

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

**Prior to Meeting**

**SPEAKER: Suzanne Gordon discussed how Democrats can win in November by supporting veterans' healthcare. (Brigid O'Farrell)**

Ms. Gordon spoke about the VA and her book Wounds of War.

<https://www.amazon.com/wounds-war-delivers-veterans-politics/dp/1501730827>

Ms. Gordon is a founding member of Veterans HealthCare Policy Institute. The VA is the largest healthcare system in the country. A national system makes coordination of patient care easier. Best health care available. In COVID-19 situation, we see the VA delivering care to veterans and all Americans in a safer way. Private health care would like to get its hands on the VA healthcare system. 1/3 of primary care practices may close due to COVID-19. Doctors and nurses have been furloughed, pay slashed. Enormous problems of coordination of supplies and tests in private healthcare. VA went immediately to telehealth and cancelling elective surgeries, because it would not lose revenue. The VA has not furloughed anyone, they are hiring.

The VA has 4 core missions: clinical care to veterans, research, training, and to function as a back-up to the civilian system in a national emergency. VA helped in NYC, New Jersey, Louisiana, and is starting to help in Arizona.

VA difficulties have been emphasized by people who want to privatize the VA health system.

Choice Act: 2014: allowed veterans to go to a private doctor. The private sector care doesn't work for veterans, who have a specific set of care needs that civilian health care is not prepared for.

Veterans represent an enormous opportunity for Democrats to regain White House and Senate. Veterans are on average poorer, sicker, and older than the civilian population. Veteran at age 65 has an average of 9-12 underlying

health conditions. Civilian at age 65 has an average of 3 underlying health conditions.

Recruit people by letting people know more about the VA's mission as back-up health care in a national emergency.

Look at the VA as a model for insurance and **delivery** of health care. Medicare for All, etc. are **insurance** proposals.

Ms. Gordon urged veterans to use VA system. If fewer people use the VA, then the budget will be cut.

VA is the only system where everyone is in the same system. Can look up a veteran's records very easily. Have care coordination, teamwork. Can see if they might be suffering from PTSD.

Homeless veterans: VA has reduced veteran homelessness in many states.

Ms. Gordon urges VAs to cover all veterans and their families, and then bring in other community members if the VA is being under-utilized.

Email: [sg@suzannegordon.com](mailto:sg@suzannegordon.com)

Senate Bill 853: Would prevent VAs being closed.

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

- The call to order occurred at 7:37pm by Committee Chair, Nicole Fernandez.
- The July 2020 meeting agenda was adopted.
- The June 2020 meeting minutes were approved with modifications.
- Shout out to Erin Chazer, April Northrup, volunteers, thank you all!
- Docs are on website. We are recording this meeting.
- Introduce the guests. Cecilia Manalga: campaign coordinator

## **Executive Board Reports**

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

- Meeting Start Time Changed: 7pm (June, July, August, September)
- NOTE: early September meeting for endorsements
- Thursday Sept. 10th at 7pm, a week earlier than usual
- Campaign Coordinator Update: SMC Coordinator Rudy Espinoza-Murray

- Build county's organizational structure for the campaign, work with allied groups
- Trainings, phone banking, get out the vote, use dialer system that connects you only to voters who pick up the phone, you can spend more time with voters, instead of trying to connect with voters
- Support the needs of various groups to volunteer
- Working on Senate campaigns in Arizona, Maine
- August and September: phone and text banking
- October: Get out the Vote
- What can you do: Choose to be a lead for a neighborhood/or interest group
- Training session Friday with Cecilia
- Facebook page for coordinated campaign for SMC: we will be invited by Rudy
- Sign up for Day of Action on Sunday: Goal of 1,000 volunteers to call for Congressional candidates
- Share with your friends and family
- Rudy Espinoza-Murray  
929-232-5647  
[respinoza@cadem.org](mailto:respinoza@cadem.org)
- Day of Action! We need volunteers from SMC!
- Cecilia Minalga - Area Director - 2020 Coordinated Campaign
- Would like big San Mateo County showing for Day of Action
- We want to work with anyone who shares our Democratic values.

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

- No report.

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

- No report.

**Controller (Nancy Yarbrough):**

- Finance report: Amended budget for 2020, will not have physical headquarters, have agreement with CADEM, need to do a little more fundraising: Democratic swag, including face masks. Very happy we had big fundraiser in January. Dues are due tonight. Please pay, including alternates. Will send out associate reminders in the next day or so.
- Denton will be associate controller
- Dues: \$70 members, \$35 alternates, \$25 associates

**Recording Secretary (April Northrup):**

- Thank you for everyone's patience as I grow into this role! If you have any changes to the roster, please let me know. Thank you for the changes you have submitted recently.

**Corresponding Secretary (Alexis Lewis):**

- Sent resolutions out on support for Asian Americans and Black Lives Matter.
- Introduced her new granddaughter.

**Standing Committee Reports**

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

- See Financial Report document

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

- No report.

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

- David: Resolution in Opposition to Prop. 22 David mentioned reasons to support this resolution. Sandra Lang asked to talk about income inequality. This is returning us to a piece-work structure, decades of hard-won labor rights are in danger. Assembly passed bill to try to help. Dangerous moment right now.
- Erin Chazer: proposition is attempt for big corporations to get out of paying their fare share again. People who will be most hurt are people who are not getting health insurance, are being paid sub-minimum wage. They are trying to skirt regulations that we tell corporations they have to pay. During global recession and pandemic, this is what they are focusing on.
- Brigid: I move that we support this resolution to oppose Prop. 22. Seconded. We worked very hard on the Assembly bill and to get very narrow exemptions where it made sense. Uber and Lyft should not be exempted, and will encourage other employers to try to get out of their obligations. It's important to keep AB5 in place. I hope everyone will vote to oppose Prop. 22
- Steven Booker: Erin Chazer is always awesome. AB5 was unanimously supported by the California Supreme Court. The prop's supporters are spending \$100 million so far on campaign, instead of paying their workers more. Labor is in opposition to Prop. 22
- Ashleigh Evans: I fully support this. Procedural question: Only the CDP can make endorsements for state ballots. Our audience for this is the

CDP. Time for submitting resolutions for e-board is over. Who are we hoping to influence?

- David Burruto: will transmit resolution to the chair of the California Democratic Party
- Nicole Fernandez: we want to take a strong no position locally
- John Woodell: very supportive. Is there anything we can do in the future with Amazon, where they are pushing people to create their own companies to handle last-mile deliveries?
  - Nicole Fernandez: I will ask Erin Chazer and Steven Booker about that if there are local campaigns.
- Andrea Reyna: Call the question: Second by Nicole Fernandez
- Resolution passed with all yes votes, and abstentions from ex-officio alternates.

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

- Second Reading: Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy (w/ accompanying Policy Paper (Robbins & Brigid O'Farrell)
  - Requires 2/3 of voting members for bylaws
  - Move passage of Bylaws amendment. Seconded. Bylaws amendment passed.
  - Policy: just needs majority of voters
  - Cliff Robbins acknowledged Brigid O'Farrell's work on this policy. If approved, would become official policy of the county committee, and would show people how to make a complaint.
  - Motion by Cliff Robbins, seconded by Steven Booker. Brigid reminded people that there were serious problems with sexual harassment and harassment in last two years at the state level. California Party Chair announced there will be a committee.
  - Helen Wolter: I'm curious about the word creed, why do we have religion and then creed. Cliff Robbins: as lawyer, list is longer than what law would provide, there are a number of redundancies, but we wanted to track with the state language. Harmless to have redundancies.
  - John Woodell: if we inherit from state, why do we have to duplicate their language?
  - Cliff: we are taking their policy and making it ours
  - John: will clubs have to adopt all of our policies? Cliff: maybe
  - Brigid: Coastside Dems discussed with Hene Kelly, adopted language in their bylaws as well. I don't know if it is required, but i would encourage clubs to do this.
  - Chelsea: all clubs are required to adopt state party policy and procedure. Every caucus is required to have this.

- Policy passes.
- Nicole Fernandez: thank you to Andrea Reyna, Chelsea Bonini

**Technology & Data Management/Communications (Chair: Open):**

- Nicole Fernandez and April Northrup will update the website.

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

- Promote the Vote: make sure there's adequate opportunity for people to vote, enough vote centers. Working with Nancy Calibjo to interview Registrar of Voters, see what their plans are. By law, all designated voting centers have to be reported to state by July 31st. Check out [www.grassrootsdems.org](http://www.grassrootsdems.org)

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

- Brigid O'Farrell:
- August: Prop. 15 speaker in support of the Schools and Communities First ballot initiative
- September: None (Endorsements)
- October: None
- November: Marisa Lagos from KQED
- December: Holiday Party
- Committee is trying to schedule people for 2021. Tell us your suggested topics and speakers, and that you are willing to help recruit and schedule.

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

- Questionnaire will go up live soon. There will be an interview training date on July 28th.
- Candidate Endorsement training. July 30th. at 7-9pm
- Questionnaire will go live on website and social media
- Nicole Fernandez: candidates, let's not ask questions now, reach out to Alex and Karen at
  - [karen@karenmaki.com](mailto:karen@karenmaki.com)
  - [alexander.melendrez.140@gmail.com](mailto:alexander.melendrez.140@gmail.com)
- Timeline and Update for November 2020 Election
- Endorsements DCC Meeting Thursday Sept. 10 at 7pm

**Climate (Nicole Kemeny, Helen Wolter, Karen Maki, Co-Chairs):**

- No report.

**Farm Workers (Victoria Sanchez De Alba, Chair):**

- County has provided some info on COVID, but issue is how to get it to the workers. They will meet with Supervisor Don Horsley next week.

## Ad Hoc Committee Reports

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

- No report.

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

- 2020 Clubs Rechartering Update: thanks for patience and flexibility. started year with 9 clubs, including PYD. We have paperwork from almost every club. Anyone here from Hillsborough Democratic Club? [No answer] Waiting on a couple of payments, but that is flexible. Send April Northrup who from your club is the point person.
- Three New Clubs:
  - Pacific Islander Democratic Club
  - Latinx Club: Ray Larios: Hello everyone! If you are interested in joining the newly formed San Mateo County LatinX Democratic Club please email us at [smclatinxclub@gmail.com](mailto:smclatinxclub@gmail.com) or call me directly at 400-870-20534. We invite everyone to join!
  - SMC Stonewall Democratic Club

### **Volunteer Services (Eric Siegel):**

- No report.

### **Election Integrity: Brent Turner**

- Get out the vote and get out the other side. After 2020, we need to move to better voting systems. Unfortunately, San Francisco County took away funding for open source voting.

**Congressional Watch (Greg Loew):**

Eleven US Senate seats that Democrats may pick up in 2020 DFA 2020 Elections Task Force, July 15th, 2020 Current Senate: 53 Republicans, 47 Democrats (including 2 Independents) Democrats in 2020 are defending 12 seats, Republicans are defending 22 seats. Democrats need to pick up 3 or 4 seats to regain the majority but could pick up as many as 11 (see new Democrats in bold below). The \$ sign indicates they need financial support. Arizona is the last state still waiting for its primary (P).

	<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Republicans</b>
Alabama:	Doug Jones	Tommy Tuberville
Alaska:	Al Gross	Dan Sullivan
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>Mark Kelly [\$] (P. 8/4)</b>	Martha McSally [ <b>Vulnerable</b> ]
Arkansas:	Joshua Mahony	Tom Cotton
<b>Colorado:</b>	<b>J. Hickenlooper</b>	Cory Gardner [ <b>Vulnerable</b> ]
Delaware :	Chris Coons	
<b>Georgia:</b>	<b>John Ossoff [\$]</b>	David Perdue
	<b>R. Warnock [\$] and others (run off 8/11)</b>	Kelly Loeffler, Doug Collins
Idaho:	Nancy Harris	Jim Risch
Illinois:	Dick Durbin	
<b>Iowa:</b>	<b>Theresa Greenfield [\$]</b>	Joni Ernst [ <b>Vulnerable</b> ]
Kansas:	Barbara Bollier	Open seat (Republican Pat Roberts ret)
<b>Kentucky:</b>	<b>Amy McGrath [\$]</b>	Mitch McConnell [ <b>Vulnerable</b> ]
Louisiana:	Drew Knight and others	Bill Cassidy
<b>Maine:</b>	<b>Sara Gideon [\$]</b>	Susan Collins [ <b>Vulnerable</b> ]
Massachusetts:	Ed Markey, [Joe Kennedy?]	
Michigan:	Gary Peters	
Minnesota:	Tina Smith	
Mississippi:	Mike Espy	Cindy Hyde-Smith
Montana:	<b>Steve Bullock [\$]</b>	Steve Daines
Nebraska:	Chris Janicek	Ben Sasse
New Hampshire:	Jeanne Shaheen	
New Jersey:	Cory Booker	
New Mexico:	Ben Lujan?	
<b>No. Carolina:</b>	<b>Cal Cunningham [\$]</b>	Thom Tillis [ <b>Vulnerable</b> ]
Oklahoma:		Jim Inhofe
Oregon:	Jeff Merkley	
Rhode Island:	Jack Reed	
<b>South Carolina:</b>	<b>Jaime Harrison [\$]</b>	Lindsey Graham [ <b>Vulnerable</b> ]
South Dakota:		Mike Rounds
Tennessee:	Jim Mackler	
Texas:	<b>MJ Hegar [\$]</b>	John Cornyn
Virginia:	Mark Warner	
West Virginia:	Paula Swearingen	Shelley Moore Capito
Wyoming:	Yana Ludwig	Liz Cheney



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

### **Region 6 Director:**

- No report. Nicole Fernandez stated that the E-board will meet on July 24th. She and Chelsea Bonini will attend.

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

- No report.

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

- Greg Loew: Town Hall with Anna Eshoo. Democrats upset with Trump decision to bypass CDC, served White House with a protest. CDC is excluded from reporting. Congress can do something about it. Congress cannot do anything about the environmental protections Trump has eliminated. Doctor from Santa Cruz on program. Santa Cruz opened beaches, people are congregating in large groups. More town halls are scheduled.

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

- No report.

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

- No report.

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

- Alex Walker: Assembly was supposed to have gone back in session on Monday July 13th, but there are confirmed COVID cases among staff, now session will start on July 27th. Will be prioritizing bills for short session.

### **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:**

- Aug 13 2020 7pm Thurs, next meeting. Anna Dyer-Director of Programs for 2nd Harvest. Sept. 10 meeting will be Josh Becker, Democratic candidate for Senate District 13's seat.

**Pacifica-Daly City Democrats:**

- No report.

**Peninsula Democratic Coalition:**

- No report.

**Peninsula Young Democrats:**

- We are working on our Endorsement process, we will meet on July 30th. Reach out to us at [president.pyd@gmail.com](mailto:president.pyd@gmail.com) or [political.director.pyd@gmail.com](mailto:political.director.pyd@gmail.com)

**San Mateo County Democracy for America:**

- Ashleigh Evans: Next meeting Wed. Aug. 5th at 7pm. Ashleigh Evans and Diana Reddy. Ending White Silence. Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible. Come to terms with unconscious bias, move to constructive action. Zoom. Contact Ashleigh for invitation. [asevans2002@aol.com](mailto:asevans2002@aol.com)

**LatinX Democratic Club**

- Ray Larios: thank you for everyone who contributed. It is open for everyone. If you are interested in joining the newly formed San Mateo County LatinX Democratic Club please email us at [smclatinxclub@gmail.com](mailto:smclatinxclub@gmail.com) or call me directly at 400-870-20534. We invite everyone to join!

**FilAm Dems**

- Juslyn Manalo: We have shared over 2,000 meals with the community during the COVID crisis. We handed out literature about the Census and Black Lives Matter movement. Food as well as educational opportunities. Our next meeting is Sunday July 26th at 3:30pm, we meet every other Sunday.

**Stonewall Democrats Club**

- Special thanks to founding members Leland Anders, Michael Smith, Robert Bernardo, Rudy Espinoza, Andrea Reyna, Jason Galisatus, Laura Parmer-Lohan. Our goal is to build a coalition of underrepresented

Democrats. Please join the Stonewall Dems: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdLkgUIrW5nEkFEH-cEXZz-HJBZUE6nvKb45ItKCjrvkbfA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdLkgUIrW5nEkFEH-cEXZz-HJBZUE6nvKb45ItKCjrvkbfA/viewform?usp=sf_link) Reach out to Chris Sturken at [chris.a.sturken@gmail.com](mailto:chris.a.sturken@gmail.com)

## Lightning Round

- 2 Free South Asians For Biden events: Townhall with Tom Perez this Saturday
- Lisa Diaz Nash [www.lisaforsanmateo.com](http://www.lisaforsanmateo.com) Running for San Mateo City Council. Sister District is focusing on the Pennsylvania State Legislature.
- Michael Smith: running for Redwood City Council, focus on affordable housing, [www.michael4redwoodcity.com](http://www.michael4redwoodcity.com)
- You You Xue: <https://action.aclu.org/petition/stop-federal-executions>
- PYD: Shout out the SMC Dems for co-sponsoring our recent event -Advocacy in Public Budgets Panel Watch Recording Here: <https://youtu.be/EYClhhlv3QI>
- Ann Schneider: 100th anniversary of 19th amendment
- John Woodell: our meeting is set up really professionally Nicole: shout-out to Erin and Alex
- Tom McCune: running for election Belmont City Council. Focuses on housing. City budgets may be impacted by COVID.
- Harvey Rarback: build affordable housing in Half Moon Bay
- Chris Rasmussen: Redwood City Council: police reform, housing, mental health services [www.chris4rwc.com](http://www.chris4rwc.com)
- Chelsea Bonini: I am a candidate for San Mateo County Board of Education, Area 4 Seat (though, it is a countywide race)! [www.chelseabonini.com](http://www.chelseabonini.com)
- John Pimental: <https://www.johnpimentel.com/> I am running for San Mateo County Community College District (District 5 - Redwood City, East Palo Alto, North Fair Oaks, and eastern side of Menlo Park). My goal is to increase access and reduce barriers for first generation college families and disadvantaged communities.

- Dave Mandelkern: running for Community College District 3
- Maurice Goodman: candidate for re-election to the Governing Board of the San Mateo County Community College District Trustee Area 3. I may be contacted at [reelectgoodman2020@gmail.com](mailto:reelectgoodman2020@gmail.com)
- Juslyn Manalo: [www.juslynmanalo.com](http://www.juslynmanalo.com) Focus on affordable housing, work is not done. We've raised minimum wage before the state raised it to \$15. Really ensuring that the Democratic values are shown in our city, and fighting for all that we believe in.
- Eugene Whitlock - Candidate in Trustee Area 1 for San Mateo County Community College District. First time candidate, and I can be reached at [eugene@whitlock2020.com](mailto:eugene@whitlock2020.com) Worked as administrator at Community College District. Introduced training on equity and unconscious bias. Children ages 5, 4, and 1: what role can I have in making community better for them and everyone.

## **Adjournment**

- Follow us on social media. The meeting adjourned at 9:33pm.