

San Mateo County
Democratic Central Committee
General Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2019

Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda & Approval of Minutes

- The call to order occurred at 7:33pm by Committee Chair, Nicole Fernandez.
- The August, 2019 meeting agenda was adopted.
- The July, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.
- New visitors were asked to speak.
 - Irene O’Connell, vice mayor of San Bruno, new member, re-election
 - Elmer Martinez, Redwood City, first presidential election, liking Elizabeth Warren.
 - Dylan Martinez, second meeting, presidential candidate is Bernie Sanders.
 - Jordan Grimes, San Mateo resident, second meeting, undecided but Sanders or Warren.
 - Michael Smith, Redwood City, new member of SMC Dems, supporting Kamala Harris, new alternate for Diana Reddy.
 - John Pimentel, Menlo Park, trying to figure out how to help out.
 - Brigette Berman (sp?), first meeting, Redwood Shores, undecided on presidential candidate.
 - April Northrup, second meeting, Belmont, Kamala Harris.
 - Victoria, first meeting, Pacifica, not sure who I’m supporting.
- Please check in on social media.

Executive Board Reports

Chair (Nicole Fernandez):

- A while since we’ve had an E-Board meeting. Will try in September.
- Major dates
 - California Dem Party Eboard in San Jose, easy to get a ticket, might be presidential candidates.
 - Same weekend, DNC in San Francisco. Looking for volunteers.
 - Wednesday, Aug. 28 is SMC Dems endorsement meetings. Any members may attend. Time TBD.
 - September meeting on the Fifth. Two weeks early. More info coming. It’s for ratifying endorsements.

- Pre-Endorsement meetings also upcoming. 10/6, Sunday at the IBEW 617 in San Mateo.
- POTUSCon is the last weekend in October.
- Nominating convention in Long Beach in November. 15-17. Proxies, please see me.

Northern Vice Chair (Cliff Robbins):

- No report.

Southern Vice Chair (Karen Maki):

- No report.

Controller (Nancy Yarbrough):

- No Report.
- Chair: Dues are due. Check at website. You can't vote unless you're in good standing. Make sure you pay.

Recording Secretary (Mitchell Oster):

- Reminder that we're taking attendance. Please make sure to check in on the sign in sheet.
- Also, if you are not able to make it to the meeting, please let the Chair know in advance, if possible.
- If you got the minutes or roster and there was something wrong, please let me know.

Corresponding Secretary (Alexis Lewis):

- Resolution SB276 was sent to Ting, Berman, Mullin, and Hill.

Standing Committee Reports

Finance:

- No report. Will be emailed.

Endorsements:

- Karen Maki: Orientation night on Aug. 8. Four candidates that got a lot of questions answered.
- Big thank you to Robert Bernardo. He sent out invitations to candidates.
- There are 6 ballot measures who might want us to endorse. Committee members will research and make a recommendation to vote on Sept. 5th.
- Seven candidates. SMFCSD, Burl, San Bruno.
- Aug 28. In the evening. Central committee members are allowed to attend and observe. At IBEW 617 in San Mateo.

- We'll all vote on September 5. Here at TWU Hall. You'll be emailed the list of recommendations. Any member who can vote can ask for a race to be pulled from the consent calendar. Someone can then make a motion to vote on one of the races that was pulled. Those who can speak (members and alternates). We'll share again that night.
- Chair: If you have any questions, please reach out to Brigid or Karen. They've been very thorough. Round of applause for the Endorsement Committee.
- Next year will be much more complicated. Perhaps over 100 candidates.

Events:

- Alexander Melendrez: Rita Bosworth of Sister District will be talking in October. January meeting is Alex Padilla. He's confirmed. Impacts of VBM, rural and urban responses, etc.

Bylaws:

- Cliff Robbins: Most will recall that the Endorsement Committee came up with 4 policy changes. Some came to the Bylaws. The timing and rescission policy items. Both were basis for Bylaws changes. The committee debated and approved the changes that were mailed out earlier this week. We will do a first reading. Next meeting will be the vote. 2/3 will be required to pass. Thank you to those who called and emailed for your comments.
- John Woodell: Thanks for sending. I sent a voice mail about this. Having a deadline is great. Unlike a lot of things in the bylaws it's very wordy and colorful. Unlike the rest of the bylaws. Too flowery. I'd prefer simpler and more straightforward language. Adjectives are unnecessary. Too much text. Chair has the discretion. It should be simpler and let the Chair do the Chair's job.
- Robbins: This language was approved by a bunch of lawyers. And worked over by the Endorsements Committee. If it is decided by this body to take it back, we can.
- Sandra Lang: The governing rules of this election and endorsement is affected by these changes?
- Robbins: We need state approval. So it won't be in effect until the next cycle. But we decided in the Spring to follow the principles of these changes.
- Diana Reddy: Acknowledge John's question. Could you explain why we chose to use longer and more specific language?
- Robbins: It's actually a complicated process.
- Reddy: The committee wanted to delineate so that there was no impression that the Chair would be making these decisions subjectively.
- Brigid: In the discussions with the endorsement committee, there was discussion of rescission. The language was just not satisfactory. Since it's come up twice, we thought it should be stronger guidelines.
- April Vargas: It's wordy, but I thought there was language that was necessary. Not sure how you could put some of this into a simple sentence.

- Woodell: Unless there's a definition of "reasonable", this is unnecessary. If the Chair feels there's time, she can bring it. I propose we simplify so that it's not just therapeutic to people's feelings.
- Chair: Can we meet in the middle?
- Woodell: I think the Chair has the authority and it's clear if.
- Robbins: I want to thank Diana and Brigid for their comments. I want to disagree with one of your points. All language can be debated.
- Chair: I appreciate what John is saying. I also appreciate the comments that this fuller language is protective of the Chair.
- Sam Manneh: Motion to accept the first reading.
- Nick Akers: That's unnecessary. The first reading is the first reading.
- Robbins: Absent a motion to delay the process, this is the first reading.
- Woodell: I will send my suggested sentence.
- Tom Mohr: I want to make the point that you have to give confidence to the people who are doing the endorsement and possibly rescission. We looked at it very deeply.
- Karen Maki: It seems to me is what John is doing is that we are kicking the decision to the committees.
- Chair: I think the majority is in favor of moving forward this as a first reading. Moving on.

Resolutions:

- David Burruto: Urgency resolution introduced by Ashleigh Evans. Resolutions Committee did not see as it was submitted on urgency grounds.
- Ashleigh Evans: I really like resolutions that are more of a challenge. This one is a slam dunk. It has widespread support between unions, community groups, cities, environmental groups, many others. It would establish a public banking option. It doesn't mandate a state bank. If you put money into a commercial bank, you pay fees, etc. This would allow jurisdictions to create a bank of their own and use fees for public benefit. Going through the Assembly quickly. Sailing through committees. Jerry Hill is supporting. Take questions.
- Sandra Lang: Who would oversee?
- Chair: Department of Business Oversight.
- Lang: Local entities if they decide would apply?
- Brigid O'Farrell: Do other states have this?
- Evans: Yes, many others.
- Karen Maki: Motion to approve. Seconded. Motion passes with unanimous approval.

Election Integrity:

- Brent Turner: Article I wrote with Jim Woolsey. Not to get in the way of getting people out to vote. The machines are in a dire state. When you see Padilla, he should be about open source systems. Encourage all our officials to endorse the

proposed bill, AB 1784. We need to tell him that he's dropped the ball. We need open source systems.

Voter Registration:

- April Vargas: Only 4 spots left for voter reg training. Thank you for having the translation done.
- CSM has been in touch with us to do a voter reg event on campus.
- We need volunteers. We have upcoming events.
- Chair: Can we create FB events.
- Vargas: It's great to get word out but people say yes then don't come. I will email people.
- Chair: If you want to help us, please reach out to April.

Welcoming Committee:

- Sharrie Kriger: Let me clarify something. Everyone saw the Women's World Cup. I want to let you know that every table and every chair was setup by a woman tonight. (applause). We are women hear us roar. Men will put them away.
- Next month is District 3.
- We've been meeting. Many chats about the website. There is a third pillar: maintaining the website. We will have new info. A few new sections, frequently asked question or an ABC. Help Me...do things section. New Member orientation section. Put elements online that new members can see what/how to do. We want to do an Election Central "join us" section. People want to get involved, HQ, post carding, voter reg, etc. specific info about how to get involved. Swag stuff. Lots of good ideas. We're off and running.
- April Vargas: Can we put the newest on the top on meeting docs meetings.

Communication & Technology:

- No report.

Leadership Development

- Chair: Dems LEAD 202 is coming.

Clubs Liaison

- Coastside Dems, Dem Fems, Hillsborough, North Peninsula Dems, PDC, PYD, SMC DFA, all rechartered. New charters of clubs that have come back are Filipino American Democratic Club and the Pacifica-Daly City Democratic Club.

Senate Report

- Chair: Mailed to you earlier.

Regional Director, Legislative, and Clubs Reports

Region 6 Director:

- Hene Kelly: One thing I would like to offer. If you'd like Dennis Kelly to do a training on parliamentary procedures.
- October 6, our pre-endorsement meeting. Held at IBEW 617 at 1701 Leslie St in San Mateo. All the ADEMS should be there. Club reps. Appointed delegates. Will all have a chance to vote. 2pm-5pm. No Niner game. They play on Monday night. There will not be alcohol.
- The DNC is in SF on the same weekend as our CDP Eboard in San Jose. Senior caucus and disability caucus and others. The DNC people are going to have a hard time getting back and forth from SJ to SF. Next weekend.
- How many are going to Eboard.
- Can we adjourn in honor of Gov. Hickenlooper for dropping out and maybe running for Senate.
- I was put on the Finance Committee. I will have 10 dozen little challahs so that anyone who joins in DEM 2020 will get one.
- I've been asked to make a list of corporations that we should not even talk to. We can take money from corporations, but we don't have to do what they tell us to do.
- Chair: DNC is looking for volunteers. There's a form on their website.

Congresswoman Jackie Speier (CA-14):

- No report.

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (CA-18):

- No report.

State Senator Scott Wiener (SD-11):

- No report.

State Senator Jerry Hill (SD-13):

- Joan Dentler: Session is back in full swing. Ends September.
- Busy time in Sacramento. Chaired subcommittee on energy utilities and safety. Five hours. Dealt with power shutoff safety.
- Very successful Java with Jerry last week in Burlingame. AB5, housing, transportation, other issues. Great to have him back in district. He's in district on Fridays.

Assemblymember Phil Ting (AD-19):

- Alex Walker: Back in session.
- 12 files in suspense file. Things that will wait until Aug 30. ADU streamlining. CVS receipts, surplus lands, expungement rules.

- Ting chairs committee on Asian Trade. Nice discussion how we in CA can navigate our relations with China.
- If you have budget items for next year, we're taking suggestions.

Assemblymember Kevin Mullin (AD-22):

- Jason Galisatus: Citizens Redistricting Commission is still necessary to apply.

Assemblymember Marc Berman (AD-24):

- No report.

Coastside Democratic Club:

- April Vargas: Forum for one SD13 candidates. Very well attended. 50 people came. We need more events. If we organize a Bayside event, would people come. PDC has one in January.

Hillsborough Democratic Club:

- No report.

North Peninsula Democratic Club:

- Erin Chazer: Next meeting is the next candidate in our speaker series. Anne Oliva SD13 race. Come and hear her speak. This Saturday.

Pacifica-Daly City Democrats:

- No report.

Peninsula Democratic Coalition:

- Chelsea Bonini: Picnic coming up. Cuesta Park. This Sunday. Ricardo Lara speaking.
- Educational Equity event. Kalimah Salahuddin will be speaking. Looking for statewide. Palo Alto.

Peninsula Young Democrats:

- Alex Melendrez: Endorsed Mike Dunham and Emily Beach for Burlingame City Council. Also endorsed a series of bills. Next meeting is watch party for the third debates. SD13 endorsement at next meeting. May or may not endorse.

San Mateo County Democracy for America:

- Ashleigh Evans: We had good representation at last meeting. Next meeting next Wednesday. Cities for All Ages. San Mateo County 3.0. Don Weden speaking about building for our aging population. 30% will be over 65 in 20 years.

Lightning Round (one-minute announcements/remarks)

- Mitchell Oster: If you would like to nominate a veteran for the county awards, please come see me. I have some printed applications or you can check the county website.
- Woodell: I do appreciate the bylaws committee and want to thank them. John Pimentel is my new alternate. Dave Canepa birthday last night. Steven Booker had some great things to say. Great guy.
- Ginny Stewart: We brought a lot of food for snacks. Please take home.
- Sam Manneh: We should adjourn in honor of shooting victims. We're in late August. If we're going to have a luncheon in November, we need to talk about it.
- Karen Maki: Loma Prieta chapter of Sierra Club at CSM about fires how they spread how to protect yourself. What the govt is doing. It's for officials, residents, and everyone.
- Sandra Lang: I have a book to recommend. Really know when you read it it will resonate. Very small, very important. Full of great advice on the conditions we're facing now. The title is "On Tyranny" by Timothy Snyder.
- Brigid: For the past ten days we had an unexpected road trip to Austin. We went through the Walmart in El Paso. Very moving tribute. 22 crosses, 22 white doves. Native American ceremony. Very moving. If you can donate, please do.
- Mike Dunham: Candidate for Burlingame City Council. Thank you to April and others who do voter reg. My wife was sworn in as a citizen yesterday and the voter reg people were out there. Also, echo shout out for Don Weeden at the next SMC DFA event. 40% of seniors in SMC are renters. As the housing crisis worsens, it affects them very much.
- Jordan Grimes: Peninsula for Everyone. San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. Monthly meeting at Ghost Wood Brewery in Redwood City. Please come and hear about housing advocacy.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 9:03pm with words by Sam Manneh about the gun violence facing our nation and the recent shooting tragedies.