

San Mateo County
Democratic Central Committee
General Meeting Minutes
February 18th, 2021

Decisions:

1. We passed a budget that begins 2021 with \$76,722 and ends the year with \$75,093 and includes a commitment to fundraise \$10,000 and make a donation of \$10,000 to locals hit hard by the coronavirus.
2. Volunteers appointed to Donation Task Force are:
 - a. Juslyn Manalo – D5
 - b. Nick Ackers – D1
 - c. Andrea Reyna (Chair) – D4
 - d. April Vargas – D3
 - e. Nancy Yarbrough—D2

Prior to Meeting

- Chair Maki shares that Leslie Littman would be our speaker of the night.

Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda & Approval of Minutes

- The call to order occurred at 7:00 pm by Committee Chair, Karen Maki.
- The 2021 meeting agenda was adopted.
- The 2021 meeting minutes were approved with modifications (Sandra Lang's question will be included).

Speaker - [Secretary-Treasurer Leslie Littman](#), California Teachers Association

- Andrea Reyna introduces Leslie Littman, who then shared details of her personal and political journey to being elected to the CTA E-Board in 2019. Her sophomore year on the CTA e-board has primarily focused on COVID-19 response and balancing the needs between in-person instruction and safety protocols. Leslie listed the union's desired safety measures and data collection efforts before students can return to the classroom. Leslie shared that without these mitigation efforts, transmission rates will spike, especially for BIPOC communities hit the hardest by COVID-19. Leslie ends on a call to action: contact your representatives for data on transmission rates in BIPOC communities, school reopening plans, PPE protocols, ventilation equipment, and additional safety protocols.
- Sarah Fields asks: What are the CTA's main talking points on reopening that we can inject into our community conversations?
 - Leslie: Teachers want to be back in the classroom and find the idea of not seeing their students in 2021 heartbreaking. We have to constantly ask what are the details of the school's reopening plans? What's the vaccination plan for people who will be physically on campus (students, teachers, essential workers)?
- Rudy: What are you hearing on the ground regarding vaccination rollouts given the State's limited supply?
 - Leslie: Largely depends on what county you're in. Each county is in its own tier (LA county for example is still 65+) but expecting greater supply in March for general public. It doesn't help that many counties are allowing for certain sectors to be vaccinated before teachers, but hopeful for increased supply.

7:38 PM - CADEM Vice Chair Candidate Betty Yee

- Betty thanks SMC Dems for their work in getting the Biden-Harris administration elected to office. Her work as State Controller informed her decision to run, and her primary focus will be making the State party

a vehicle for local Democrats seeking to all levels of elected office, as well as how the party could effectively use its resources on the ground. Betty believes the CDP's direction has not reflected the lived experience of everyday Californians and hopes to focus on economic and racial justice around the state.

- Rudy asks what are the best things we can do to get people of color elected to office, and what are some of the major roadblocks to doing so?
 - Betty responds that CDP needs to spend more time in BIPOC communities and understand that there are leaders ready to step up. The party spends too much time in communities with deep pockets, so we as a party need to be more conscious about where we prioritize our time and energy.

7:44 PM - CADEM Vice Chair Candidate Jenny Bach

- Jenny has been secretary for the past 4 years; the first young Democrat to join the CADEM E-board in over 20 years. Jenny found her start with the Young Dems and has worked on party accessibility—hosting trainings on ADEM elections to non-party insiders. She previously worked on outreach efforts to BIPOC communities, specifically API, and organized more than 100 volunteers in CA, GA, and AZ for GOTV weekend this last fall. If elected, Jenny wants to elevate the voices of undocumented activists, fight disinformation, and build a local leadership pipeline beginning at high school.
- Rudy asks what are the best things we can do to get people of color elected to office, and what are some of the major roadblocks to doing so?
 - Jenny agrees with David that having in-language materials is that crucial first step, but the party can do more to celebrate BIPOC communities and honor their traditions. Additionally, CDP needs a greater presence in ethnic media to reach BIPOC communities.

- Contact information: bachforcdp@gmail.com | (916) 384-5710 | bachforcdp.com

7:48 PM - CADEM Vice Chair Candidate David Campos

- Running for non-female Vice Chair after serving as Chair of SF DCC, Campos came to the US as a child from Guatemala, which inspired his political identity, and won a seat on the SF Board of Supervisors, where he passed legislation aimed to help working families access healthcare before Obamacare, reform PG&E, and preserve the city's status as a sanctuary city. After being termed out, David was an administrator running city departments and now Chief of Staff for SF's district attorney. If elected, Davis wants to bring greater support for Dem Central Committees and local political leaders who often do not feel supported. If elected, first formerly undocumented to be elected this position of party leadership.
- Rudy asks what are the best things we can do to get people of color elected to office, and what are some of the major roadblocks to doing so?
 - David: We need more cultural competence like I introduced in SF campaigns. This means both multi-lingual campaign materials and reaching out to local affinity clubs to reach members of those communities. If we mobilize these communities, we'll see the party to continue to evolve.

Executive Board Reports

Chair (Karen Maki):

- The E-Board met at the beginning of the month. Her desire is to make the meeting more engaging, and the first step would be lessening the amount of time we use for committee and club reports. Instead written reports should be submitted to Recording Secretary Elmer Martinez, who will post them with the meeting materials on the web.
- Chair Maki also hopes to provide SMCDCC resolutions and a calendar of local events on our website.

- Sign-ups for Standing Committees are available via a Google form and email. So far 37 people have signed up. Committee appointments will be made at the March meeting.
- CA Dem Elections will be April 29 to May 2 with registration becoming available during first week of March.

Northern Vice Chair (Sarah Fields):

- New club liaison to North Peninsula Democratic Club, Peninsula Young Dems, Dem Fems, Peninsula Democratic Coalition, Pacifica-Daly City Democratic Club. Sarah will contact club leadership in the coming days and learn how DCC can support and partner with these organizations.
- Adam Loraine, a new San Mateo democrat, asks if there are any clubs specific to San Mateo?
 - o Sarah suggests he join the PDC or explore the other clubs.

Southern Vice Chair (Steven Booker):

- New club liaison to Coastside Democrat, Democracy for America, Pacific-Islander Club, and Filipino-American Democratic Club. Steven has already contacted club leadership and will be in ongoing discussions with each team.

Recording Secretary (Elmer Martinez):

- Please send club and committee reports, and any updates for the SMC Dems roster to elmermartinez17@yahoo.com.

Corresponding Secretary (Rudy Espinoza-Murray):

- New club liaison to SMC Latinx Dems (treasurer), and the Stonewall Democrats. He's a founding member of both clubs and will be in constant contact with club leadership for opportunities to collaborate.

Standing Committee Reports

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

- Nancy presents the January 2021 Financial Report and says DCC is in strong financial standing. She directs people to the DCC Merchandise Shop which will soon have SMC Dems-branded materials.
- On the proposed DCC 2021 Budget, Nancy does not expect many expenditures this year as it's not a presidential election year. Nancy shares that the DCC normally has big expenses tied to presidential year elections, such as renting the physical campaign headquarters, so the organization saved on a lot of costs this past fall. In 2020, DCC also hired Rudy Espinoza-Murray as the county's field coordinator (\$68,000 for Coordinated Campaign fee). And under Chair Nicole Fernandez, the SMC

Dems keep an increased rate of 10% of donations made to CDP (up from 7 or 8%), so SMC Dems in strong financial standing.

- o TJ states that the Finance Committee's proposed budget begins the year with \$76,722 and ends the year with \$75,093. All income and expenses are non-discretionary except for a commitment to fundraise \$10,000 and a donate \$10,000 to local non-profits to ease the burden inflicted by the pandemic.
- o Chair Maki explains that if the donation is approved, a taskforce will be created to study how to best distribute funds.
 - Nancy raised the idea of splitting the donation within each supervisorial district, so non-profits in each district would receive \$2k.
 - Brian Perkins asks if we are cutting the budget too close with the possibility of a recall election?
 - TJ responds that despite DCC starting 2022 with a smaller budget, the funds would go a long way for the non-profit recipients.
 - Sarah Fields agrees with Brian and has concerns about spending those funds ahead of the 2022 elections as well. She mentions that the intent of the funds is for political purposes; and suggests that we can lessen the donation amount and reassess in 6 months.
 - Karen Tuzman says with all of the hardship in the communities, we as the Democratic Party should be able to show how we are directly helping people in the community while still getting good Democrats elected.
 - David Burruto states that historically, we've made small donations and \$10,000 would be 1/7th of our treasury. But with a possible recall election, he does not want DCC to be coming from a weaker fiscal situation. He'd support making donations out of his own pocket but can't support the DCC making this large of a donation.
 - Alexis Lewis supports the donation and cites the difficulties our communities are facing. She says given that many of these folks were our campaign volunteers, we should also give back for their service and help them in their times of need.
 - Judith says budget proposal is a living document that's always in progress and could change.
 - Denton Murphy congratulates the rest of the Fiscal Committee for their work, and shares that this kind of

donation may bring people who have been turned off to politics back onto the scene.

- Andrea Reyna calls the question.
- Rudy suggests we should be raising more money so that this contribution doesn't make us all nervous. DCC needs to be proactive, and not waiting for the election year to raise funds.
- With 14 votes in support, donation passes.
- Volunteers for Donation Taskforce:
 - Juslyn Manalo – D5
 - Nick Ackers – D1
 - Andrea Reyna (Chair) – D4
 - April Vargas – D3
 - Nancy Yarbrough – D2

Survey Taskforce (Rick Hunter, Chair):

- Chair Maki explains the Survey Task Force's efforts to collect suggestions to collect suggestions for 2021 goals. The current list includes these policy issue areas (clean water, climate change, diversity outreach, economic equality, wildfire readiness, community college, healthcare, housing, social justice) and these functional areas (bylaws, endorsements, fundraising, support for local Democrats running for office, candidate recruitment, voter registration).
- The Survey Task Force will invite members, alternates, and associates to vote on the final list of suggested goals. The committee review the results and bring their recommended to the March meeting for the DCC's approval.
 - Alex asks if Chair Maki will share the detailed list with the DCC after the meeting. She will email a copy after the meeting.
 - April asked to see the detailed suggestions and emphasizes the importance of including functional goals such as improvements to the endorsement process or bylaws.

Voter Registration (April Vargas, Chair):

- April gives her time to Ray Larios, who's the newest member of the SMC Voter Registration Advisory Committee. Ray shared that Latinx Dems will be making a big push for registering Latinx voters and encouraging them to vote with the Democratic Party; and Rudy has joined the language-focused team of the committee to increase Spanish language materials.

Programs & Education (Brigid O'Farrell, chair):

- Brigid announces the April Speake as Asm. David Chui, who will be speaking about regional transportation.

Farm Workers (Victoria Sanchez De Alba, Chair):

- Victoria shared that the CA Labor Commission has shut down the Castillo farm, which did not pay their employees for 8 weeks. Castillo will not be able to reopen until employees are paid and \$30,000 in fines are resolved. Coastside Hope providing supportive services and SMC DA office now interviewing employees for their investigation. She will be sharing a donation page to support these workers. Sup. Horsley's office is assisting to address drinking water issues as ALAS has been supplying the only safe water for most of these workers. OSHA complaint is being created and will soon be filed.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Volunteer Services (Eric Siegel):

- Eric shares that he's submitted 7-page report on Sister District efforts, which includes the organization's last meeting where 5,000 volunteers virtually attended. His report includes links for review.

Regional Director, Legislative and Club Reports

Congresswoman Jackie Speier (CA-14):

- Brian Perkins: The Congresswoman and 9 colleagues sent a letter to acting EPA administration requesting the agency backstep Trump Admin's decision on Cargill Salt Ponds. Congresswoman Speier hopes that this will pressure Cargill to work with public to restore wetlands.

State Senator Scott Wiener (SD-11):

- Jeff Sparks shares the Senator has his legislative package prepared ahead of State's legislative deadline. Priorities include housing, overdose prevention centers (SB 57), (SB 221) timely access to mental healthcare, and statewide fracking ban. Town Hall with SF and SMC representatives next Thursday, (2/25) on vaccination rollout.

Peninsula Democratic Coalition:

- Sarah shares the PDC's annual meeting is this coming Sunday at 2 pm. Climate Change will be discussed and new PDC board to be elected. Meeting Link: <http://bit.ly/PDC-climate-2021>

Peninsula Young Democrats:

- Erin Chazer announces 2/23 General Meeting with endorsed elected officials participating in a Q&A session.

San Mateo County Democracy for America:

- Ashleigh Evans shares meeting will be on 3/3, and hosting speaker Adam Bolanos Scow of Food and Water Watch. The Green New Deal to be discussed at next meeting and what the policy may look under the Biden Administration. Newly formed taskforces include: Climate change, social justice, legislative bills, and Elections 2021.

LatinX Club

- Ray Larios: 2/23 General Meeting, and in honor of Black History Month, we will be inviting Boston Councilwoman Julia Mejia for a discussion that will be moderated by Councilmember Michael Smith.

Stonewall Democrats Club

- Chris Sturken announces the Stonewall Dems will be hosting 2/17 training on how to be more inclusive of the LGBTQ community and will be moderated by Leland Anders (trained by LA LGBTQ Center). The club is also working on an event for Transgender Week in March and will share details soon.

Election Integrity

- Brunt Turner shares: We are looking to the new secretary of state Dr. Weber for security upgrades in California. The recent Solar Winds hack clearly evidences the need to remove private software in national security venues. We will continue our advocacy for AGPL open source / paper ballot systems and appreciate the San Mateo County Democratic Party history of support. We will also be pushing for national reform in this area

Lightning Round:

- Dan Stegink congratulates the SMC Dems United slate— 13 out of 14 candidates elected. He suggests if you're a delegate, go to as many meet and greets as you can.
- Denton Murphy shares the efforts of January 6th Accountability Project— new coalition growing to bring action against contributors of the representatives who helped incite the insurrection.

- John Baker shares with the appointment of Eddie Flores to the City Council, the SSFUSD is look for a new board trustee. SSFUSD Board member application link: <https://ssfusd-ca.schoolloop.com/news/view?d=x&id=1613123154757>
- Sandra Lang—With the events in Texas, maybe this could be an opportunity to have more speakers who can speak to California’s own energy grid and climate change in general.
- Nicole Fernandez congratulates Karen Maki
- Alex Melendrez speaks on the issue of Climate Change and asks for folks to consider PCE as a clean and reliable alternative. Shares that the organization is hiring as well.
- Eric Siegel recommends people review the seven-page report he submitted on Sister Districts and the lessons learned.
- Alexis Lewis comments that African American is American History. She hopes that we as a body will encourage support for the inclusion of African American history in public school curriculum.
- Chris Sturken announces the SMC Pride Center’s upcoming Black History Month Intergenerational Dinner. The theme will be focusing on Black LGBTQ history and its leaders both past and present.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Attendees List

Name	Email
16503464805	
16507870611	
Adam Loraine	adamloraine@gmail.com
Alex Rooker	alexroo78@aol.com
Alexander Melendrez	amelendrez@hlcsmc.org
Alexis Lewis	akl1972.lewis@gmail.com
Andrade Zúñiga Ligia	ligiesita@gmail.com
Andrea Reyna	andrea.reyna@gmail.com
Andrew Radin	a.radin@me.com
Annette Hipona	cityclerk56@gmail.com
April Northrup	aprilgnorthrup@gmail.com
April Vargas	aprilmcdemocrats@gmail.com
Ashleigh Evans	asevans2002@aol.com
Auros Harman	rmharman@auros.org

Betty Yee (She/Her/Hers)	betty@bettyyee.com
Brent Turner	brent@trealestate.net
Brian Perkins	brian_perkins2@yahoo.com
Brigid O'Farrell	mbrigidofarrell@gmail.com
Chelsea Bonini	chelsea.bonini@gmail.com
Chris Sturken	chris.a.sturken@gmail.com
Cliff Robbins	crobbs@gcalaw.com
Dan Stegink	votesuperdan@gmail.com
David Burruto	davidburruto@gmail.com
David Campos	info@camposforca.com
Denton Murphy	denton.murphy@gmail.com
Diana Reddy	diana.94062@gmail.com
Doris Harry	djharry011@gmail.com
Eddie Flores	eddiefloresssf@gmail.com
Elmer Martinez	elmermartinez17@yahoo.com
Emily Beach	emily@beachforburlingame.com
Eric Siegel	eric.siegel@comcast.net
Erin Chazer She/Her/Hers	smclcerin@gmail.com
Georgia Grant	grantg@pacbell.net
Gina Papan	ginapapan@gmail.com
Gregory Loew	gregory.loew@gmail.com
Helen Wolter	helen.wolter@gmail.com
James Lawrence	jtlawrence94404@yahoo.com
Jeff Sparks	jeff@scottwiener.com
Jenny Bach	jennybach.mail@gmail.com
John Baker	jcbaker10@gmail.com
Jon Levinson	pacmgr@comcast.net
Jonathan Hull	hull39@gmail.com
Joy Shmueli	thejoy1@aol.com
Judith Christensen	judith94014@gmail.com
Julie B	campaigns1@gmail.com
Juslyn Manalo	juslyncmanalo@gmail.com
Karen Tuzman	karentkach@gmail.com
Laura Parmer-Lohan	lparmerlohan@gmail.com

Leslie Littman	llittman@cta.org
Lisa Diaz Nash	lisadnash25@gmail.com
Mike Dunham	mldunham@gmail.com
Nancy Raabe	nraabe15@hotmail.com
Nancy Yarbrough	nancyyar@gmail.com
Nicklas Akers	nicklas.akers@gmail.com
Nicole Fernandez	nicoleafernandez@gmail.com
Nicole Kemeny	nicole.kemeny@gmail.com
Pat Murray	pat@murray.net
Ray Buenaventura	raybesq@gmail.com
Raymond Larios	raymondlarios@gmail.com
Roberta Bernhard	urbernhard@yahoo.com
Rudy Espinoza Murray (He/Him)	chair@smcdems.org
Sandra Lang	langinsureyou@gmail.com
Sandra Lowe	smarchele@gmail.com
Sarah Fields	sarahefields@gmail.com
Smcdems Chair	chair@smcdems.org
Steven Booker	ibooker@me.com
Victoria Sanchez De Alba	victoria@dealba.net