

San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
October 21, 2021

7:00 PM - Speakers - Melissa R. Michelson and Mark Simon provided their perspective on the results of the Recall election and the impacts of local district elections.

7:40 PM - Call to Order

Adoption of September General Meeting agenda
Approval of August General Meeting minutes

7:45 PM - Executive Board Reports

- Chair Maki thanked committee members for their contributions to the “Stop the Recall” efforts, noting that 66% of San Mateo County voters participated in the election with nearly 78% of voting against the recall.

7:50 PM - Stop the Recall Activities (April Vargas)

- **Flyer Production and Distribution**
- **Flyer Fundraising**
- **Phone Banks**
- **Lawn Signs, New and Infrequent Voters, Voter Registration**
- **Facebook Voter Pledge**
- April Vargas shared that the “Stop the Recall” volunteers distributed 13,000 pieces of literature, visited 12,245 homes, and reached 30,000 voters in the county. With the help of donor contributions, the San Mateo County Central Committee was able to successfully create and mail out bilingual mailers encouraging Democratic voters to oppose the Recall of Governor Newsom.
- Rudy Espinza-Murray built on his 2020 election work --- contacting past volunteers and creating a coalition with multiple central committees in the Bay Area and other progressive organizations, like Swing Left in San Mateo County and beyond to build one large phone bank series. They ran 18 phone banks.

- Jonathan Hull added that there are phonebanking efforts focused on Kern County Non-Party Preference voters on Sundays from 1-4 pm to prepare contact sheets in advance of the 2022 elections. Members are encouraged to contact Jonathan for more details.

8:00 PM - August CADEM EBoard Report (Erin Chazer, Nick Akers)

- Nick Akers shared that www.cadem.org/executiveboard website has detailed meeting documents, and summarized that the CADEM Progressive Caucus has created a standalone political action committee as well as resolutions on contributions from police and oil industries.
- Nick Akers also advised members that the next CADEM EBoard Meeting will take place on November 15-21 and will be open to the public with advanced registration.

8:10 PM - Adjusted Budget (Denton Murphy, Nancy Yarbrough)

- Nancy Yarbrough presented on behalf of the Finance Committee, and shared that a majority of our fundraising this year was intended for the recall elections. The September actual expenses are incomplete due to accounting software problems. The budget will be presented in November with complete October expenses. Lastly, Nancy shared that the Finance Committee will also be working to create more SMC Dems merchandise as another source of fundraising.

8:15 PM - Coalition Building Summit (Harini Krishnan)

- Harini Krishnan was not present for the meeting; the item will be rescheduled.

8:20 PM - **VOTE on Meeting Agreements (Karen Maki)**

- With the edit proposed by Andrea Reyna to remove the assumption of best intentions, Nicole Fernandez motions to pass the meeting agreements and seconded by Andrea Reyna, the meeting agreements passed with 18 votes in support.

8:40 PM - VOTE on Emergency Resolution in Support of Resolution in Support of Ending Fossil Fuel and Law Enforcement Contributions to the California Democratic Party and its Candidates (Nicole Kemeny)

- Resolution author Nicole Kemeny outlined the resolutions' background and hopes that the resolution will follow the leadership of a similar resolution undergoing CADEM review at the upcoming EBoard meeting.
- April Vargas noted that the CADEM resolution language has been edited to reflect that only Fraternal Law Enforcement groups would now be affected.
- Nicole Fernandez motioned to table the discussion until the new resolution language is drafted for a future meeting, seconded by John Woodell, the motion passed with 18 votes.

8: 55 PM - First Reading of Resolution in support of Equitably electrifying all buildings and vehicles in California (Nicole Kemeny)

- Resolution author Nicole Kemeny shared that the Climate Movement is urgently moving the state towards electrification by replacing natural gas powered appliances with electric-powered tools to further limit the State's dependence on natural gas resources.

9:00 PM - First Reading of Resolution in Support of Enhanced Access to Rooftop Solar and Metering (Nicole Kemeny)

- Nicole Kemeny, presenting on behalf of the resolution's author, clarified that metering policies are one of the methods that utilities use to discourage user transitions to rooftop solar.

-

9:05 PM - First Reading - Public Resolution to Promote Public Safety on the Caltrain Corridor (Sandra Lang and Emily Beach)

- Resolution author Sandra Lang shared that more grade-separation projects through increased federal funding will increase safety along the corridor while limiting the amount of cars idling while waiting for trains to pass on major traffic corridors.

9:10 PM - First Reading of Seamless Transit Principles Resolution (Adina Levin)

- Resolution author Adina Levin outlined the principles for a unified transit network throughout the Bay Area region to achieve climate and equity goals in a timely manner. Adina Levin added that meetings related to the resolution are ongoing: both Caltrain Governance Workshops are being hosted on the future of Caltrain service, as well as the Regional Fare Integration Study that will be concluding before the end of the year.

9:15 PM - Standing Committee Reports, Regional Director and Legislative Reports, Club Reports Please send reports to Recording Secretary Elmer Martinez at elmermartinez17@yahoo.com. Please provide information about meetings to calendar@smcdems.org.

- Region 6 Director Hene Kelly alerted members to the November EBoard Meeting as the police and oil resolutions are to be considered. Additionally, the March Endorsement Convention is planned to be held in Los Angeles in 2022. The number of delegates for each club in good standing is still being processed and depends on redistricting, but Director Kelly promised that they are working to give clubs the most number of delegates possible.
- On behalf of Congresswoman Jackie Speier, Brian Perkins announced that the congresswoman is fighting hard for the inclusion of affordable housing funding in the federal Build Back Better bill.
- On behalf of the Latinx Democratic Club, Ray Larios outlined the anti-recall phone bank efforts conducted by the club (18 in total) and provided a special shout-out to all of the contributors who donated to the club's one-year anniversary event.
- On behalf of the Finance Committee, Nancy Yarbrough shared that the members are looking for more SMC Democrat-branded products and will be discussing how to order the products in a cost-effective manner.
- On behalf of the San Mateo County Democracy for America club, Diana Reddy announced that the club will be hosting its meeting on Wednesday, November 3, with guest speaker Sarah Mitchell, CEO of StarVista.
- On behalf of the Farmworkers Affairs Committee, Victoria Sanchez De Alba shared the following report:
 - Great news on the coastside! ALAS has raised money from several foundations and private companies to fund the Farmworker Tech bus and will soon have a bus retrofitted and out to the farms with educational and technical programs for children and adults. This is an "equity express" going out to the agricultural fields. When the

time is right there will be a briefing on the project for the elected officials. It is a pilot project and they might be able to support the next steps.

- Bongard's Nursery closed their inhumane housing and is doing some work on it, but the families got other housing across Route 92 and are still working at the nursery. Bongards was not interested in trying to get funding from the County or becoming permanent landlords.
- Regarding the water quality on the Northcoast, the Resource Conservation District wants to help and to send them water samples so they can quickly run the tests. ALAS in HMB will help with the collection of samples. On the South Coast, the water testing failed because not a single farmworker responded even though Puente in Pescadero did the outreach. So, we will be reaching out to Puente's executive director to see how we can help to get this rolling.
- On behalf of the Peninsula Young Democrats, Elmer Martinez shared that the club recently hosted a collaborative event with the San Francisco and East Bay Young Democrats to hear from young elected officials in the region. In lieu of a general meeting, Elmer also announced that PYD and the Silicon Valley Young Democrats are hosting a social gathering at Das Bierhaus in Mountain View October 28th at 6 pm.

9:30 PM - Lightning Round

- No comments were shared during the Lightning Round.

9:40 PM - Adjournment

- Chair Maki adjourns the meeting with a moment of silence in honor of Alex Melendrez's sister, Sophia Melendrez.