

**San Mateo County**  
**Democratic Central Committee**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
**January 21, 2021**

**Prior to Meeting**

- .Assemblymember Phil Ting spoke to the members about issues his office is focusing on. Staff members Mark Chekal and Alex Walker provided their email addresses: [mark.chekal@asm.ca.gov](mailto:mark.chekal@asm.ca.gov) and [alex.walker@asm.ca.gov](mailto:alex.walker@asm.ca.gov) and mentioned that there is a form on their website that constituents can fill out if they need help dealing with EDD (Employment Development Department): [a19.asmdc.org](http://a19.asmdc.org)

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

- The call to order occurred at 7:27 pm by Committee Chair, Nicole Fernandez.
- The January 2021 meeting agenda was adopted with modification of removing elections for Exec Board members to CADEM DSCC.
- The November 2020 meeting minutes were approved.

**Rusty Hicks and Delaine Eastin, Candidates for CADEM Chair**

**Rusty Hicks:**

Need to Work against CA Republicans. Thanked SMC Dems for efforts in coordinated campaign. Do things like senior check ins in even and odd years. Tell our story in red and blue and purple parts of the state. Work on our fundraising infrastructure. Continue to make cultural change we started in 2019. Conduct commission started. Build on the great diversity of our party. Make sure party is welcoming and inclusive to all Democrats. We have our 1st Latina Executive Director. Most staff are women, most are under age 35.

You can endorse Rusty by visiting:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeU37vXW414xd3Vzsyd28KaOchiT9wWx93xY03IM\\_fPD03I9A/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeU37vXW414xd3Vzsyd28KaOchiT9wWx93xY03IM_fPD03I9A/viewform)

Rusty's Cell:

(213) 399-8872

Joe Armenta, Staff: [joe@rustyhicks.org](mailto:joe@rustyhicks.org)

Harini Krishnan commented that during the Biden-Harris campaign, the greatest number of out-of state volunteers came from CA, and greatest number were from San Mateo County.

**Delaine Eastin:**

Win back the seats we lost. Was in city council and state constitutional officer. We need a robust training program for candidates and party leaders. We should welcome healthy debate. We'll stand for what our party says we stand for. I will unite our party and bring a sense of optimism, and we'll have some fun doing it.

We have not had a woman CA chair in 35 years. Party where people feel they are on a mission.

Kevin Pikkel, Staff, [in text chat]: Thank you so much for inviting Delaine here today. If you have questions, suggestions or advice, please reach out to her at [delaine@DelaineEastin.com](mailto:delaine@DelaineEastin.com) or her cell (530) 219-6560. Her website is <http://DelaineEastin.com> — to learn more, volunteer, endorse or donate. Also, please follow her on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Delaine appreciates your time, consideration and service to our Party. Take good care.

Ruben Abrica asked: What is your position on bilingual education?

Delaine: I took Pete Wilson to court and I beat him, when he tried to get rid of bilingual education. When he tried to make teachers immigration officials, I took him to court and won.

Denton Murphy asked: What single factor do you think is most important to recapturing the Congressional seats that were lost in 2020?

Delaine: building a bench, should have been focusing on our candidates in rural areas. Need to get resources to defeat the CA Republicans who voted for Trump.

**Chair (Nicole Fernandez):**

- Convention is at end of April. Encourages new chair to invite other candidates next month.
- Volunteers of the Year were Announced and Celebrated!
- Volunteer of the Year: Bertha Saucedo (introduced by Rudy). Bertha said that her goal is to make a better world for my children and grandchildren and everyone.
- Volunteer of the Year: TJ Glauthier (introduced by Nancy Yarbrough) works on budget, behind the scenes.

## **Exec Board and CADEM Delegates Elections**

- Motion to make all elected members DSCC members—passed unanimously.
- **CADEM Delegates:** The following were elected as CADEM delegates:
  - o April Northrup (26 votes)
  - o Erin Chazer (24 votes)
  - o Alexander Melendrez (24 votes)
  - o Elmer Martinez (21 votes)
  - o Mark Nagales (17 votes)
  - o Denton Murphy (14 votes, in a run-off with Pam Salvatierra)
- **Controller:** Nancy Yarbrough was elected without objection.
- **Recording Secretary:** Elmer Martinez was elected with 21 Yes votes and 8 No votes.
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Rudy Espinoza-Murray was elected with 17 Yes and 12 No votes.
- **Northern Vice Chair:** Sarah Fields was elected without objection. A motion to elect Alexander Melendrez did not pass, with 5 Yes votes, 10 No votes, and 3 abstentions.
- **Southern Vice Chair:** Steven Booker was elected without objection.
- **Chair:** Karen Maki was elected with 19 Yes votes, 6 No Votes, and 3 Abstentions.

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

- Karen thanked everyone for voting for her and said she would call an Exec Board meeting soon. Karen gave each of the newly elected Exec Board members a chance to speak, and all Exec Board members expressed their thanks to the members, and their enthusiasm to get started.

Nicole Fernandez moved that the remaining items on the agenda, be moved to next month's meeting, and that members could send their reports to April Northrup and Elmer Martinez for inclusion in this month's minutes.

## **Committee Reports (via email)**

### **Farmworkers Affairs (Victoria Sanchez de Alba, Chair):**

Farmworkers without pay now for the last three pay periods at Castillo Seed Co., part of Castle Management. Judith Guerrero of Coastside Hope reported that their clients mentioned about 40 workers have not been paid. Judith reported that on Friday, Jan. 15 the company was supposed to pay their employees for another pay period, and once again they failed to fulfill their duties. The health and safety of farmworkers and their families is at risk amid COVID. Many of them don't have money for food and rent and may be out on the streets at moment's notice.

### **Action Items:**

- Judith and Lauren Silberman of SMC Farmworker Affairs Coalition (SMC FAC) and Ag Commission filed a complaint on Friday, Jan. 15, 2021 with the CA Labor Board.
- Victoria referred Judith to Ana Vicente de Castro, Directing Attorney at California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA). Ana leads CRLA's Agricultural Worker Program, specializing in employment law and wage recovery. Judith will be connecting Ana to the workers who received notices from the company.
- SMC FAC started a media campaign to raise awareness on this issue:  
<https://www.coastsidebuzz.com/state-labor-violation-castillo-seed-co-has-not-p-aid-workers-on-time-in-six-months/>
- Judith presented the issue on Peninsula 360 Press (Community Talk with Connie & Rudy) PLEASE SHARE.
- SMCDCC FAC will be looking into another case Belinda Arriaga and Joaquin Jimenez mentioned about another company in Pescadero named Calidutch-- not paying overtime and not giving time-off if employees are sick.
- Mushroom farm in Half Moon Bay on 92 got shut down last Friday, Jan. 15 because of a COVID outbreak. Joaquin Jimenez contacted the Public Health Department and they tested everybody at the farm and that is why the company got shut down until Jan. 29. Everyone is quarantined in their homes. ALAS in HMB brought them groceries.

#### **COVID Vaccine, education and access:**

##### **Action Items:**

- Continue to work with the SMC FAC to seek a mobile vaccinating unit (same as with the flu vaccine).
- Follow-up with SMC Healthcare for the Homeless and Farmworker Health Program, regarding culturally relevant outreach/messaging to farmworkers and access to the vaccine.

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

- Unlike the 2016 election that had many documented Russian interference issues attached, the 2020 Presidential election appeared in conformity with general polling. As Democrats we must not interpret the most recent victory as a reason to ignore the need for better election systems nor should it mean we should stay reliant upon Microsoft based election software.
- We now have a new Secretary of State who can lead the state to be the model for the nation's election security. San Mateo County should again lead the Democratic Party toward best practices including public software / paper ballot systems.

#### **Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 10:38pm.