

San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee
Hybrid Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2023

7:00 PM - Call to Order

Adoption of June General Meeting Agenda

- Motion made by John Woodell and seconded by Sandra Lang to approve the June General Meeting Agenda; motion approved with majority vote and no objections.

Approval of April General Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Southern Vice Chair Diana Reddy and seconded by Mary Ann Moise to approve the April General Meeting Minutes; motion approved with majority vote and no objections.

7:09 PM - E-Board Reports

- Chair's Report
 - Chair Maki reported that the SMCDCC Convention luncheon in LA was well-attended and raised \$4K
 - CADEM will hold another convention in November in Sacramento. SMCDems will host another luncheon at the convention.
 - SMC Dems will host an event on August 12th - details coming soon
- Vice Chairs Report
 - Northern Vice Chair Victoria Sanchez De Alba reported that she and Southern Vice Chair Diana Reddy are working with chairs of all the clubs to renew their charters with Chelsea Bonini.
 - The Vice Chairs will be reaching out to the clubs for involvement in a multicultural picnic. Southern Vice Chair Diana Reddy noted that she is excited about this event because our group is not monolithic, and this will be an opportunity for learning and sharing about our diversity.
 - The Farmworker Affairs Committee summit in Half Moon Bay on May 20th was a huge success.
 - 125+ people attended including community leaders and local farmworkers.
 - Broad range of topics discussed including housing, healthcare and clean water.
 - Vice Chair Victoria Sanchez De Alba thanked April Vargas who was instrumental in the organization of the summit and asked April to say a few words.
 - April Vargas reported that:
 - At least 10 people asked questions.
 - There was interpretation in both Spanish and Mandarin.

- They received \$1400 in donations to hold the event and are very grateful for the community support to make this event happen.
- The goal of the summit was for elected officials to hear directly from farmworkers about their needs and make a direct connection.
- Thanked the staff of ALAS for their tremendous assistance.
- Southern Vice Chair Diana Reddy reported that the California Democratic Convention was a great success and that she brought back some posters back to share with the group.

7:30 PM - Speaker - Former Congresswoman Jackie Speier

- Ashleigh Evans introduced Jackie Speier
- Ms. Speier discussed her creation of the Jackie Speier Foundation for Women and Children which will address poverty, lack of housing and childcare, and domestic violence. The goal of Jackie Speier Foundation is to help uplift children and women living in one of the nation's wealthiest counties from poverty.
- The Jackie Speier Foundation is hosting a conference on August 18th called San Mateo Rising – Ending Childhood Poverty. The keynote speaker is Matthew Desmond, author of the book "Poverty, By America."
- Ms. Speier also discussed her effort to create a diaper bank with the help of an SMC Supervisor.
- A brief Q&A session followed prepared remarks.
- What can the SMCDCC do to help the efforts of the foundation?
 - Develop a campaign about feeding children and/or exposing poverty;
 - Help fundraise;
 - Organize a SNAP challenge where participants live on no more than \$6 dollars a day for a week.

8pm PM - Election Work

- Chair Maki reported that we need to build up our election volunteer base right now so that we are ready for the 2024 election.
- Chair Maki requested that anyone interested in volunteering email her.
- [Plan](#), Volunteer [here](#) or see the website [volunteer page](#).
- Mark Klein reported on voter registration efforts:
 - Mark has done this work for many years and they are looking for volunteers to assist. The focus is local events like art and wine festivals and popular shopping centers.
 - There is training for those who are new; this is nonpartisan registration.
 - Volunteer activities/shifts: set up of tent/table, event stint 2-3 hours, take down on Sunday.
 - Always in need of Spanish and Chinese speakers
 - Upcoming events:
 - Burlingame on the Avenue - August 19/20
 - Foster City Summer Days – August 19/20
 - Millbrae on Labor Day weekend – September 2/3
 - San Carlos Laurel Street event – October 7/8

- Half Moon Bay Pumpkin Festival – October 14/15 (organized by April Vargas)
- Chair Maki also mentioned that we are looking for people to host house parties so please contact karen@karenmaki.com you are able to do this.

8:05 PM - Renewal by July 20th Central Committee Meeting

- Chair Maki reported that it is time for annual membership renewal.
- Members-\$70, alternates-\$35, and Associates-\$25
- Can renew online [here](#) or send a check to:
San Mateo County Democratic Party, 63 Bovet Rd, #137, San Mateo, CA 94402.
- Clubs rechartering should contact Chelsea.Bonini@gmail.com.
- Before the next meeting in July, everyone needs to pay their dues.

8:07 PM - VOTE - CADEM E-Board Delegate Election

- Chair Maki reported that per our bylaws, we need to elect 2 E-Board representatives.
- Chair Maki stated that we have 2 volunteers for these roles:
 - Male representative - Alex Melendrez
 - Female Representative - Andrea Reyna (but will probably miss first session).
- It was noted that this is an expensive role as it requires travel to various meetings all over the state. Chair Maki reported that there are ~\$1000 of committee funds available to cover some minor travel expenses for the E-Board delegates but there will still be significant expense incurred by the delegates.
- Seeing no other volunteers, John Woodell motioned to elect, per Chair Maki proposal, Alex Melendrez and Andrea Reyna to serve as the new E-Board delegates; second by Northern Vice Chair
 - Motion approved with a majority vote: 18 yes.

8:10 PM - First Reading - San Mateo County Democratic Party Supports Public Housing Resolution

- Gladwyn D'Souza conducted a first reading of a proposed resolution noting that the 3 biggest causes of poverty are housing, transportation and utilities.
- There was a brief Q&A
- This resolution will be brought to the next meeting for a vote.
- Members and delegates should review the resolution and contact Gladwyn with suggested changes.

8:21 PM - VOTE - Resolution to Ban Level 3 and 4 Bio Labs

- Gladwyn D'Souza introduced the resolution.
- Steve Goodale was provided 10 minutes to present his support for the resolution. Mr. Goodale is a Professor of game design and development, Co-founder of the Bay Area Biosafety (BABS) working group of the Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter, and a contributor and MC for the webinar "Planning for Life Sciences

Development in Bay Area Communities: A Webinar for Municipal Leaders & Planners." BABS has spent the past two years studying this industry, from Anthrax to Zoonotic Transmission and everything in between.

- Christine Shirilla, Manager of Public Policy, Bay Area, Biocom, was provided 10 minutes to discuss her opposition to the resolution.
- There was 15 minutes of Q&A with each person allowed 1 minute to speak. Mr. Goodale and Ms. Shirilla were allowed to briefly answer questions posed to them.
- Rick Bonilla motioned to postpone a vote on the resolution at this time and send the resolution back to the Resolution Committee for further analysis and information given the complexity of the issues and the number of unanswered remaining questions; second by Sandra Lang.
 - Gina Papen reported on behalf of the Resolution Committee that the committee did not make a decision prior to the meeting because they believed they needed additional information/facts but that sending it back to the committee would not be helpful.
 - After a brief discussion that this option was not viable, Rick Bonilla withdrew his motion.
- Rick Bonilla motioned to oppose the resolution Banning Level 3 and Level 4 Biosafety Lab; second by Gina Papen. Sandra Lang called the question.
 - Motion to oppose the resolution approved with a majority vote:
 - 16 yes, 1 no, 3 abstentions

9:18 PM - Vote – URGENT - Resolution in Support of AB 28: Funding Evidence-Based Gun Violence Prevention Programs (Rudy Espinosa Murray) $\frac{2}{3}$ vote needed to pass.

- Nancy Goodban introduced and read the resolution
- Ashleigh Evans motioned to support the resolution; second by Rick Bonilla
 - Motion approved with a 2/3 majority vote: 20 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention

9:21 PM - Standing Committee Reports, Regional Director and Legislative Reports, Club Reports Please send reports to Recording Secretary Heather Zimmerman at heathermzimmerman@gmail.com. Please provide information about meetings to calendar@smcdems.org.

- Robby Bancroft for Assemblymember Marc Berman reported that for the first time since 2016, the Assemblymember has serious competition for reelection. The Mayor of Palo Alto, Lydia Kou, is challenging the Assemblymember in 2024. He plans to ramp up campaign activities in the fall and winter and will be sure to let everyone know what's going on. Folks can endorse or contribute on his website: www.voteberman.com
- Ashleigh Evans reported that the next Democracy for America meeting Friday, July 14th at 6pm. The meeting is a Midsummer Night potluck at Diana Reddy's

home. Ashleigh Evans also thanked Steve Booker for hosting the meeting at IBEW.

9:23 PM - Lightning Round

- Jon Levinson thanked Steve Booker for the meeting space and Chair Maki for organizing a successful hybrid meeting.
- Nancy Goodban reported that FIXIN' San Mateo County is hosting its first coast side event on Wednesday, August 16th at 4:30pm at the Half Moon Bay Brewing Company. RSVP at <https://fixinsmc.org/summer2023>
- Alexis Lewis reported that the SMC NAACP is hosting its 2nd annual Juneteenth event this Saturday, June 17th at the Foster City Recreation Center from 1-4pm.
- Dorene Kastelman reported the following events for the Jewish Democratic Club of Silicon Valley (JDCSV):
 - Fundraiser for Dan Kalb for State Senate: Saturday, June 17, 10:30am-12:30pm at 10 Sharon Court, Menlo Park. dankalb.net
 - Fundraiser for Laura Friedman for Congress: Friday, June 23rd 6-8pm, at home of Rich Gordon and Denny McShane (address upon RSVP); rsvpforlaurafriedman@gmail.com
 - The first San Clara County Multicultural Festival on Sunday, August 13th from 2-5pm at West Valley College in Saratoga. More information available here: <https://jdcsv.com/event-5321611?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=8/25/2023>
- Chair Maki thanked John Woodell for his help with setting up the hybrid meeting, and Steve Booker for hosting the meeting at the IBEW.
- Rich Hedges reported that San Mateo had just received an application for Montessori day school in San Mateo.

9:30 PM - Adjournment

- Ashleigh Evans moved to adjourn and Chair Maki adjourned the meeting.