered one person. We're going to regroup and tackle this again in 2020.
- We got a booth at the Millbrae Art and Wine Festival. It's a very hard process to get this. Labor Day weekend. Fun event. Register a lot of voters most of the time. Come see me if you can volunteer.
- Save the Music event in Belmont. If you want to volunteer, we have a training. August 4 is the next training event. If you have people who want to get trained, you need at least 5 and we'll come to you.
- Paraphrasing Tom Perez, the Dems should be going out to people not expecting them to come to us.

### **Welcoming Committee:**

- Sharrie Kriger: We're meeting with Mitchell and John Woodell. I'm looking forward to the progress we're making.
- Nick Akers wanted me to thank you for all the efforts to make this body more welcoming. Between this committee and the social hour, we're doing so much.

### **Communication & Technology:**

- Mitchell Oster: There is specific page for each type of member. Please select from the header navigation.
- Chair: Please make sure to get your dues paid.

### **Leadership Development**

- Robert Bernardo is on the SSF Planning Commission and at their meeting tonight.
- Dems LEAD concluded this week. It's a program to help train prospective candidates. We've been doing it for 4 months. We had Noelia Corzo, Charles Stone, Giselle Hale, Diana Reddy, Sam Hindi, and many others come to talk about the process of becoming a candidate. Hene Kelly and Julie Lind came and spoke about a diverse range of topics.
- Shout out to the dozen or so who came and to acknowledge the commitment they made by coming to the entire series. They actually did more to make the program so great. Thank you to UA Local 467 Plumbers and Steamfitters for allowing us use of their conference room. Thank you to the speakers.
- Brigid O'Farrell: I spoke about the endorsement process for many organizations. Julie Lind also spoke about how the core set of values are what drive it. Don't always agree on everything. It was really fun.
- Hene Kelly: It was wonderful. People wanted to learn. It's really important. None of them are going to go to jail.
- The program ended on Monday. They received certificates.

- Erin Chazer, Andrew Radin, Chris Sturken, Michael Smith, Mike Dunham, Raymond Larios, Linda Holman stood and were recognized.

### **Clubs Liaison**

- Chair: Thank you to Chelsea Bonini for taking it on.
- Chelsea: We have 6 clubs that were chartered before. Of those, all the materials are in except one. Hope to get that today. We also have two new clubs. So now, 7 are fully chartered with an 8<sup>th</sup> expected by tonight.

### **Congressional Report**

- Greg Loew: Thank you to Mitch for sending it out yesterday.
- There will be another report that shows improvement since even last month.
- Can we close tonight in honor of John Paul Stevens.

### **New Business**

- None.

## **Regional Director, Legislative, and Clubs Reports**

### **Region 6 Director:**

- Hene Kelly: October 6<sup>th</sup> is the pre-endorsement meeting. It's the one time clubs have a say at what happens at the endorsement process at convention. For every 20 members you get 1 delegate. I've received those rosters and sent them in to the State Party.
- You can have a proxy. But when you do the pre-endorsement vote, you're mailed a ballot. You can send it in. You can email. If you lose the ballot, you can do it in person. But you can't do a proxy. You also can't change. If you send me your vote and then you vote a different way later, you're stuck with the first one.
- It'll be a great meeting. A fun meeting
- Ashleigh Evans: You can mail or email it?
- Hene: Yes. And we're going to be talking about candidates and platform. I'll be handing out our platform. If you're a candidate, you have to read it. But you don't have to sign it. Many don't read it but they should.
- Also, you can go to the meetings and bring up things in the platform that need to be changed. We can make it ours. It's a living document and I think that's important.
- Last time I was here I did something that was very important.
- I came here with baby challahs. Ten of them. I want to sell them.
- Hene proceeded to sell all 10 of her baby challahs.
- Chair recapped the report. Meeting coming on Saturday. Pre-endorsement conference also.

**Congresswoman Jackie Speier (CA-14):**

- Tom Mohr gave his time to Belinda Arriaga to speak about the situation on the border.
- Belinda spoke about her experiences with speaking with people at the border. She was there recently. So much has changed since we were last here. It's much worse now. The numbers are growing. Conditions are worse. Attitudes by officials is much more aggressive. It's been a year. It was last July that we first went. It's now been a year that we're separating children from their parents. We went in to look at the metering process. There are only 20 people per day, max. When we talked with people in Mexico, they are saying that there hasn't been anyone being taken in for over a week. It looks like it was because of the new rule that Trump implemented. Children are still being kept in cages. Children are sick. We saw 4 women who had c-section deliveries and then were returned to cages. One even ended up in ICU.
- Rep. Speier was allowed to enter the facility. She shared on her social media what she saw. The hunger, the inhumane treatment that they witnessed. The stories we heard. We had a session with ACLU and two representatives from Texas. They used the phrase "cruel chaos" to describe how this administration has dismantled the immigration process as it was before. It's so complicated and chaotic that no one knows where to start. That felt, like a reality that we have to face. He's maximized his cruelty that people don't even know what to do. It rips out your heart to see that. Not a lot can be done.
- A little bit of hope was that they all said they'd take these stories back to DC.
- Everyone should be passing along the message that doctors and social workers should be allowed in to discuss with the children and families. It would change the entire narrative. There must be something we can do.
- Brent Turner: Is there some reason they aren't letting in doctors?
- Arriaga: We saw a lot of sick kids. They aren't being allowed in. It's being heavily monitored.
- Sam Manneh: No one from should go through this. Given the magnitude of the problem, is there any potential to bring a humanitarian physician in? Any talk of that? Pelosi and Speier are talking but how come there isn't more pressure? We have to find a solution.
- Arriaga: We have to take that message. There is gatekeeping happening. There is an element of cruelty that is purposeful. You are the eyes and ears for those children. Please keep up the pressure.
- Chair: Share this on social media. Talk to your representatives. Give to Bay Area Border Relief.
- Greg Loew: Anna Eshoo gave a report this morning about her visit.

**Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (CA-18):**

- No report.

**State Senator Scott Wiener (SD-11):**

- No report.

**State Senator Jerry Hill (SD-13):**

- Joan Dentler: Legislature is on summer recess. Staff on their toes. Will be back in session in mid-August. Session for the year will end in September. If there's any specific piece of legislation of the 20 or so that Sen. Hill has active, please ask.
- AB5
- SB 276, we're getting a lot of calls about that.
- Charter School bill also getting a lot of calls.
- Sen. Hill is hard at work. If you'd like to come in, please let me know.
- There will be another event in August. Our last Java with Jerry was very successful. Over 50 people.

**Assemblymember Phil Ting (AD-19):**

- No report.

**Assemblymember Kevin Mullin (AD-22):**

- No report.

**Assemblymember Marc Berman (AD-24):**

- No report.

**Coastside Democratic Club:**

- April Vargas: Had good turnout at both nights of the debates. Julian Castro won the "most improved" and Beto O'Rourke lost ground. Elizabeth Warren was the overall winner of the poll.
- Also the Senate District 14 candidate meeting. August 11<sup>th</sup>. 12:30-3:00.
- Generous offer from a candidate to help with paying a stipend to people who want to go to Sister District elections next year. I'll research and talk to treasurer. Maybe we can get other people to donate.

**Hillsborough Democratic Club:**

- No report.

**North Peninsula Democratic Club:**

- Erin Chazer: We had to cancel our most recent meeting. Next meeting will be Anne Oliva.
- Sister District is doing great things to help flip state houses. To that end, they are having a fundraiser. Please support and see me for details.

**Pacifica-Daly City Democrats:**

- No report.

**Peninsula Democratic Coalition:**

- Chelsea Bonini: Picnic/Fundraiser August 18<sup>th</sup> at Cuesta Park. New sponsorship opportunity. If you donate \$100, you'll get a mention. \$250 4 tickets. \$500 you get a table also. For \$1,000 you get all that and get to talk. Speaker is Ricardo Lara, state insurance commissioner. \$10 to attend.

**Peninsula Young Democrats:**

- Sarah Fields: Recap of July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Flag Day. Josh Becker won the costume contest. Thank you to the sponsors. We raised about 1,600 dollars.
- August 8<sup>th</sup> is our next meeting. Old Dems are welcome to join us.

**San Mateo County Democracy for America:**

- Ashleigh Evans: August meeting is very exciting. Christine Pelosi. A human dynamo, much like her mother. Very involved with DNC and CDP. We are co-sponsoring with DCC. Meeting on August 7. Flyers here.
- We've been starting with dessert for 16 years. Please if you are coming, please volunteer to bring a dessert. We could use the help.

**Lightning Round (one-minute announcements/remarks)**

- California Redistricting Commission is starting. If you're not
- Ginny Stewart: Had lunch with Jackie Speier. She spoke about Nicole Fernandez.
- Jon Levinson: Email from a friend – I would like to go back to where I came from but they
- Brent Turner: Sharp Park Golf Course, Elections Pacifica Daly City Democratic Club. Talking about elections
- John Woodell: Chance to talk to Sabrina Brennan who is at a surfing competition in Mexico. They did a GoFundMe and they raised extra and actually gave the extra money to the men.
- Sandra Lang: This is related to women's equity. I'm thrilled about the women's national soccer team. This was so great. I think we can't forget all the issues we're working on for women's equity.
- Chris Sturken: From Redwood City. On council this Monday, they will be talking about height limits.
- Brigid O'Farrell: Please come out to Deborah Ruddock for moss beach shelly masur talk find out more about her positions on the various issues. Introducing her to the upper Coastside. Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. 3pm-5pm.
- Mike Dunham: Been speaking about a site controlled by the Peninsula Healthcare District. They are reaching out to affordable housing groups to build on that site. We don't know details. But please keep apprised on what's happening to make sure it's truly affordable to seniors.



- Harini Krishnan: Happy to co-host with XXX XXX, Dan McCready. Fundraiser. He lost by 900 votes. Fundraiser is on Tuesday, July XX. He's going to have a tough fight. His opponent is the author of the "bathroom law". Come see me if you want to attend. Also in September, a fundraiser for
- Frazier: First time attending. I wanted to give some food for thought. I'm blown away by the degree of kindness in this room. Keep up the good work.
- Emily Beach: Kindness and welcoming comes from leadership. Thank you to our Chair. There is a parcel in Burlingame. An RFP process is happening. I'm supporting a bay restoration project for the parcel. Committee for Green Foothills is involved. Helen Wolter is the contact person.
- Hene Kelly: We got \$220 for challahs. Warm it up in the oven a little and it'll be great.

### **Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 9:13pm in memory of the recently departed Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens.