

San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee
Hybrid Meeting Minutes, March 20, 2025

7:00 PM

- Guest Speaker Chad Hanson, PhD, [John Muir Project](#), Director and Principal Ecologist, discussed “Why Biomass Logging Worsens Climate Change and Threatens Communities”

7:30 PM - Call to Order

- Chair Maki requested a change to the agenda, removing a vote on the DSCC E-board members and putting it on the April agenda instead to provide additional time for people to consider their interest in running for the positions. A motion was made and seconded to approve the March General Meeting Agenda as modified by Chair Maki; motion approved with majority vote and no objections.
- Motion made and seconded to approve the February General Meeting Minutes; motion approved with majority vote and no objections.

7:35 PM - E-Board Reports

- Chair Maki announced that this is Alexander Melendrez’s last meeting as he is moving to Los Angeles, leaving an opening for a new District 1 member. The members of District 1, James Coleman, Sandra Land and Gina Papen will convene on Tuesday, March 25th from 11am-1pm to decide whom to recommend. Please contact them if you want to be considered. The District 1 members will bring a recommendation in April and we will vote on that recommendation. If the recommended candidate does not get a majority vote, then the floor will open for other candidates.
- Chair Maki reported that at the April meeting we will vote for 3 DSCC E-board members who will attend the 2-3 DSCC E-board meetings each year (some expense involved). One person will be the chair and then we’ll need one female and one male to serve.
- The SOGIE training will be May 1st, 6-7:30 PM. It will be hybrid. We are still looking for a location.
- James Coleman, Ally Chan, and third person will be working to update our website. It will continue to reside on NationBuilder.
- Chair Maki informed the committee that they will meet once a quarter at IBEW, and the remaining two meetings at Plumbers.
- The E-Board has decided to enforce an attendance provision of the bylaws. We will start taking roll at meetings and ask members who miss three regularly scheduled meetings without sending an alternate or having an excuse within a two-year period to leave the Central Committee. Ex-officios are excluded from this bylaw.

7:45 PM - DNC Report

- Jason Park provided a report on how the DNC is fighting against the MAGA agenda.

7:50 PM - Introducing [ADEM Election Winners](#)

- New ADEM winners Ashleigh Evans, Carter Pohl, Seema Patel, Uma Krishnan, and Paul Bocanegra introduced themselves.

8:00 PM - Response to 2025 Election (April Vargas)

- April Vargas urged everyone to participate in the upcoming Nationwide protest on April 5th. There are protests planned in Colma, Redwood City and San Mateo already.
- April urged people to phonebank to support the Supreme Court race in Wisconsin and Ro Kanna's town halls for flippable CA districts including CD22 that was narrowly lost.
- April thanked the 14 members of the 2025 Task Force from all over San Mateo County, including 2 CSM students and one student from Canada College. The Task Force has had two meetings so far. Please email April if you want to get involved.

8:05 PM – VOTE – [Biomass Resolution](#) (Karen Maki, Ashleigh Evans)

- Chair Maki explained that Ashleigh Evans has re-written the resolution to be more readable and comprehensive and spoke in favor of the resolution.
- Following brief comments, Chair Maki motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Rick Bonilla.
- The resolution was adopted with 23 yes votes, 1 no vote, and 0 abstentions.

8:20 PM - VOTE - [Resolution Protecting the Environment and Mitigating Climate Change](#)

- Rick Bonilla read the resolution and Jon Levinson spoke in favor of supporting the resolution.
- Following brief comments, Rick Bonilla motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by John Levinson.
- The resolution was adopted with 25 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions.

8:25 PM - FIRST READING - [Resolution in Support of Funding for Strong, Safe, and Sustainable Public Transportation](#)

- Noelia Corzo and James Coleman provided a first reading and spoke in favor of the resolution
- Robust discussion followed.

8:38 PM - FIRST READING - [Democratic Resolution in Support of Senate Bill \(SB\) 42, the California Fair Elections Act](#)

- Diana Reddy explained the purpose of the resolution and encouraged support.

8:42 PM - Good-Bye from Alex Melendrez

- Alex Melendrez made a goodbye speech, thanked everyone and encouraged everyone to vote for Uma Krishnan to replace him.
- Diana Reddy encouraged everyone to read Alex's powerful LTE in today's San Mateo Daily Journal.

8:50 PM - Legislative Reports, Club Reports, Director Report

- Francesca Segre, alternate for Congressman Sam Liccardo, provided a legislative update on their town halls. Many constituents want to take action and to get involved in local politics so perhaps the SMC Dems should attend these meetings to make connections. They are holding press conferences and introducing legislation to protect Medicaid and the Department of Education.
- Gina Papan reported that she and Supervisor Canepa are representing SMC on the MTC, working with Senator Wiener, Assemblymembers Papan, Berman and Stefani on transportation issues. She encouraged everyone to read the article in this week's paper from Assemblymember Papan on menopause and how the medical profession is not well educated on this topic. Additionally, there is legislation pending on protecting our water and ensuring it's not being used politically.
- Diana Reddy reported that San Mateo Democracy for America is meeting at 7pm on the first Wednesday in April for in-person for a community conversation at the United Methodist Church

at the corner of Woodside Road and Alameda.

- Diana Reddy reported that she is starting a SURJ group and there are flyers in the room tonight about it. Every Friday from 5-7pm they hold a rally.
- Uma Krishnan, President of the SMC AAPI Alliance, reported their goal of working to mobilize the AAPI elected community including a North County event on March 29th from 10am to 12pm and Antigua Coffee in South San Francisco. More events coming soon.
- Northern Vice Chair Victoria Sanchez De Alba reported for the Farmworkers Affair Committee that next week is Farmworker Awareness Week. Supervisor Mueller and other organizations are holding many activities including a presentation ceremony at the Board of Supervisors. Victoria will email the list of activities and hopes you'll join.

8:55 PM – Lightning Round

- John Woodell reported that he, Jim Lawrence, Elsa Schafer and Rick Bonilla met with Steve Wagstaff requesting the county not prosecute children as adults; one of the children who was prosecuted as an adult and was just 25 recently died in the jail. We need to keep the pressure on this issue.
- Alexis Lewis reported that on Sunday, March 23rd, the San Mateo NAACP is having their 99th annual gala at the Crowne Plaza in Foster City and Supervisor Corzo will be honored. Alexis has a table so please reach out if you would like to attend with her.
- Jon Levinson encouraged everyone on Zoom to attend in person.
- Sandra Lang requested we attempt to find discussion time outside of just a lightning round to discuss important topics that are not specifically agenda items and more public comment and ability to listen and hear the voice of our constituents.
- Riley encouraged everyone to attend the SOGIE training on May 1st
- Elsa Schafer encouraged everyone to phone bank in the three central valley districts where the Republicans barely got elected and many of their constituents are on Medicaid to elevate the voice of Health Access.
- Chair Maki reported on her recent op-ed in the San Mateo Daily Journal about home hardening. She encouraged everyone to contact their legislators and ask for more education money for home hardening.

9:05 PM Adjournment

- Chair Maki adjourned the meeting.