

San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee

GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

April 15, 2021

7:00 PM - Speaker - Pat Shiu, consultant on diversity and inclusion policies who currently serves as Ombudsperson for the California State Democratic Party. Ms. Shiu spoke about [CADEM Code of Conduct](#), and its implementation at the state and local levels. The SMCDCC has its [own Code of Conduct](#), which references the state party's code of conduct.

Brigid O'Farrell asks if members should be reviewing the Code of Conduct before attending the CADEM Convention?

- Shiu: Absolutely, and as party leaders, we should be reviewing the document more than once and look out for changes.
- Dan Stegink asks what percentage, roughly, of complaints are sustained?
 - Shiu: All complaints that have come before the Conduct Committee have been sustained, but there have not been too many thus far.
- Harini Krishnan comments that she joined an unofficial ADEM Delegate Volunteers' FB Page that was toxic, and asks if there's a similar safe space for information sharing between delegates.
 - Shiu: That page is not an official website of the CA Democratic Party, and it would be a huge endeavour for staff to monitor. But I will raise that matter within the ranks, and see if we could create a similar resource or request that the current page abide by the Code of Conduct.

7:30 PM Muslim Ramadan Speaker

- As a part of the Speaker Committee's initiative to highlight ethnic and religious holidays of our members, Salah Elbakri & Muneeb Khan spoke on the Muslim holiday of Ramadan and related traditions.

7:45 PM - Call to Order

Adoption of April General Meeting agenda

Approval of March General Meeting minutes

- Both items were approved without opposition.

7:40 PM Norma Alcala, Candidate for CADEM Controller

- Ms. Alcala introduces herself as a councilmember of West Sacramento, Vice Chair of Yellow Valley DCC, and elected union leader of Local 768. She's previously served on the CADEM Credential Committee and Voter Services Committee.
- If elected, Ms. Alcala would want to work very closely with the Party's caucuses, and central committees. She hopes to reform bylaws to share responsibility of governance with the entire E-Board, and not just the chair.
- Endorsed by Lt. Governor, Sen. Anna Caballero, Chair of Progressive Caucus, Environmental Caucus, Children Caucus.
- Norma Alcala's Personal Contact 916-821-9639

7:45 PM April Verrett, Candidate for CADEM Controller

- Ms. Verrett introduces herself as chair of SEIU Local 2015 (homecare workers) and hopes to bring her 25 years of political experience to the role.
- Ms. Verrett would like to see the Party funded by small dollar donations, promote actively anti-racist, and build space for working people interested in joining the Party as well as young people.
- Her personal website: aprilforca.com. She can be reached directly at aprilisademocrat@gmail.com and 213-465-0831

7:50 PM - Executive Board Reports

- Chair Maki shares:

- Since the March DCC meeting, Asm. Gene Mullin has passed and will be closing the meeting in his memory.
- CADEM Convention two weeks away, where Harini Krishnan will be honored with the Trailblazer Award. Last day to register and vote is April 21, but anyone can attend as an observer.
- 11 electeds have signed onto the Central Committee's Stop the Recall Resolution. San Mateo County is only second to LA County as statewide leaders.
- The DCC's \$10,000 community donation is being processed, and task force members have verified that the donations will fund programs,

rather than administration. Nicole Fernandez will be issuing the press release on the matter.

- Brigid O'Farrell and Chair Maki will be hosting an informational session outlining the CADEM Convention; date still has to be finalized.
- **Recording Secretary Elmer Martinez** shares a reminder that individuals can send any club reports or events directly to the E-Board, so they can be uploaded onto the SMCDEMS website.

8:00 PM - Finance Report

- Denton Murphy and TJ Gauthier outline the April Financial Report, which can be found on the Meeting Documents page.

8:05 PM - Stop the Recall Resolution

- Northern Vice Chair Sarah Fields shares the resolution in support of Governor Gavin Newsom.
- Motioned by David Burrito, seconded by Jon Levinson -- passes with 21 votes in support.

STOP THE REPUBLICAN RECALL OF GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM

Whereas, the effort to recall Governor Newsom is a partisan power grab spearheaded by the National Republican Party, the California Republican Party, and top donors of former President Donald Trump advocating to overturn fair elections, having already worked to delegitimize the American electoral process; and

Whereas the recall process is a proven frivolous use of California taxpayer dollars to fund this undemocratic ploy to derail the progress Governor Newsom has made in the midst of a public health crisis, especially in San Mateo County, where voters overwhelmingly supported the 2018 election of Governor Newsom, with just over 75% of the electorate supporting the Governor; and

Whereas, the pro-recall coalition includes anti-vaccination supporters, Q-Anon conspiracy theorists, and militia groups whose aim is to disrupt and distract from California's progress on COVID-19 recovery, equitable mass vaccinations, and school reopenings while their leaders disseminate

inaccurate and hateful propaganda on social media sites, actively work against the public interest and advocate against immigrants and asylum seekers. The uniting of Democrats and reasonable Californians across our great state will prevent a chaotic and unfair change in administration; and

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the San Mateo Democratic Party strongly opposes the recall of Governor Gavin Newsom and we will stand united against any candidate who seeks the office should a recall election take place.

8:15 PM - Equity Pledge Resolution

- Rudy Espinoza presented the resolution for a first reading before the general membership. The pledge will be reviewed in the Resolutions Committee before returning for a vote during the May General Meeting.

8:25 PM - Standing Committee Plans

See plans [here](#)

Resolutions Committee

- Karen Tuzman outlines the mission and goals drafted by the committee. She adds that the group aims to tie in the SMARTIE goals by hosting a resolution writing workshop to introduce newcomers to the process.
- Sandra Lang raises that she'd like the language to be more explicit about the committee's role in reviewing proposed resolutions.
 - Karen Tuzman and David Burruto will bring this feedback to the committee and work on the specific language changes.
- With 17 votes in support, the drafted goals passed with the slight modification.

Endorsement Committee

- Sarah Fields shares the goals and mission statement created by the current membership of the Endorsement Committee. Dan Stegink asks if there are November 2021 endorsements from the Central Committee?
 - Sarah Fields clarifies that most of the elections have moved onto even-years, but some school districts may still be in odd-years, so if any are identified, please contact the Endorsement Cmte.

- April Vargas asks if the interview questions could be adjusted to elicit more information on the candidates before going before the membership for endorsement.
 - Sarah Fields and Erin Chazer add that more focus will be placed on the process in the upcoming Endorsement Cmte. meeting; potentially in June.
- With 17 votes in support, the goals and vision statement pass.

Events and Development Committee

- Harini Krishnan outlines the committee's goals for the year, including a fundraising goal of \$20,000 in 2021. She adds that the committee will be prioritizing four events: virtual CADEM reception on Thursday, April 29th, Summer BBQ potentially in Twin Pines Park, Trivia-themed fundraiser, and the Winter Holiday party.
- With 16 votes, the goals and mission statement pass.

Program and Education Committee

- Brigid O'Farrell announces that Redwood City Councilwoman Alicia Aguirre would be joining the committee as her co-chair. She also shared the committee's mission and goals for the upcoming year, including a regional event between neighboring central committees to host well-known guest speakers.
- With 16 votes, the mission statement and goals pass.

Voter Registration Committee

- April Vargas shares how Covid-19 has impacted the committees' goals, and in-person procedures. The committee will be meeting twice a month, and will also identify precincts to prioritize for voter registration.
- With 17 votes, the committee's mission statement and goals pass.

Farmworker Affairs Committee

- Victoria Sanchez De Alba describes the living conditions and lack of community resources that farm workers face, and how they tie into the FAC's 2021 goals.
- With 17 votes, the FAC committees' goals and mission statement pass.

Decision to Table remaining resolutions

- The Chair announced that approximately 6 more plans remained to review and asked whether the body wanted to finish reviewing the resolutions tonight or wait till next month.
- Motion to table remaining committee and goal plans for next month's meeting by Andrea Reyna. With 16 votes, the motion passes.

8:55 PM Standing Committee and 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.

9:00 PM Regional Director and Legislative Reports -

- Brian Perkins: Due to growing federal supply, California expects to have enough supply for everyone who would like one in 30 days. If anyone requires assistance in scheduling an appointment, please reach out to Congresswoman Jackie Speier's office.

9:10 PM Club Reports - Please send reports to Recording Secretary Elmer Martinez at elmermartinez17@yahoo.com. We will ask for volunteers for 1-minute reports.

- SMC Democracy For America: General meeting, Wednesday, May 5 at 700, "The fight for Civil, Voter and Environmental Justice" Speaker: Senator Josh Becker. Contact asevans2002@aol.com for the Zoom link.

9:15 PM Lightning Round One-minute announcements

- Ashleigh Evans announces that the Democracy for America meeting will take place on May 5 at 7 pm. The topic will be on voter and environmental justice, and State Senator Josh Becker will be the club's guest speaker. Ms. Evans also introduces Susan Raye, who will be the next president of the DFA.
- Alex Melendrez is seeking volunteers for the Housing Committee. Interested members can contact Alex Melendrez and Auros Harmon for more information.

- Chris Sturken is seeking volunteers for the Police Reform Committee, specifically from members who identify in communities especially affected by police brutality.
- Brigid O'Farrell announces David Chiu will be the May Meeting's speaker.
- Alexis Taylor raises her concerns about police brutality, and the recent incident in Chicago. She notes we celebrate great individuals of color, but have to work to reform the system that takes the lives of so many people of color.
- Raymond Larios announces that since the club's rebirth, the SMC Latinx Dems members have been appointed to both city commissions and elected office.
- April Vargas shares her concerns about police brutality and urges members to remain committed to reform the criminal justice system as there have also been incidents in San Mateo County.
- Dan Stegink shares his support of Hene Kelly for Region 6 Director.
- Gregory Lowe shares that DFA held a relevant meeting on the issue of police brutality, which was recorded and available for the public. Mr. Lowe adds that he has now joined a group of individuals advocating in support of H.R. 1 and S 1. The bills have to pass before July, so he welcomes any interested parties to contact him.
- Denton Murphy is interested in volunteers who want to attend SMC Telecommunications Authority's meeting on May 5. Mr. Murphy will be presenting from 2:30-3:45pm on funding sources that could expand broadband access.
- John Woodell also reflects on the recent footage of police tasing civilians, and thanks the committee members who worked on the DCC resolution denouncing the use of tasers.

9:14 PM Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Sandra Lang, seconded by David Burruto.