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

7:00 PM

- Guest Speaker Deputy Carlos Tapia, President, SMC Deputy Sheriff's Association

7:15 PM - Call to Order

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

7:17 PM - E-Board Reports

- Chair Maki reported that the E-Board
    - approved a donation of $500 to the San Mateo NAACP for their March 23rd gala
    - appointed Diana Reddy to be the Resolutions Committee Chair
    - decided to use Slack for communications and Ally sent an email about this and will discuss it more tonight. For now, we will use both Slack and Google Groups.
- Chair Maki requested that members please respond to the poll sent via email about the SOGIE training so we can finalize the date.
- Chair Maki, David Burruto and April Vargas attended Congressman Liccardo's town hall earlier this week and it was very interesting and forthright about the state of things right now. One action he suggested the SMC Dems could do to be helpful is to publicize how Trump and his administration's actions are impacting people. Chair Maki requested everyone think about how we can do this.
- Communications Director Ally Chan reported that she created a Slack channel. She will send a video about how to use it. Ally also sent a poll about the SOGIE training dates and requested everyone please respond as soon as possible.
- April Vargas read a letter of appreciation that the Central Committee sent to Carolyn Hoskins, Founder of the Domini Hoskins Black History Museum, in honor of Black History Month and in gratitude for all the support she has provided to the SMC Dems.
    - https://hoskinsblackhistorymuseum.org/

7:25 PM - Response to 2025 Election (April Vargas)

- April Vargas shared two comments from Jelani Cobb: 1) you need to keep doing the work no matter for how long until you reach a breakthrough moment, and it could be awhile but we will get there. 2) There is not a 1:1 ratio of effort to result – sometimes we are doing a lot of work for a long time and it's hard to see where it's going but it is making an impact.
- Working with the new task force on how to collect stories about the impact of Trump's administration and elevate them. The Task Force has 5 committed members and will start scheduling meetings within the next week.

- April will post in the chat and send to the SMC Dems listserv and the Slack channel four opportunities for you to get involved right now through various volunteer opportunities

7:30 PM - First Reading - Biomass Resolution (Karen Maki)

- Chair Maki, who is active in the Sierra Club, conducted a first reading of a resolution she is bringing forward to stop burning forest biomass. There are two wood pellet plants being planned in the Sierras that would essentially pull trees from the entire Sierra's, make them into wood pellets and ship them to Asia for electricity generation, which is not a reasonable climate solution. Chair Maki will bring a guest speaker next month to provide more information.

7:35 PM - Fundraising and Events Report (Jennifer Kim)

- Jennifer Kim reported on upcoming events including an event at the annual convention in May, our annual summer fundraiser, and our first event of the year, a Community Hour next Thursday from 4:30-6pm hosted by the Domini Hoskins Black History Museum.

7:37 PM - VOTE - URGENT - Resolution to Stop the Trump-Musk Coup

- Diana Reddy and Ashleigh Evans brought forward this resolution as an action-oriented way to respond to what is happening on the national level. This resolution was brought to the Santa Clara Central Committee who adopted it and asked us to do the same.
- Ashleigh Evans made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mark Nagales.
- After discussion, the resolution was adopted with 23 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions.

7:45 PM - VOTE - Proposal to Amend Bylaws

- See Explanation
- Victoria Sanchez De Alba explained the purpose of the proposed bylaw change to prevent elected central committee members (not ex-officio's or alternates) from endorsing non-Democratic candidates in nonpartisan races. As elected Democrats, we must support and elect other Democrats while Trump voter support is rising around us and affecting our communities.
- Maryann Moise explained the intent of this bylaw change is to ensure our actions as elected democratic representatives reflect the mission and commitment of our party.
- Tonight is a straw poll to see if there is support to move this forward to the bylaws committee for consideration and drafting.
- After robust discussion Chair Maki took a vote on whether to move this question to the bylaws committee for exploration. The proposal will move forward to bylaws for further discussion with a vote of 19 yes, 9 no and 0 abstention.

8:30 PM - First Reading - Resolution - Protecting the Environment and Mitigating Climate Change

- Jon Levinson urged support and discussed the importance of acting urgently on this subject.

8:33 PM - VOTE - URGENT - Resolution to Urge Sheriff Christina Corpus to Resign

- Diana Reddy spoke about the importance of this resolution given costs already incurred to date on this subject. Measure A costs the county $4M. Millions more will be spent on the lawsuits of illegally fired people and staff.
- Diana Reddy motioned to support the resolution, Gina Papan seconded.
- The Resolution passed with 23 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention.

8:37 PM - Legislative Reports, Club Reports, Director Report

- Diana Reddy reported that Democracy for America will have Bruce Hahn as a guest speaker on March 4th at 7pm. He was one of the organizers of the Palo Alto Tesla demonstration.
- Diana Reddy reported that she is a convener for the ADEM elections which are happening on Saturday from 10am to 2pm at IBEW.
- Elmer Martinez Saballos provided a report from Congressmember Mullin's office about what's been happening in DC. Congressmember Mullin:
    - brought a resolution supporting public education in the wake of efforts to undermine and eliminate the Department of Education.
    - Signed onto a letter addressed to the Treasury Secretary demanding to know what access Elon Musk has to personal data and the federal payment system
    - Locally he is helping cities and nonprofits that rely on federal grants by providing up to date information on all presidential executive actions including daily coordination call with fellow house Democrats
    - Co-chairing the Task Force on Strengthening Democracy
- Congressmember Mullin is having his annual St. Patrick's Day fundraiser on March 18th and hopes everyone will attend.
- Gina Papen encouraged everyone to Support Measure A and speak to members of your community about it.

8:45 PM – VOTE – 2025 Budget Approval

- Denton Murphy presented the 2025 budget which reflects a normal drop off from a general election year to an off-election cycle.
- Dues and Club charters remain constant
- Aspiring to $20K for fundraising.
- Anticipate $15K income from PAC funds.
- Included a modest amount for SWAG.
- Our largest expense is rent but we are hoping for a small reduction in cost from downsizing.
- We've budgeted $1000 for online advertising and in past years haven't spent any of it so he would encourage us to look at how to take advantage of this to get our message out.
- There is $2500 to support civic organizations which comes from the state account which we have limited ways to spend those funds.
- Denton highlighted that there is room in the budget for creativity in organizing and getting our budget out.

- There is now an exclusive controller email for expenses/reimbursement requests: smcdemcontroller@gmail.com
- Denton Murphy made a motion to approve the budget; seconded by Gina Papan.
- The 2025 Budget was accepted with 24 yes votes, 0 no and 0 abstentions.

8:53 PM – Lightning Round

- Eric Siegel reported that the Commonwealth Club of California has a couple of relevant presentations on March 4th, about how to have an argument you've been avoiding. It's an experiential exercise with a trainer. On Tuesday March 11th, Dr. Pierre is coming to talk about conspiracy theories and false beliefs, a repeat of a talk from a few years ago that was wonderful. There is a free audio recording of these presentations that comes out about a week after but you are encouraged to attend in person.
- Alexis Lewis reminded everyone that there is one week left in Black History Month and encouraged everyone to go to the Domini Hoskins Black History Museum in Redwood City. The NAACP is having their 99th gala on March 23rd from 5-8pm. Alexis lewis has a table so if you are interested in attending please reach out. Alexis also thanked the party for donating to the gala.
- Sandra Lang reported that on February 25th there will be an appeal to call your legislators regarding Medicaid and Social Security.
- Elsa Schafer on behalf of Fixin' SMC thanked the party for their donation of $500 to support their efforts this year. Elsa also thanked the NAACP for making Fixin' SMC an honorary awardee at the gala. Finally, anything you can do to urge your friends in red states to call their senators would be helpful.
- Riley requested that anyone interested in the SOGIE training please respond ASAP to the poll about dates so that the training can be booked.

9:00 PM Adjournment

- Chair Maki adjourned the meeting