
DNC Re-Kapp: Winter Meeting 2022

Michael Kapp, DNC Member <michael@michaelkapp.com>
To: Michael Kapp <mdkapp@gmail.com>

Sun, Mar 13, 2022 at 2:09 PM



Michael --

The Democratic National Committee met for its 2022 Winter Meeting from March 10 - 12, 2022 at the Washington Hilton in Washington, DC.

All attendees were required to be fully vaccinated, provide proof of vaccination, and wear a mask that conforms to CDC guidelines. [Click here for a complete list of COVID requirements.](#)

[Here was the schedule for the DNC meeting.](#)

[Here are all the agendas for the DNC Caucuses and Councils.](#) This was the DNC's regular organizational meeting, featuring elections for all Caucuses and Councils.

Thursday, March 10, 2022: DNC Youth Council, DNC Credentials Committee, DNC Black Caucus, President Biden visit

DNC Youth Council



David Atkins (CA), Outgoing Chair Michael Kapp (CA), Chair Andre Treiber (TX), Vice Chair Candice Kerestan (DA), Howard Chou (CO)

The DNC Youth Council met in-person for the first time since August 2019. (We also virtually met during the 2020 National Convention; [Day One](#) and [Day Two](#) may be seen here.)

This was my last meeting as Youth Council Chair. Here's a selection of what I said:

"I am proud that, while I have served as your Chair, whenever the Youth Council held a meeting, we heard from activists our age who are doing incredible work organizing for change both inside and outside this party. I made a conscious, concerted effort to ensure that speakers at the Youth Council came from diverse communities, and they shared their unique experiences with us.

Throughout the last five years, aside from me, we didn't have a single straight white male speaker -- at least, until the National Convention. After all, who am I to deny speaking time to Beto O'Rourke or Bernie Sanders?

While I am not running again, I promise to continue supporting the Youth Council, our new officers, and each of you as we work together to organize and train young Democrats to be organizers and leaders in their communities and our Party."

If you'd like a full copy of my Chair's Report, please let me know.

After my report, DNC Chair Jaime Harrison spoke. In addition to sharing information about DNC programs and providing examples of young people who have set an inspiring example for all of us, Chair Harrison said the following:

"I want to say a few words about our Chair and my friend, Michael Kapp. I've known Michael for many years, and there are few who are as hard-working as he is. As Chair, Michael has provided tremendous leadership for this Council. Michael embodies the values of the Democratic Party and he always tries to do the right thing. While he's not running for re-election [today], he still has so much energy and vigor and vision. You know...when I think about folks who each and every day get up and try to do the right thing, I think about Michael Kapp. Sometimes it's hard, sometimes it's against the political grain, but still he holds out and tries to do the right thing. And for that, I have tremendous respect for you, Michael. And tremendous love for you. Because you epitomize what we should all do each and every day: just try to do the right thing. And I know that there is no love that he has more, than the love he has had for this Council. Being the voice for young people in this Party, and across this country. So I want to thank you for everything you have done, everything that you will continue to do because I know you're not going anywhere -- you're still going to be involved in these issues, and it's real important that we have you."



DNC Chair Jaime Harrison speaks at the DNC Youth Council

Our main item of business was elections for Chair and Vice Chair. Both elections were contested, and Andre Treiber (TX) and Candice Kerestan (Chair, Democrats Abroad) were elected. Congratulations to both -- I know the Youth Council is in good hands.

DNC Credentials Committee

The DNC Credentials Committee met for the first time this term. This is my second term on the Credentials Committee, and it was the first for fellow

Californians Melahat Rafiei and Christine Pelosi. There was no new business, although we heard a report about ongoing issues related to the Florida Democratic Party. Instead, DNC counsel used this meeting as an opportunity to explain the rules and procedure of the committee.



Melahat Rafiei (CA) and I take a selfie, and are secretly photographed by Christine Pelosi (CA)

DNC Black Caucus

While not a member, I visited the Black Caucus to watch and learn, and to hear from Chair Harrison and new Black DNC Members and State Party Chairs from around the nation.



Sean Dugar (CA) introduces himself at the Black Caucus as U.S. Senator and DNC Vice Chair Tammy Duckworth applauds

President Biden visit

The DNC convened for a special visit from President Joe Biden ([watch his speech here](#).) Prior to his speech, all DNC Officers and Caucus/Council Chairs had the special honor of getting their picture taken with the President.

When it was my turn for a picture, I was introduced to President Biden as the outgoing Chair of the Youth Council -- to which the President responded, "Well of course he's Youth Council, just look at him!" (That helped blunt the harsh impact of the many "Michael Kapp is old now" jokes that the California delegation seemed very fond of lately.) I thanked the President for continuing to pause student loan payments, to which he responded "Of course..."

Friday, March 11, 2022: DNC Environmental and Climate Crisis Council, DNC Western States Caucus

DNC Environmental and Climate Crisis Council

On Friday, I attended the Climate Council as a voting member and original co-sponsor. Aside from an excellent program and set of speeches, the main item of business was officer elections. I am pleased with the unanimous election results, which was a testament to the Climate Council's success in their two and a half years of existence.



Dr. Allison Stephens (NV), Secretary of the Council, speaks, with Chair Michelle Deatrick (MI) and Vice Chair David Green (WA)

DNC Western States Regional Caucus

The DNC has four regions and, living in California, I am a member of the Western Caucus. The Western Caucus includes 16 states, territories, and Democrats Abroad.

In addition to speeches, the main item of business was officer elections. Chair Tina Podlowski (WA) and Secretary Sharon Mast (WA) were the only incumbents running for re-election. Vice Chair Keith Umemoto (CA) did not run

for re-election, and I hope all Californians join me in thanking him for his dedicated leadership.

Most seats were uncontested, except for Vice Chair (female) and the at-large positions. The winning candidates were:

Chair: Tina Podlowski (WA)

Vice Chair (male): Michael Kapp (CA)

Vice Chair (female): Debbie Nez Manuel (AZ)

Secretary: Sharon Mast (WA)

Treasurer: Howard Chou (CO)

Executive Committee Representative: Garry Shay (CA)

Executive Committee Representative: Christine Pelosi (CA)

Executive Committee Representative: Luis Heredia (AZ)

Executive Committee Representative: Artie Blanco (NV)

At-large: Trish Ruiz (NM)

At-large: Michael White (NMI)

At-large: Katie Solon (Democrats Abroad)

Sean Dugar (CA) was also appointed by the Chair to an ad hoc board position focused on voter protection. (The Caucus plans to amend the bylaws to make this a permanent elected position.) A special congratulations to Sean and our fellow Californians Christine Pelosi and Garry Shay on their re-elections to the DNC Executive Committee!

I ran for Vice Chair on a platform of transparency, accessibility, organizing, diversity and inclusion, and building community. I've been supporting logistics and communications for the Western Caucus since 2016, hosted "DNC 101s" for dozens of new DNC Members, and worked to expand Party infrastructure and support to State Parties. I'm grateful for the unanimous support of the Caucus and the California delegation. While I'm no longer a Young Democrat, I am now the youngest-ever Chair or Vice Chair of the DNC Western Caucus, and I look forward to tackling the work ahead!



Speaking at the Western Caucus after my election

Saturday, March 12, 2022: DNC Executive Committee, General Session, Vice President Harris visit

DNC Executive Committee

[Here was the agenda for the Executive Committee.](#) Aside from a report on redistricting and speeches, no significant business was conducted.



Garry Shay (CA) looks on as Chair Harrison opens the meeting

General Session

[Here was the agenda for General Session.](#)

The DNC had a special, last minute appearance from Vice President Kamala Harris, who had just returned from a diplomatic mission from Poland related to

Russia's invasion of Ukraine. California DNC Members had a few moments and a group photo with the Vice President. As an outgoing Council Chair, I also had the opportunity to get a picture with the Vice President and Second Gentleman - however, I didn't know that I would also have a private minute to speak with her. I told Vice President Harris how proud we are of her in California, and that not a single CDP or LACDP meeting goes by that someone isn't wearing her shirt or using her zoom background. She was visibly touched. We talked about the importance of engaging young people in the political process, and we agreed that we have to lift up and listen to the voices of young people. I also thanked her for continuing to speak in support of maintaining the pause on student loan payments.

Also at General Session, the DNC considered and approved two amendments to the Charter and Bylaws. [Those amendments can be found here.](#) While I had initial concerns, I thank DNC staff for providing additional clarity.



With Congresswoman and DNC Member Barbara Lee (CA) at General Session

The DNC also approved 42 resolutions. [The list of resolutions can be found here.](#) I was proud to co-sponsor a number of resolutions at this meeting. For transparency, I co-sponsored the following resolutions:

- Resolution Supporting President Biden's Leadership of our Economic Recovery
- Resolution Supporting the Nomination of a Highly-Qualified Black Woman to the U.S. Supreme Court
- Resolution in Support of President Biden Standing Strong with Our Allies in the Face of Russian Aggression
- Resolution On The Republican National Committee's Defense Of January 6 Insurrectionists
- Resolution Reaffirming the Democratic Party's Declaration That Black Lives Matter
- Resolution in Support of Making College Affordable

- Resolution Pertaining to the Swift Passage of Our Build Back Better Agenda
- Resolution Pertaining to the Afghan People
- Resolution Pertaining to the Corporate Influence in Elections and Government
- Resolution Pertaining to the COP26 and Climate Change
- Resolution Pertaining to Commission to Study U.S. Reparations
- Resolution Pertaining to Anti-Asian Hate
- Resolution Pertaining to Executive Order 9066 on the 80th Anniversary
- Resolution Pertaining to Immigration Reform
- Resolution Denouncing Misogyny and Demanding Equity for Women
- Resolution Pertaining to Indigenous Land & Original Steward

Acknowledgement

- Resolution Pertaining to Social Security 2100 Act
- Resolution Pertaining to Puerto Rico
- Resolution Pertaining to the DNC's Commitment to End Homelessness
- Resolution Pertaining to Honoring Essential Workers During the Covid-19 Pandemic
- Resolution Pertaining to Reaffirming Support for Workers, Labor Unions, and the PRO Act
- Resolution Pertaining to Solidarity with Ukrainian Americans
- Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of Senator Harry Reid
- Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of Senator Max Cleland
- Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of Sidney Poitier
- Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of Archbishop Desmond Tutu

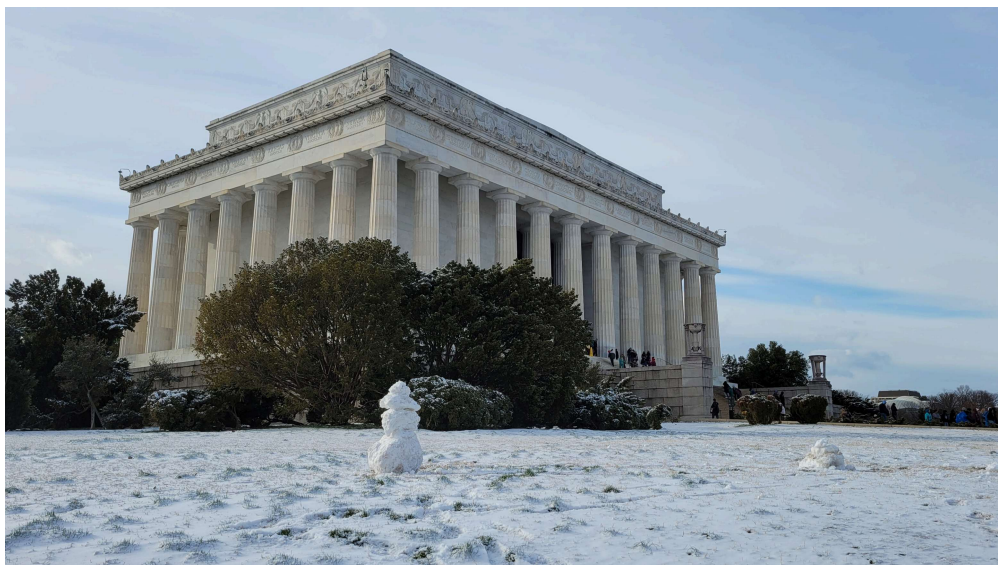
General session was adjourned after an inspiring closing speech by Chair Harrison. I project that the next meeting of the DNC will be in the late summer.

Overall, I thought that this in-person meeting was fruitful and long overdue, and sets us up for a productive remainder of the term. The DNC's COVID policies were enforced and no positive COVID tests were reported. While many new DNC Members have been making an impact since their election in 2020, this meeting was especially important for new DNC Members who haven't until now had the opportunity of an in-person meeting. Inside and outside official meetings, I spent a lot of time organizing, meeting new people, and introducing new DNC Members to DNC Officers and their fellow members. I'm grateful for the leadership of Chair Jaime Harrison, Secretary Jason Rae, and DNC staff for hosting this in-person meeting, and I look forward to the next one!



In a Secretary Sandwich, with DNC Secretary Jason Rae and CDP Secretary Melahat Rafiei

Unfortunately, a snowstorm resulted in the cancellation of my flight, but a group of DNC Members used this unexpected free time in our nation's capitol to see the National Monuments under freshly-fallen snow.





If you have any questions or just want to talk about the DNC, you can always reach me by [email](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or text/call me at (510) 717-8260.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and the California Democratic Party.

Your ally in activism,

Michael Kapp

Member, Democratic National Committee

Vice Chair, DNC Western States Regional Caucus

<http://www.michaelkapp.com/>

Michael Kapp for DNC · 3731 Wilshire Blvd, Suite #514, Los Angeles, CA 90010, United States

This email was sent to mdkapp@gmail.com. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

You can also keep up with Michael Kapp, DNC Member on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

Created with [NationBuilder](#), software for leaders.