

San Mateo County
Democratic Central Committee
General Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2020

Prior to Meeting

- Christian Arana presented to the committee regarding issues related to Latinos, voting, the Census, DACA, and several other pertinent topics.

Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda & Approval of Minutes

- The call to order occurred at 7:33pm by Committee Chair, Nicole Fernandez.
- The June 2020 meeting agenda was adopted.
- The May 2020 meeting minutes were approved with modifications
- New visitors were asked to add themselves to the chat.
 - Alan Wilhelmi
- Please check in on social media.

Executive Board Reports

Chair (Nicole Fernandez):

- Thank you to Erin Chazer for MCing the meeting tonight.
- We're still getting used to this format. I would appreciate any feedback. Please send to Chair and we'll improve the process. Even with some easing of restrictions, we'll be on Zoom for the foreseeable future.
- Voting tonight: Recording Secretary, bylaws, and resolutions.
- Recording Secretary vote is first.
 - Chair said some very nice words about outgoing Recording Secretary, Mitchell Oster.
 - Nominations made: Nancy Yarbrough nominates April Northrup
 - Northrup nomination seconded by Cliff Robbins
 - There were no other nominations
 - Northrup spoke for a few minutes
 - There were no objections and April Northrup was elected Recording Secretary.
- Chair asked us to do the Lightning Round at this time to discuss the important issues of the day including specifically the Black Lives Matter movement.

- Alexis Lewis spoke about the protests going on right now. The importance of raising issues. If someone raises the charge that there is racism in an institution, please listen to them. Juneteenth is tomorrow and we're still struggling to be recognized as people. Please donate to the NAACP and other organizations that work towards racial and social inequality. There is a lot of mistreatment in the world. We dismiss it so easily. These are real issues. Look at how Pres. Obama was treated. He was hated because of the color of his skin. Now we have this idiot because they hated the black man. People say "I have black friends" but do you have lunch with them or visit their house? You have to do more.
- Chair: Please let us know how we can be helping the NAACP and the entire movement. Promote events and protests.
- Chair: I'd like us to take a moment to allow people space to discuss any issues. You can put a link in chat. Whatever you'd like.
- You You Xie: Someone said you don't to get worked up because everyone is at the table of equality. They were thinking all lives matter. But yes, we are all in it.
- Harini Krishnan: I was at the San Mateo protest when Alexis held back tears and spoke from the heart. It was poignant and beautiful. One thing I've learned in the last few weeks is how much racism there is among south Asians towards Black Americans. We're all here because of the Civil Rights movement. It allowed immigrants to enter this country. We benefit from the work of Black and Brown activists. As a South Asian American mom, we need to reach out and work together. We are talking with SALT to have a toolkit to do the work of listening with intent and honesty and not talking over and allowing space for others and listening.
- Diana Reddy: One of the messages that has resonated with me is that white people have to stop being silent. Alexis is making a good point about listening and creating space to not talk over and crowd out. We need to stand up with our communities of color. I'm fond of saying no life matters until all black lives matter.
- Andrea Reyna: Public education is my realm and we have an opportunity to look at white supremacy culture in our schools. An issue is the school to prison pipeline. They are putting cops into our schools. We need to redirect resources to services that help students and not prioritize arresting students. Show up at school board meetings and insist that budgets reflect our values.
- April Vargas: I appreciate what everyone is saying. I saw a zoom meeting with President Obama regarding community policing. There are a lot resources including the Obama Mayors pledge. I shared that with Half Moon Bay and a city councilmember is going to look at it. The city of Burlingame is signing on. We need to talk to the cities that contract with the county sheriff. This is something that I'm really interested in.
- Sandra Lang: Thank you for mentioning the progressive caucus seminar. A lot of our problems were addressed in that. What I took away was that, Shirley Weber, Barbara Lee and Maxine Waters spoke, a lot of the information about institutional racism. It was discussed for 2.5 hours. Rep. Waters spoke about LA.

And their police unions. Their recruitment and training. This happens at the local level. Please see the recorded seminar. Thank you Alexis for bringing your own experience. I believe we can march all we want, but we have to work in our local police departments.

- Jon Levinson: We're very lucky that two momentous decisions made this week. So important that the Chief Justice is showing his soul.
- Nick Akers: I was also pleased that several local police depts took up use of force issues. We have to have law enforcement oversight in our endorsements process. We can't let this moment of focus pass.
- Chair: It's going to take all of us to do this work and I'm grateful for the leadership Alexis has shown. Thank you for your thoughts. Please continue to add to the chat.
- Regular Eboard report: Committee assignments went out. I'm very open to ideas. We have a climate change and farm worker committee now. If you want changes, please let me know.
- New members and alternates. Your annual dues are to be paid by July. If you are out of good standing, you can't vote.
- Leadership vacancies: Thank you to Denton for stepping in to the Finance Committee. April Vargas will be our California day of action person.
- Clubs rechartering. Chelsea will speak to that.
- We're working with the CDP and will discuss with our Eboard on bringing an organizer to the county.
- Meetings will continue to start at 7 June, July, and August.

Northern Vice Chair (Cliff Robbins):

- No report.

Southern Vice Chair (Karen Maki):

- No report.

Controller (Nancy Yarbrough):

- Cash for Operations, Opening Balance: \$114,654
- Net Change in Operating Cash: -\$1,826
- Ending Balance: \$112,828

Recording Secretary (Mitchell Oster):

- No report.

Corresponding Secretary (Alexis Lewis):

- No report.

Standing Committee Reports

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

- Nancy: I've called for our committee to get together soon. With the change with Covid we probably want to look at the 2021 budget. Thanks to Denton for joining.

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

- Harini: We're doing a lot with Biden. One idea was having an SMC Dems virtual phone bank. These have been very successful. Or a virtual house party/day of action. I can coordinate and set up a date. It can be done over zoom. Anyone can come on, make calls, and leave. Don't have to stay on the entire time. With Zoom, it's a limited commitment. Making the calls is very easy.

Resolutions (David Burruto, Chair):

- David: Two resolutions today. Agenda order is the Collins resolution first. The committee sat with it. Discussed using the community colleges resources. The committee is unanimously opposed. Some of the recitals, pricing out of county residents seems not too high. The last item seems to be wrong because the bond measure doesn't need to be specific so the allegation suggests that the decision was made in secret. It wasn't. It seems like an assault on the community college district. These are well loved institutions. The board has been trying to grapple with this issue. It seemed like this was a hostile allegation or series of allegations against our family in that they are well known to us. If our committee members want to express your opinion, please feel free.
- Chair: Thank you for that. Does Mr. Collins wish to speak?
Bill: The reso is not meant to be hostile. The board is trying to do a good job. They've had a contract that is expiring. They want to not have that hired out. We would rather they use union workers and keep costs down.
- John Pimentel: This is not hostile. We don't want this to be a single bid situation. The community colleges can be a great resource. We think the entire community can use the campuses. Might bring more students in. The emphasis is on using tax payer paid facilities to benefit everyone not just those who can afford the fees.
- Discussion: Diana Reddy asks opinions from Union members on the resolution. That piece of the reso resonates with me. The thought of a non profit group being brought in. I'm interested in the resolution committee's view.
- Burruto: There's been a number of articles. I also spoke with Trustee Mandelkern. I hope you can speak on this. The number of positions that are union is very few. Mostly students work there. The board is trying to do exactly what the reso asks. With covid, this has been a much more difficult issue. They are doing a one year extension to next year. So it isn't a question of the board doing anything that isn't consistent on this point.

- Chair: Can Trustee Mandelkern speak?
- Trustee Mandelkern: The majority of board is not in favor of a single source bid. We've asked for a rfp. We actually asked that the extension be less than one year. We've asked for a report for shorter. I've asked for 10 years for this to not be outsourced. We have staff who are union and it can be done. It's easy to talk about social justice, class equality, etc. but it's hard to do it when it's costs from the budget you're approving. Fees are under the board's control. They range from \$29 to \$79. If they are too low, we compete with local businesses but also if too high we limit access.
- Erin Chazer: I want to thank Trustee Mandelkern who has been a friend to labor. We want union jobs whenever possible. This resolution does speak to that. We want to make economic justice seriously when we look at these things.
- Alexis Lewis: I felt this was an argument shouldn't be settled by us. Our involvement wouldn't help. I think the fight has to be taken somewhere else. Having the Dems to take a position on this was unfair.
- Helen Wolter: This has been a helpful discussion. I want to support labor. But in recreation things are very expensive. I'm wondering if the financials make sense to possibly have a sliding scale. So you can create labor positions and access.
- Trustee Mandelkern: June 24th meeting. Please attend. I don't know that this is the forum for the finances of the athletic club.
- Chair: I am going to pass to Andrea R.
- Reyna: I would like to move to support the Collins resolution. Collins seconds. Roll Call Vote. Resolution does not pass. Vote is 8 in favor, 13 against, with 7 abstentions.
- Black Lives Matter Resolution passes unanimously.

Bylaws (Cliff Robbins, Chair):

- This statement is a shorter and more direct with also an acceptable amendment. There was a first reading of the Code of Conduct amendment. There was a broad discussion of the issue of "sex" and "gender" and the terms "gender identity" and "gender expression" raised by Andrea Reyna and the Chair directed the chairs of the Bylaws committee to reach out to Andrea to ensure that all appropriate language be included in our bylaws amendment. Chelsea Bonini made the point that our document needs to be at least as inclusive as the state party's. But it can be more inclusive.

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

- No report.

Voter Registration (April Vargas, Chair):

- I spoke to the state party director for the bay area. We should have a guidance document for voter registration from them soon.

- Bounty program is suspended. We'll have more info at the next meeting on how we're going go do Voter Reg.

Programs & Education (Francesca Segre & Alexander Melendrez, Co-Chairs):

- Brigid O'Farrell: July speaker will be Suzanne Gordon, who will be discussing how Democrats can win in November by supporting veterans' healthcare.

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

- Karen: We met to discuss the questionnaire. We also set a date to do training for interview team.
- Alex: Policing is on the questionnaire.
- Karen: Racism is also on there.

Climate (Nicole Kemeny, Chair):

- No report.

Farm Workers (Victoria De Alba, Chair):

- Victoria: We met and are talking about PPE and testing. We welcome whites to also join our group and get to know us. Get yourself involved.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Leadership Development (Robert Bernardo, Chair):

- No report.

Clubs Liaison (Chelsea Bonini, Chair):

- We reached out and they need to include definition of good standing and how they select delegates. We also need them to refer to uphold the code of conduct. Rosters and bylaws are due soon. Send check to eboard. Reach out to me.
- John Woodell: What is the requirement for member in good standing?
- Chair: Any person with any number of attendees.
- Hene: It's different sometimes by geography. In my club, it's dues and 2 meetings in last year. You can have a waiver of fees. You basically want to safeguard against people showing up on one day.

Volunteer Services (Eric Siegel):

- No report.

Congressional Watch (Greg Loew):

KEY DEMOCRATIC SENATE RACES
San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee

In 2020 Democrats are defending 12 seats, Republicans are defending 22 seats. Democrats need to pick up 3 or 4 seats to regain the majority. Here is the current best assessment of the most vulnerable Republicans and their Democratic opponents in need of financial support. All are a priority.

	Democrats	Republicans
Arizona	Mark Kelly	Martha McSally
Georgia	John Ossoff	David Perdue
Iowa	Theresa Greenfield	Joni Ernst
Kentucky	Amy McGrath	Mitch McConnell
Maine	Sara Gideon	Susan Collins
North Carolina	Cal Cunningham	Thom Tillis
South Carolina	Jaime Harrison	Lindsey Graham

Regional Director, Legislative, and Clubs Reports

Region 6 Director:

- I have sent out notices that on June 22 from 7-9 we'll have the region 6 meeting on zoom. We have a lot to talk about. The 24th is the last day to put in a resolution to be heard by the eboard. Last day to also suggest legislation to be focused on. Rusty Hicks will be on. Phil Ting will be on. They'll be discussing the budget. Other speakers too.
- My son took my car keys and car so I can't protest.
- Hene will put the contact info in the chat.

Congresswoman Jackie Speier (CA-14):

- Brian Perkins: Covid 19 whistle blower act. She proposed it. Grants available. House Judiciary passed the George Floyd Policing act. Change to procecute, civil damages and others.

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (CA-18):

- Greg Loew: Anna sent a complete list of proposals. It was sent in email last night. The Senate will do something else. An important issue is Qualified Immunity. It has to be inserted. I also want to add that this is just a first step. This deals with police brutality. The entire society also has to be changed. Tomorrow afternoon Eshoo, Bass, and Thomson are having an event tomorrow at 5pm.

State Senator Scott Wiener (SD-11):

- No report.

State Senator Jerry Hill (SD-13):

- No report.

Assemblymember Phil Ting (AD-19):

- Alex Walker: Will send a report. We passed a budget on Monday. Not quite done yet. Will be working through the summer. We had a victory. AB 85. Raises revenue by closing corporate loopholes. We'll have to see how much of a shortfall we have.

Assemblymember Kevin Mullin (AD-22):

- No report.

Assemblymember Marc Berman (AD-24):

- April Northrup submitted report in the chat: AB 860 passed Assembly and Senate today with bipartisan support and was signed by the Governor. Assemblymember Berman introduced AB 860. This bill will send a mail-in ballot to all registered voters in CA.

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:

- Karen Tuzman: July 7 hosting with SMC Dems and PDC webinar on understanding budgets at all govt. levels. Really interesting.
- Club has adopted our targets for the presidential and senate elections. Writing letters.
- Investigating bringing a civil grand jury request to investigate county sheriff.

- Chair: Please connect with Alexis Lewis.

San Mateo County Democracy for America:

- Ashleigh Evans: Want to announce Wed. July 1 next meeting. Convo with Ro Khanna. Start at 6:45pm instead of 7. Talking about M4A and green new deal. Q and A also.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 9:43pm with a prayer from Alexis Lewis about the current civil rights issues and also all members of our Black community who have been subjected to police violence.