

**San Mateo County**  
**Democratic Central Committee**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
**April 16, 2020**

**Prior to Meeting**

- California Democratic Party Chair Rusty Hicks addressed the committee regarding keeping California Blue in 2020.
- He gave updates on finance and organizing. His number one priority is that every person connected to the party remains safe, healthy, and still continue to work on our important issues. He allowed all county parties to meet virtually regardless of whether or not their bylaws allowed for it. All CDP employees are working from home and all state offices are closed. Work has still continued. Yvette Martinez is our new Executive Director. She started yesterday.
- Internal dynamics: Our delegate selection process has been moved from July to August. Who knows if we'll have a national convention. We're preparing as if it is and modifying the delegate selection process. Working with DNC and all the presidential campaigns. So that the process is clean.
- We also have our own eboard process. Because the DNC dates moved, we had to move our dates as well. We had two ad hoc processes that were completed recently. ADEMS process was reformed. We also answered the question of how do we have resources for the party while adhering to the principles of the party. There is a long list of types of organizations/businesses that we no longer accept. We also have recommitted to our DEM program. We also have a Trailraiser Program now. Leaders for the party can become bundlers for the party. Amounts in the \$5K – \$10K range. This is federal money. Political parties need federal money to advocate for local campaigns even. We have to get better at soliciting those kind of contributions.
- The organizing work is so important. For a long time we've been a financial organization. We need to become a more robust organizing party. One of those efforts is around the Census. We're also working with the governor's office to do wellness checks on senior voters. There are a couple million of such people. That's happening virtually throughout the state.
- We also have a virtual house party program. We want to have a thousand virtual house parties by Labor Day. Neighbors, friends, family, co-workers, whoever to meet and have a conversation and talk about their story and the county or state party story. We have a curriculum. We can help you do this.

- As we get ready for the general, there is a special election for Christy Smith on May 12. This Sunday is a Day of Action. Likely be another one closer to election. A brief rally virtually at 11am. Then phone calls to support Christy.
- There's been some great activity within the party despite the pandemic. Congrats to all that were elected or re-elected. Look forward to working with you.
- Chair Fernandez: Question from Dan Stegink. Other than money what can we do to support Biden.
- Hicks: This is a long campaign. You don't want to peak too soon. A real conversation at this exact moment is not necessarily going to have an impact closer to the election. When someone is doing something completely stupid, you let them. You see what happens with the stock market and the favor/unfavor when the current president has his press conferences. Biden is doing what he can to consolidate and unify the party. At the same time Trump is hurting himself. Might be best to let him do his thing. There's a lot of road between now and then.
- Question from Uma Krishnan: Are there any digital opportunities.
- Question from Juslyn Manalo: What strategy changes through technology will there be in our state?
- Hicks: I think this is a real opportunity. We have to get good at this virtual space. This moment will pass but it will stick with us. We have to get good at the technology pivot. Also, we don't want to leave the things we know work. Face to face is so valuable. We have to build an organizing and political campaign that operates in the virtual space.
- Karen Maki question: I signed up for a house party, when will they contact me?
- Hicks: I'll make sure someone follows up with you soon. We had about 35. We got about 90 more from those. So we'll reach out.
- Chair Rusty, Thank you for being here! can you share a little about how we expand the electorate with new voter registrations? Adding to the previous question, if Shelter in place is extended?
- Hicks: Motor voter is most common. If SIP is extended, we're likely going to see everyone needing a mailed ballot. The governor and secy of state are working though that. In LA, we weren't expecting to have everyone with a mail ballot until 2024. There's a push now.
- Fernandez: Thank you to Chairman Hicks.
- Hicks: chair@cadem.org is his email address.

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

- The call to order occurred at 8:01pm by Committee Chair, Nicole Fernandez.
- The April 2020 meeting agenda was adopted.
- The February 2020 meeting minutes were approved with modifications of considering the resolution proposed by Bill Collins
- Please check in on social media.

- There were 57 participants in the Zoom meeting.

## **Swearing In Elected Members of the Central Committee**

Members of the Central Committee were sworn in by CDP Chair Hicks, virtually via Zoom

## **Executive Board Reports**

### **Chair (Nicole Fernandez):**

- Excited for the new year. Congratulations to everyone. We want to thank our elected officials who are doing such a good job.
- We're re-organizing. I want to know what committees you want to participate in. Please fill out the google form.
- Exec Board needs to meet to put people on committees.
- We also need people to get involved who are not elected members.
- What is it that we do? There are a lot of questions about how to get involved. We might have a new member orientation. SIP makes it hard, but maybe we can do it in person. If you're interested, please email.
- Please give your alternates to our recording secretary. Including their contact info. There are people who want to get involved if you don't have ideas.
- Virtual action days. This Sunday is one for Christy Smith. Contact Harini Krishnan for more info. CADEM has a virtual action center. You can visit the website and get connected.

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

- Robbins: As I think most know, there were some sexual harassment problems. Brigid O'Farrell has taken the lead on that issue here. We're looking at our bylaws and if we can further the party's actions on this topic. Bylaws perhaps. In the next month or two.
- Chair: Bylaws recommendations come to the committee from your Bylaws committee and then the elected members get to say.

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

- No report.

### **Controller (Nancy Yarbrough):**

- Cash for Operations, Opening Balance: \$114,682
- Net Change in Operating Cash: \$1.053
- Ending Balance: \$115,735
- Dues. If you are an existing member, you are paid until July 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are new or a new alternate. It will be reflected to this year and next. You have to be paid to vote.

### **Recording Secretary (Mitchell Oster):**

- No report.

**Corresponding Secretary (Alexis Lewis):**

- No report.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Finance (Nancy Yarbrough & TJ Glauthier, Co-Chairs):**

- No report

**Events & Development (Harini Krishnan & Nancy Yarbrough, Co-Chairs):**

- Chair: Cocktails & Candidates was our last event. It was amazing. We have no events planned.
- Nancy: Thank you to IBEW for allowing us to have our Election Night event at their hall.
- Harini: Thank you!
- Chair: We were on ABC that night. It was very nice.

**Resolutions (David Burruto, Chair):**

- Chair: Can you explain urgency basis for our new members?
- David Burruto: Traditionally, it is submitted to the committee, the resolution committee considers it, it's brought back to the general committee and they vote. Majority is only needed. For urgency, that process can be bypassed, but it requires a supermajority. This resolution is being submitted on an urgency basis.
- Victoria Sanchez-De Alba and Bill Collins were asked to introduce the resolution.
- Sanchez-De Alba spoke about the resolution.
- Burruto: There are several non-substantive matters.
- The resolution passed with the accepted alterations by Resolutions Chair Burruto.
- The Chair asked that the resolution be amended and sent to our Corresponding Secretary. Sen. Jerry Hill and Assemblymember Phil Ting abstained.

**Bylaws (Cliff Robbins, Chair):**

- No report.

**Technology & Data Management/Communications (Mitchell Oster, Chair):**

- No report.

**Voter Registration (April Vargas, Chair):**

- Vargas: Still submitting the bounty information. No events planned. We're trying to get involved with the arts and wine festivals. We're continuing to be in touch with those groups.
- Chair: Please let me know if you have any problems with the party.

**Programs & Education (Francesca Segre & Brigid O'Farrell, Co-Chairs):**

- Brigid: Our speaker next month is Lenny Mendonca. I need to re-confirm with him. He's recently left the Newsom Administration.
- Chair: Who else do we have this year?
- Brigid: Suzanne Gordon in July. She's an expert on the VA. June still being worked out.

**Endorsements (Karen Maki & Alexander Melendrez, Co-Chairs):**

- No report.

**Election Integrity (Brent Turner, Chair):**

- Brent Turner: We appreciate SMC for leading on vote by mail efforts. LA County had a melt down and we're trying to get them up to speed. We're hoping to get more secure open source systems in place by 2024.

**Welcoming & Orientation Committee (Sharrie Kriger, Chair):**

- No report.

## **Ad Hoc Committee Reports**

**Leadership Development (Robert Bernardo, Chair):**

- Chair: We were going to launch the 2020 effort. But we can't with the shelter in place. This program needs to happen. It has to be done in person. The small group setting is critical.

**Clubs Liaison (Chelsea Bonini, Chair):**

- No report.

**Volunteer Services (Eric Siegel):**

- Eric: As you mentioned, you can work with Swing Left, Sister District, and Indivisible. Sister District has a lot of info on virtual organizing. SisterDistrict.org. How to use Zoom, recommendations for remote organizing.
- Lisa Diaz-Nash: Please reach out to me. I'm the organizer in SMC.

**Congressional Watch (Greg Loew):**

- Greg submitted a written report which was added to the document packet.

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

**Region 6 Director:**

- No report.

**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: We're quite busy. Our district office is open. One person in office per day. The Senator reports that May 4 is the tentative date for reconvening. The Senator's bill package will shrink to about 7-8 from 20.
- Lots of EDD calls. Especially since the website is being pushed to its limits. You can reach out to us if you have trouble with EDD.
- Ricardo Lara is holding a 10am small business insurance call tomorrow.
- Governor giving daily updates. The latest regarding help for undocumented workers.
- We're working and happy to take any calls COVID related or otherwise.

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

- Alex Walker: Licenses are being extended.
- Budget Committee hearing on Monday. We're looking at the tech issues. Ting is doing town halls on Tues and Thur on facebook. Look at the facebook page.
- Bill package will also be reduced. AD828 – system for payment plan to pay back rent after Covid passes.
- Please let me know if you have any EDD issues.
- Brent Turner: is Gov. Newsom about election security?
- Alex: Nothing specific. There have been discussions of budget and funding for elections in general. May revision may have some changes.

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

- No report.

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

- No report.

**Coastside Democratic Club:**

- No report.

**Hillsborough Democratic Club:**

- No report.

**North Peninsula Democratic Club:**

- No report.

**Pacifica-Daly City Democrats:**

- No report.

**Peninsula Democratic Coalition:**

- No report.

**Peninsula Young Democrats:**

- No report.

**San Mateo County Democracy for America:**

- No report.

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

- None

**Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 9:09pm in memory of all those lost to Covid-19.