

San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee Hybrid Meeting Minutes - October 17, 2024

7:04 PM - Call to Order

- Motion made and seconded to approve the October General Meeting Agenda; motion approved with majority vote and no objections.
- Motion made and seconded to approve the September General Meeting Minutes; motion approved with majority vote and no objections.
- Motion made and seconded to approve the August General Meeting Minutes; motion approved with majority vote and no objections.

7:05 PM - E-Board Reports

- Chair Maki reported that she had a donation request of \$2500 to the LatinX Dems on the agenda but removed it because they have cancelled their fundraiser. However, she will bring it back when they reschedule. Members should consider whether we want to be more generous with our donations to clubs which can come from our state account that is well funded.
- ADEM elections are coming up and we will have more information in November.
- Chair Maki has been sending out weekly emails to our 5000+ members and supporters listserv asking them to support our local candidates; there was a 30% open rate on the last email. Ally Chan is promoting these on our social media also. If you are a candidate or supporting a ballot measure and are holding an event or want to advertise your campaign, send the information to Karen.
- Chair Maki sent a detailed email about the slate mailers and will provide more background tonight. First, Chair Maki wants to thank the volunteers who helped with this: Jon Woodell who designed the slate mailers and determined the formula for how to send them, the 5 schedulers: Maryann Moise, Alexis Lewis, April Vargas, Nathan Chan and Heather Zimmerman, Rick Bonilla who contacted all the elected officials, and all the people who interviewed and helped with this effort.
- There were 3 significant things that changed in about 2020 the impacts slate mailers: 1) if there is one federal candidate on the slate mailer, the whole mailer has to be paid from our federal account; 2) we started working with the Senate Democrats to process PAC fund donations which we get to keep a small percentage of each donation in our state account; 3) San Mateo County and many cities have started electing candidates by district so it limits the impact of a candidate's reach on city or countywide mailers and thus how much we can charge them.
- We responded to this by increasing the mailer donation amounts for candidates with broad reach (like state senators) and asking for less from candidates with limited reach.
- We also only had one federal candidate who wanted to be on mailer, Evan Low. Congressman Mullin initially did not want to be on the mailer. So, we had one federal mailer with Evan Low which was a good portion of District 3 and a little bit of District 4. Then we split Congressman Mullin's district between slate mailers 1 and 2 (northern and southern versions) and those mailers could be paid for from our state account because they contained no federal candidate.
- We spent a significant amount of time working with the local candidates to federalize their donations.
- We sent out 38,000 mailers to households with two or more voters who voted in at least

two of the last five elections.

- We collected \$28,000 of donations for the slate mailer - \$21,000 in the federal account and \$8000 in the state account. We paid \$4,500 out of our federal account and \$24,000 out of our state account for the first batch of mailers. Then we had to pay another \$12,000 out of our state account to correct the mistake – a total of \$36,000 for the state account.
- The error in mailing occurred because Jon Woodell put a 2 instead of a 5 in the code. So, the one coding error caused all the havoc. All of the proofreaders were in the other district and thus did not catch it. This will be corrected next time.
- A brief discussion ensued about this mistake with the mailers being mixed up and lessons learned to avoid a similar situation in the future.

7:32 PM - Budget Report (Denton Murphy)

- Controller Denton provided a financial update.
- We have about \$16,500 in donations in the past month for our federal account which is significant.
- Total spent on slate mailer was \$41,000 (under budget of \$45K)
- We have \$49K after accounting for all pending donations – we could spend up to \$20K on federal races for this election if we want and still have enough money to support operations
- We have \$43K in the state account. We have made significant donations from our state account from PAC funds to Josh Newman and to Kipp Mueller. Still have about \$60K for state races.
- A brief Q&A started and was paused for the guest speaker.

7:50 PM – Surprise Guest Speaker

- Congressman Kevin Mullin provided a legislative update and answered questions.

8:30 PM – continued budget discussion

- April Vargas suggested we make donations to central valley house candidates Rudy Salas and Adam Grey.
- Jon Levinson made a motion to donate \$20K from our federal account - \$10K each to Rudy Salas and Adam Grey; April Vargas seconded.
 - o The motion passed with 15 yes votes and 0 no votes.
- James Coleman made a motion to authorize the E-board to look at our entire slate of local candidates and decide on how to donate a total of \$3000 from our state account to local candidates who could use the funds. Jon Woodell seconded.
 - o The motion passed with 12 yes votes and 3 no votes.

8:53pm PM - Fundraising and Events Report (Jennifer Kim)

- There will be another BAC in-person phone banking event at IBEW sponsored by South Asians for Harris, the AAPI Alliance, LatinX Dems and the Peninsula Young Democrats, on Saturday October 26th from 1-3pm.
- There will be an election night watch party. Details to come.

8:55 PM - VOTE - Urgent Resolution - [RESOLUTION OFFERING SUPPORT FOR UNITE HERE LOCAL 2 MEMBERS IN THEIR LABOR DISPUTE WITH MARRIOTT, HILTON, HYATT, AND OTHER HOTEL CORPORATIONS](#) (Rick Bonilla)

- On behalf of Rick Bonilla, Heather Zimmerman read the urgent resolution and explained why the resolution was needed.
- Heather Zimmerman moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Sandra Lang.

- o Motion passed with 16 yes votes and 0 no votes

9:00 PM - Election Work Update (April Vargas)

- April Vargas reported that BAC now has available the ability to make phonebank calls anytime by completing a one-hour training. So, if you cannot join an organized phone bank, you can also do it on your own time. The Harris-Walz campaign is making 1.5 million calls a day and wants to push it to 2 million calls a day.
- Congressman Mullin is doing a bus in CD 13.
- If you want to canvas in Reno, NV, there are free buses going every Saturday from Market and Powell streets in San Francisco at 7am. The bus returns Sunday at 8pm. You get a free hotel room and free meals paid by the national campaign. There is also an East Bay bus.
- There will be free hotel rooms for Rudy Salas in CD 22 if want to canvas.
- The yard signs were very successful with over \$4000 in donations. Thank you to the team that organized this.
- The last voter registration event will be this Saturday at the Half Moon Bay Pumpkin Festival.

9:07 PM - VOTE - Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) Training

- Caiti Busch, co-chair of the local Stonewall democrats club, explained the proposed training and that the cost is to pay the trainer for their time in putting the training together and delivering it.
- Please review the [goals](#) and [agenda](#) for the training.
- Following brief Q&A about how to ensure people attend if we pay for the training, Chair Maki decided to move the decision on this to the next regular meeting given the low attendance of membership at this point in the meeting and the inability to get commitments from members at this time.

9:15 PM - Legislative Reports and Club Reports

- Ashleigh Evans reported that the next San Mateo Democracy for meeting will be November 6th on Zoom with discussion of early election results.
- Diana Reddy thanked District 1 for refreshments and advised District 5 they are up next.

8:30 PM - Lightning Round

- No comments.

9:17 PM - Adjournment

- Chair Maki adjourned the meeting.