

San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee
GENERAL MEETING AGENDA
March 18, 2021

6:45 PM - Log in Time

7:00 PM - Speaker - Cecilia Taylor, Menlo Park City Councilwoman on Vaccination Issues

- Andrea Reyna introduces Councilwoman Cecilia Taylor, who represents the Belle Haven neighborhood (District 1) of Menlo Park.
- The councilwoman shared her efforts on neighborhood testing/vaccination sites, and outlining all of the logistics and collaboration needed to bring parity to the Menlo Park neighborhood. Councilmember Taylor shared that one of the major reasons behind the program's success has been that local community members felt more empowered and welcomed as they did not have to prove their residency, show proof of insurance, etc.
- The councilmember announces that Saturday, March 20th, another vaccine rollout will be hosted and the team could use more volunteers. For more information, folks can visit: <https://www.bellehavenaction.org/>
- John Wooddell asks:
 - Are ID's required for testing clinics?
 - CM Taylor: This depends on what specific provider is hosting the neighborhood testing/vaccination lab.
 - How long will these efforts be in operation?
 - CM Taylor: We are currently contracted through May and expect to be extended through the end of the year.
 - How much more education can we be sharing on the process?
 - CM Taylor: County has been taking the lead on education with 2-1-1 phone line, but BHA organizers find that relationships built through the neighborhood testing sites will triage issues that aren't typically raised over phone calls (rental assistance, food insecurity, concerns of vaccines' side-effects). Belle Haven Action has also created single-page resources for patients at these sites and have these resources available on their website.
- Steven Booker asks if there's been any apprehension regarding the Covid vaccines? If so, is there anything we can do to help?

- CM Taylor responds: “Yes and yes. We saw some of it at the testing sites too, not just the vaccination sites. It’s been mainly from the African American community. We have to keep the dialogue going. It’s been effective to have medical staff that looks like the patients and can address the concerns in a culturally sensitive way. Education is key, and don’t push people.”
- Ray Larios asks if there were any particular segments of the community that were more apprehensive than others in Belle Haven?
 - CM Taylor shared Belle Haven Action has been testing for four months, so people in the community trusted us so it wasn’t as large as expected. Once news of the vaccine came out, they were able to start calming concerns and as soon as the vaccines arrived, they saw a lot of people begin to sign up. But lately there’s been very little apprehension.
- Brigid O’Farrell asks if the clinics know when the vaccine supplies are restocked? Will people be temporarily dismissed from work if they do test positive?
 - CM Taylor responds: “No, I truly don’t know. BHA has plenty of volunteers and the team stays nimble to relocate at a moment’s notice, but vaccine supply has not been consistent with 3-4 day turnaround time. And while the county has been effective on follow-up for positive test results, the burden is still on the employee to report their test results and stay home. The team has also created resources for this population and hope to address the stigma of contracting Covid-19.”

7:32 PM - Call to Order

- Adoption of March General Meeting agenda and approval of February General Meeting minutes without objection.

7:33 PM Introductions - Ria Voodi, California High School Democrats

Building a relationship San Mateo Democratic Party and California High School Democrats

- Ria Voodi and Claire Liu are looking to build relationships with the County DCC’s around the State, as well as raising funds to take HS Dems to the CADEMS Convention.
- Donate to CAHSD: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/cahsd-pac> or <https://linktr.ee/CAHSDDonate>
- If people have any questions or concerns, you could reach Claire at cliu@hsdems.org and Ria riavoodi20@gmail.com
- CAHSD membership form: <http://bit.ly/joinhsdems>

- Website: <https://cahsdems.org/>
- IG/Twitter/FB: @cahsdems

7:36 PM - Executive Board Reports

- Chair Karen Maki -
 - At the March meeting, the Eboard team members reviewed the list of standing committee members who signed up. The Eboard reviewed the recommended chairs that Chair Maki provided and suggested some changes. The original list of members that accompanied the agenda has changed as chairs confirmed their roles, and more members volunteered. Chair Maki has asked committees to provide a mission statement and 2021 SMARTIE goals for the DCC to review at the April meeting. Chair Maki explained that SMARTIE refers to a goal that is specific, measurable, ambitious, realistic, time-bound, inclusive, and equitable.
 - The March Chair's letter contained a reference to our \$10,000 donation to local agencies. As a result, DCC received a donation of \$185. Chair Maki hopes this will inspire other people who may also like to contribute. People can do so by going to our website: smsdems.org.
 - DCC has now added an EVENTS section onto the SMC Dems website. Advertisements so far include the Stonewall Democrats March meeting, the DCC March meeting and DFA's April 7th meeting. Website will advertise events for Clubs, legislators, committees, and probably allies. If you would like your event to be featured, please email calendar@smcdems.org with the name of your organization, name of the event, date, time, speaker or program.
 - Regarding the Convention, people can register as a delegate or an observer at cadem.org. Registration closes on April 21st at 5 PM. If you do not intend to go, please let Chair Maki know so we can find a proxy. You can also sign up to be a volunteer at <https://fs3.formsite.com/CADEM2011/yyyr3quez4/index.html>.
 - The Stop the Recall Committee has been officially launched. Organizers are asking DCC to get endorsements from our county elected officials. They have provided this form <https://fs3.formsite.com/CADEM2011/gvna7ic7ge/index.html> for that purpose.

- Elmer
 - As recording secretary, Elmer shares that Eric Siegel's Outreach Report from the last meeting is posted under the February Club and Committee Report. Elmer also posted the updates from the Farmworker Affairs Committee and the Democracy within the March Club and Committee reports.
- Nancy
 - Announcement about dues.

7:45 PM Survey Task Force 2021 Goal Results & Recommendations

Rick Hunter and Survey Task Force (Dan Stegink, April Vargas, Sandra Lang, Victoria, Nicole Kemeny)

1 Diversity outreach elect people of color - leadership team

2 Free Community College (standalone)

3 Housing (likely formation of Housing Committee)

4 Police/Criminal Justice reform

5 Farmworkers Committee assigned clean water for farmworkers and schoolchildren (Farmworkers Committee)

6 Climate Change Encourage Transit Oriented Development (Climate Committee)

7 Endorsements Committee - assigned review of suggested refinements

- Rick Hunter thanks Dan Stegink and the rest of the team. He explained the results of the surveys, and Chair Maki notes that many of these goals could be incorporated into standing subcommittees, rather than creating additional standalone committees.
- Alex Melendrez notes he's happy to lead the Housing Committee as he's shared with Chair Maki and Rick Hunter.
- **Motioned by Sandra Lang. 21 votes in support.**
- Karen will create a Google form for sign-ups and post to a website.

8:05 PM \$10,000 Donation Recommendations

Andrea Reyna, Nick Ackers, Nancy Yarborough, April Vargas, Juslyn Manalo

Home and Hope (District 1) \$2,000

Life Moves (District 2) (awaiting confirmation) \$2,000

ALAS and Coastside Hope (District 3) \$1,000 per org

Ravenswood Family Health Network (District 4) \$2,000

Daly City Partnership (District 5) \$2,000

- Andrea Reyna outlines the proposal, and shares how the team plans to create an outreach campaign to notify community members.
- Diana Reddy asks if the donation to Life Moves will go specifically to residents of District 2?
 - Nancy Yarborough will check in with Alexis Taylor, who serves as the liaison to that organization.
 - Andrea Reyna clarifies that it may be a difficult “ask” for Life Moves to only spend the funds in a particular jurisdiction due to accounting logistics.
- Ray Larios asks are these orgs able to take money from partisan political orgs? He suggests one of the non-profits on the list cannot accept funds from the partisan political orgs.
 - Ray Larios will connect with Andrea Reyna and the team offline.
- Denton Murphy asks if volunteers are needed for communication and outreach efforts or if a media organization has been contacted for this purpose.
 - Andrea Reyna welcomes Denton’s assistance and suggests the creation of a Communication Committee for these types of projects.
- Cliff Robins asks if Samaritan House was considered.
 - Andrea shared that they wanted to expand the “footprint” of the donation as Samaritan House recently received a donation.
- **Karen motions to close the discussion and move to a vote, which was seconded by Diana Reddy. 22 votes in support of the proposed recommendations.**

8:20 PM 2021 Disclose Act (Resolution attached at end of minutes)

- David Burruto introduces Nancy Neff, Regional Coordinator of CA Clean Money Campaign, and briefly explains that this is the latest iteration of the Ballot Disclose Act.

- Ms. Nancy Neff outlines what reforms will be implemented with the potential passage of the Ballot Disclose Act, and which organizations have already endorsed this current version of the proposal. She described the history of the previous versions, and explained what major concerns (voter confusion, politicization of the ballot, etc.) legislators held.
- Ashleigh Evans reminds the group that the DCC overwhelmingly supported the legislation last year.
- Adam Loraine asks if the supporters and opponents would be more or less the same as those listed in the ballot pamphlet?
 - Ms. Neff confirms that's the case, and noted that polling showed many people did not know they could find that information before voting.
- **Urgency vote requires 2/3 support. 20 votes in support.**

8:21 PM Equity Endorsement Pledge Resolution (PULLED)

8:21 PM Region 6 Director Candidate Hene Kelly

- Hene Kelly serves as the current Regional 6 Director, and has served in the role for the past 10 years. She has worked in politics for a total of 61 years, where she's worked with many well-known activists.
- Karen Tkach Tuzman asks how we can engage the young activists and pull them into leadership positions?
 - Hene responds that she was a former teacher for 10 years, so she knows how to work with young people, and understands that the Party depends on young activists getting engaged and seeking elected office.
 - Hene offers that if any young members are interested, they are welcome to shadow her service as Regional Director and run for the position in the next CADEM election.

8:27 PM CADEM Secretary Candidate for Melahat Rafiei

- Melahat is the two-term DNC member, and former DCC Chair in Orange County. During her tenure in the DNC, she cast her vote for Sen. Bernie Sanders and worked on environmental issues. She hopes to make the Secretary "Communicator-in-Chief" who will utilize regional directors to stay in touch with local county parties, and must have battle-tested party members who can run successful campaigns when our legislators term out. If anyone is interested in joining our campaign for CDP Secretary - please use the following link to visit our website and social media pages. <https://linktr.ee/melahat>. If anyone would like to email or call Melahat directly, you

can do so at info@melahat.org or 949-350-7733. Cory, her campaign manager, can also be reached at cory@psc campaigns.com or via cell at 562-506-5597.

- Website: <http://www.melahat.org>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/MelahatRafieiOC>
- Twitter: @Melahat
- Instagram: @Melahat_Rafiei
- Email: info@melahat.org

8:32 PM CADEM Secretary Candidate Diana Love

- Diana currently serves as the Region 9 director, which covers five counties. She's been politically active for 25 years, but began her career as a child caretaker. Diana believes in shared governance, and wants to build pipeline of leadership that includes undocumented Californians. Diana wants to implement an "Information Greeting House" that will send immediate responses with accurate information.
- Diana shared that her qualifications include working as a former Assembly staffer, former Secretary of LA Dem Party, co-chair of non-profit organizations, so she knows she can succeed in the role of secretary.
- Website dianalove.vote, email dlove717@roadrunner.com, dlove717717@gmail.com
- Phone: 661-478-9330.

8:40 PM Region 6 Director Candidate Jane Natoli

- Jane began her political activity to see the promise of California turned into a reality for all; it's the same reason that attracted her to the state. She currently serves on the Board of the SF LGBTQ+ Center, YIMBY Action, formerly served on the SF Bicycle Coalition. She would like to make trans leaders more visible, and wants to empower LGBTQ Democrats. She also shared that she's endorsed by State Senator Scott Wiener, and Assemblymembers Kevin Mullin and Marc Berman.
- John Levinson asks what Jane's practical background and skills qualify her for the position.
 - With former organizing, campaign and volunteer experience, Jane understands how to plan and successfully execute events that she believes will transfer to her role as Regional Director.
- Sarah asks what ideas Jane has about bringing more diversity into the Party's leadership.
 - Jane suggests that mentorship is very important for bench building in addition to culturally-competent outreach to new members.
- Nancy Yarbrough asks what Jane's experiencing in reaching communities outside of SF?

- Jane says she's new to this process and San Mateo County, but has the tools to build relationships in the new communities she would be representing.
- Contact information: jane.natoli@gmail.com or 703-868-5662

9:00 PM Standing Committee Reports - Please send reports to Recording Secretary Elmer Martinez at elmermartinez17@yahoo.com. We will ask for volunteers for 1-minute reports.

- Rudy shares updates on behalf of the Farmworker Affairs Committee (outlined in the Club Reports).
- Brigid O'Farrell, on behalf of the Events Cmte., announces Pat Shui, ombudsman of the CDP Conduct Team as next month's meeting speaker.

8:50 PM AD HOC Committee Reports - Please send reports to Recording Secretary Elmer Martinez at elmermartinez17@yahoo.com. We will ask for volunteers for 1-minute reports.

8:51 PM Regional Director and Legislative Reports -

- Hene Kelly announces Regional CADEMS Candidate Meeting on March 20th, 10 am to 1 pm. CDP Ballots will be sent out May 24th and must be submitted by June 4th.
- Brian Perkins announces the US House of Representatives passed Congresswoman Jackie Speier's bill to delete the sunset date of the ratification of the Equal Rights Act. It now heads to the U.S. Senate for consideration before being included in the U.S. Constitution.
- Nicole Fernandez, on behalf of Sen. Josh Becker, announces Helen Wolter's hiring as the environmental staffer. State of the District event next week:
<https://sd13.senate.ca.gov/event/town-hall-invite-update-covid-schools-stimulus-more>

9:20 PM Club Reports - Please send reports to Recording Secretary Elmer Martinez at elmermartinez17@yahoo.com. We will ask for volunteers for 1-minute reports.

8:48 PM Lightning Round One-minute announcements

- Alex Melendrez shares that the State's Rental Assistance Program went live on Monday, March 15th. He urges DCC to share news of the program with community members who may not be aware of such resources.
- Dan Stegink announces there are pro-Gavin support materials available online.
- Ashliegh Evans shares that DFA Wednesday, April 7, 7:00 pm, Zoom meeting of San Mateo County Democracy for America with co-sponsor PDC. The speaker: Santa

Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian, "Police Reform: Opportunity or Oxymoron?"
Contact: asevans2002@aol.com

- Nicole Fernandez asks that SMC Dems adjourn the meeting in memory of the Atlanta victims and victims of AAPI hate around the country.
- Susan Pfeifer advocates for Hene Kelly as Region 6 Director due to her extensive experience.
- John Pimentel alerts everyone to the introduction of SB 59 (Becker) that will allow community college districts to minimize fees for students and increase access to higher education.
- Gregory Lowe suggests members read President Barack Obama's memoir and Bill Gates' book on climate change.
- Harini Krishnan shares this Sunday, FundHer: Women's Equity Salon event--panel on feminization of poverty, and equal pay.
 - Additionally, Harini is hosting a campaign event on April 8th for BOE Chair Candidate Malia Cohen
- Chair Karen Maki shares that the 2021 state budget allocates \$1 billion for a wildfire budget. 95% of the funds will be used for ineffective and damaging habitat clearance. The wildfire funds should be used to directly save lives and protect houses by:
 - helping vulnerable communities pay for 100-feet of defensible space around houses and making the houses less flammable
 - Creating and implementing community evacuation plans
 - Upgrading local fire equipment and warning systems.
 - We also need to upgrade the antiquated utility equipment that ignited a majority of the most destructive fires.
 - Nine out of over 16,000 recent fires caused 95% of the damage. All nine fires occurred under extreme, wind-driven conditions where vegetation projects proved ineffective.

9:10 PM Adjournment

- **Sarah Fields motions to adjourn, seconded by Rudy Espinoza.**

**Resolution in Support of Senate Bill (SB) 90 and Assembly Bill (AB) 1416, the
Ballot DISCLOSE Act**

WHEREAS, voters are often unaware of the identity of who really supports and opposes state ballot propositions;

WHEREAS, well financed interests have a significant electoral advantage in the ability to communicate to voters both messages and favorable information about the identities of the major supporters of proposition campaigns; and

WHEREAS, voters can identify supporters and opponents of ballot measures in the voter information guide provided by the identifiers of the signatories of the official arguments in favor and against propositions, but few voters will remember or refer back to voter information guides when voting; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee supports SB 90 (Stern) and AB 1416 (Santiago), two identical and parallel bills which will add 15 words listing the supporters and 15 words listing the opponents who signed the official arguments for and against each state ballot measure in the voter information guide to the current title, summary, and fiscal analysis shown on the actual ballot for state ballot measures, giving voters information they need when they vote while adding minimal amounts to the current 75 word summaries on the ballot.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee urge San Mateo County legislative representatives and the chairs of the legislative Elections and Appropriations committees to support Senate Bill 90 and Assembly Bill 1416 and transmit a request for support to the California Democratic Party Legislative Committee no less than 30 days prior to that committee's meeting at the California Democratic Party State Convention in 2021.

Attendees List

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