

**San Mateo County**  
**Democratic Central Committee**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
**February 21, 2019**

**Prior to Meeting**

- At 7:31pm, Chair called order for the Speaker Series speaker. Lilli Rey of Bay Area Border Relief and Belinda Arriaga, of Ayudando Latinos a Soñar, gave a talk about Bay Area Border Relief and the refuge crisis on the southern border.
  - Jon Levinson passed a hat and asked for donations.
  - Question: 900 people per day are attempting to cross?
  - Answer: At McAllen Center, this is the number. It is high. In Tijuana, the number is 100 per day. The conditions in Tijuana are eroding. Refugees are moving themselves to South Texas. If you cross in South Texas and you cross the river, you turn yourself into custody to be processed for asylum. They are on US land. At Tijuana, they are not on US soil so they don't have to be given an asylum hearing. So refugees are choosing to locate to Texas. Single people are being turned away. So families are coming. They also have to pay a "coyote" approximately \$10K-\$15K to be brought to the border.
  - Q: Can a child ask for asylum alone?
  - A: They are put into a facility. 95% of these children have a relative but are not being released to the family. They are holding them until they are 18.
  - Q: Kids were asked to make drawings. Can you talk about that? Also, the private prisons that are making money on children.
  - A: If 11 years old or older, they are caged separate from parents. They called it a "perera" or dog cage. Dads and and moms are also separated from kids and from each other. Calling for investigations. Flores Agreement attempts to address humanitarian issues but it's not being followed. We tried to take gifts and they denied the 1,500 gifts we brought.
  - Q: Can you talk about the conditions in home countries?
  - A: It's like the Godfather. It's a mob situation. Businesses are being asked to give money for protection. Conditions are terrible. Imagine trying to make this journey with a 2 year old child?
- At 7:59pm, Chair provided California Democratic Party Vice Chair Daraka Larimore-Hall with an opportunity to address the committee regarding his

candidacy for Chair of the California Democratic Party. He spoke to the committee for several minutes and took questions.

- Q: Who did you vote for Chair in 2017?
- A: Bauman. I was considering running. Decided against running when the nurses endorsed Kimberly Ellis.
- Q: Fiscal issues. Raising money for the party is a big issue. How are you raising money for your campaign?
- A: We have 3 things we have to balance. Moral obligation to make real progress on getting big money out of politics. We can't only talk about it. But we can't disarm ourselves. We have to be able to raise. We don't have the charisma of Bernie Sanders. We have to raise for boring candidates in boring races. With Janus decision, our labor partners don't have the same opportunity to give as before. We don't take from charter, tobacco, oil, others. We need to engage the legislature for a comprehensive plan to fix the problem. It has to be deliberate and still live up to our values.
- April Vargas Q: Have you checked out the CDP website lately? I went on there to find some issues for a member of our local community college and I was surprised to see Kamala Harris still listed as California AG and Gov. Brown. And stuff about 2014. Is there a staffing issue? This is a nuts and bolts issue. How do we improve communication?
- A: We need resources. It's not a well organized site. We need a separate tool for local activists. You should be able to put in your address and it would give you your local contacts, county party info, other resources, etc. We need an encyclopedic website. And another activist resource. A theme of my campaign is that when someone gets pissed and wants to get involved, how do we get that person involved immediately.
- Larimore-Hall handed out endorsement cards and donation envelopes.
- Chair: Other candidates will be invited. March 6, Rusty Hicks is going to be in San Mateo around Noon. Kimberly Ellis will be in Pacifica on Thursday, March 7. The event is \$50/ticket. Diana Reddy is offering a scholarship to send someone to attend the Ellis fundraiser. Professional surfer Bianca Valenti will also be at the event.

A short recess was called.

### **Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda & Approval of Minutes**

- The call to order occurred at 8:20pm by Committee Chair, Nicole Fernandez.
- The February, 2019 meeting agenda was adopted.
- The January, 2019 meeting minutes were approved with the stated modifications.
- New visitors were asked to speak.
  - Michelle Kleytman spoke about coming to be involved. 17 years old. Senior in high school. Intern on Josh Becker's campaign. March 3 campaign kickoff event.

- Dylan Martinez from College of San Mateo Dems. His first meeting.
- Brigid O'Farrell introduced Belinda Arriaga. She is now Brigid's first alternate.
- Pat Murray introduced herself. South San Francisco School Board member. Erin Chazer's mom.
- Javier Cruz. His first visit. College of San Mateo. PoliSci major. President CSM Dems.
- Mike Dunham. ADEM from progressive slate in AD22.
- Carol Palacio here to see Bay Area Border Relief.
- Ted McKinnon from the ADEM progressive slate in AD22.
- Chair asked to sign up for newsletter and to be an Associate. Great way to get involved.
- She also asked people to check in on social media.

## **Committee Assignments Discussion**

- Chair updated committee on assignments.
- Survey was sent out. If you did or didn't fill it out, you were assigned.
- We have a new Voter Registration Committee. Liaison is April Vargas.
- Program Committee: Speaker series. Brigid O'Farrell is the chair. Some independent events will be planned not to take place at a General Meeting, but stand alone events.
- Welcoming Committee. Sharrie Kriger is chair. People come and don't know what to do. Want to have an inviting atmosphere. Central Committee 101. How we're connected to the bigger Dem community.
- Communications & Technology will still be chaired by Mitchell Oster.
- Events and Development Committee. Fundraising. Raise money. Be active. How to have a presence in the community.
- Endorsements Committee. Brigid O'Farrell and Karen Maki are co-chairs.
- Bylaws Committee will still be chaired by Cliff Robbins.
- Resolutions Committee chaired by David Burruto.
- Elections Integrity chaired by Brent Turner.
- New Finance Committee. Monitor finances and budgets. Nancy Yarbrough is chair, with some assistance from TJ Glauthier.
- Chair: Thank you for trusting me to lead this group.
- Sabrina Brennan: I'm doing voter registration with my club. Can I be switched to the Bylaws Committee? Chair: We can discuss committee assignments.
- Events for 2019
  - Activists Fair. Jackie Speier has asked us to spearhead an event bringing together elected officials, partner organizations. Swing Left, Indivisible, and other similar groups. It's a chance to network together. April Vargas is leading the effort.

- Dems Lead Event. It will be a sort of Campaign 101. How to be a candidate. Recruiting volunteers. Self care. The Dems endorsement process. April Vargas also leading that.
- Central Committee 101. Sharrie Kriger is chairing this event committee.
- Pub Quiz and other fun smaller events.
- Robust and expanded voter registration efforts.
- Major fundraiser in fall around presidential campaign.
- ADEMS Wrap-Up
  - The events were very well run and lots of people were involved. If you want to find out who won, check CADEM.org website for results.
- Upcoming dates to note:
  - CDP Convention 2019, May 31-June 2, 2019, San Francisco, Moscone Center.
  - Need proxy? Talk to Chair. CDP is looking for volunteers. Check website.

## **Executive Board Reports**

Chair (Nicole Fernandez):

- No additional report.

Northern Vice Chair (Cliff Robbins):

- No report.

Southern Vice Chair (Karen Maki):

- No report.

Controller (Nancy Yarbrough):

- Federal: \$84341.11
- State: \$9,020.61
- Segregated Funds: \$562.34

Recording Secretary (Mitchell Oster):

- Attendance will be taken, so please make sure to either sign in or if you can't make it, provide the Chair with an excuse in advance.
- Question: Can we have roll call recorded?
- There was a broad discussion about whether this should be done without a clear resolution to the question.

Corresponding Secretary (Alexis Lewis):

- I sent four thank you letters. Sue Creighton. Harini Krishnan made a nice donation. Patrice Olds for helping with the location for the ADEM elections in San Mateo.

## Standing Committee Reports

### Finance:

- Chair introduced Nancy Yarbrough to discuss this issue.
- Yarbrough: Compiled information for last 2-year cycle. Election years are very different than non-election years. We looked at what was raised and spent. We are going to work as a committee to fill in the slots of what we're going to spend this year and next. And how much will need to be raised. We're very thankful to TJ for his work on creating a budget. Election laws are not in one place. He has a book of all the different regulations and requirements related to finance. Our accountant is also engaged. We pay to talk to her, so it's been minimal. We're going to work on the first and second page of the handed out document. We'll go over it in more detail at a later time.
- TJ Glauthier: Will be brief. Trying to put together 2-year budget. (Referring to the handout) Front sheet pulls together revenue regardless of where it comes. The second page has to do with fundraising events. At the next meeting we'll discuss how much is needed and how to raise it. Goal is to have a draft budget by March meeting with more details from Finance Committee. Questions?
- Sandra Lang: Events. There are projections here. Will members be able to see details and give ideas?
- Glauthier: Which events do we want to have is first question. We may not have a BBQ. We may have a special event. Maybe a bigger and more planned event. One idea. The other part is how to look at costs from previous events.
- Lang: Numbers will come from projections but also from our vision. Will members be a part of that vision piece?
- Yarbrough: We'll have an objective of how much we want to raise. We've been pretty accurate. It's why we have April on the committee. She's been involved with all events and fundraising for 15 years. We can set up a guideline for what we want to do and create events around those goals.
- Lang: Clarifying on what the vision will be.
- Yarbrough: Committee will report to Eboard and then to Committee. It will be iterative. Many steps and revisions. It will be a living document. We've been fortunate that we have been able to raise when we need to. But we'd like to be more proactive in investing into campaigns and candidates and events. This gives us more of a guideline for doing that.
- Sabrina Brennan: Other Democratic Central Committees have a fundraising committee which functions differently from a finance committee. Are we mixing these up? We need the fundraising committee to be separate.
- Chair: Nancy Yarbrough will be on both. We have two committees.

- Yarbrough: I have been involved with every fundraiser on both finance side and how much we want to raise. That will be evolving.
- Glauthier: Please be patient. This is a learning process.

Endorsements:

- Karen Maki: Many good people volunteered for committee. We wanted both new and experienced people. This year there is a small number of races. Small committee. Next year will be more. At least one member from each supervisorial district.
- Maki: Committee will make recommendations on things that happened in the 2018 cycle. Open to any member. Dealing with process. Norms to be established. Reviewing bylaws. Incorporate changes from State Party. Candidate orientation process. Issues coming up for '20. We need to look at the questions about arrest record. We also need to be able to look at when someone is a registered Dem. We will look at the process for rescinding an endorsement. Overall review of many issues. These questions will be open for feedback from the whole committee. We have from March until August to straighten out these issues.
- Sabrina Brennan: I'm glad we will be taking up some of the concerns that came up in the last endorsement process. We had issues where someone got the endorsement and then it was rescinded. Since there is so much important work with this committee and there are people very concerned about what we did, I want to make sure members of this body will be able to sit in on the committee process. Will every committee member be able to participate?
- Maki: Not every meeting. But, yes, you will have the opportunity to participate in some of the meetings.
- Brennan: I want to be able to participate in all meetings.
- Chair: There will be meetings that are for the committee only and some that will be open to everyone in the Central Committee.
- Brennan: I don't think that the process should be done in secrecy.
- Chair: It won't be.
- John Woodell: I'm glad rescinding will be on the table. I hope we can focus on avoiding the rescinding of endorsements. If someone has a crime expunged, we should have a way to have that addressed. We should be careful about how we ask about crimes. I would like us to not have "unendorsements".
- Brennan: No back room meetings.
- Chair: John, you should be submitting those questions to the committee chairs.
- Brigid O'Farrell: We will be communicating with other Central Committees about how they handle these issues.
- Hene Kelly: I can put you together with the other Central Committees I work with. Other Central Committees do this differently.
- Sandra Lang: I would like to support your movement that this be an open process. The committee should clarify and notify when people will be invited.
- Brennan: There should be a transparent process.
- Chair: There will be.

- O'Farrell: Committees don't make any decisions. They make recommendations to the broader committee.

#### Resolutions:

- Seeking urgency vote: Resolution Against Illegal Pushbacks, Detention and Ill-Treatment of Asylum-Seekers at the Southern Border.
- Ashleigh Evans spoke about the earlier speaker attending SMC DFA meeting. We influence our legislators.
- Brigid O'Farrell: Belinda Arriaga spoke to Coastside Dems. Talk with them to invite them to your groups. Their story should be told. It's very powerful. SMC DFA passed this resolution. We want to bring it to the full committee. This is urgent. Kids are being separated from their parents right now. We'll take it to our elected officials and ask them to take action.
- Evans & O'Farrell read the resolution.
- Motion to adopt resolution was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.

#### Election Integrity:

- Brent Turner: Federal level issues. HR1 talks about paper ballots and talks about audits. It doesn't talk about the software inside the systems. We want open source software. We don't want corporations controlling the software in our voting systems. Paper ballots in North Carolina were manipulated. We're going to run into these problems without paper and software.
- The San Francisco system was certified with matching funds. We want Assemblymember Ting and Senator Wiener to stand up to help California lead the nation in voting systems.

#### Welcoming Committee:

- Sharrie Kriger: Thanks to District 4 members for snacks tonight. Four Waters was speaking at a meeting and said we need to reach out to people. We need to listen & learn and I am looking forward to the committee.
- Chair: Stephanie Katz made a great suggestion that we should have nametags. Wonderful recommendation. We'll make that happen.

#### Technology & Data Management/Communications:

- Microphone and speaker system needs to be fixed.
- Changes coming to email system with our new website solution. There have been some problems with AOL email addresses via NationBuilder.
- Looking forward to calling our first meeting soon.

### **New Business**

- None

## **Regional Director, Legislative, and Clubs Reports**

Region 6 Director:

- Hene Kelly: Thank you all for having the best of the 4 ADEM elections I participated in. Hene said she gets the emails and she has AOL.
- Mitchell Oster: You get the ones that I send via Gmail but not the ones that are sent via NationBuilder.
- Chair asked Hene to talk about Convention.
- Kelly: You all can go. We need volunteers. There are a lot of things at the convention. Volunteers can do everything but vote. Attend the caucuses, committees, and workshops. There a lot of good bars in the area. You can meet me there. It's important to have volunteers. We need people in the room to help with disabled members. I would love to have as many people from this central committee as possible. This is the closest committee to the convention.
- Alexis Lewis: I have sent you many email and wondering if you received because you haven't been responding.
- Kelly: I recently discovered that I had over 1,000 emails in my Junk folder. From now on, please send email to henekelly@me.com.

Congresswoman Jackie Speier (CA-14):

- No report.

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (CA-18):

- No report.

State Senator Scott Wiener (SD-11):

- No report.

State Senator Jerry Hill (SD-13):

- Erin Chazer: Upcoming Java with Jerry on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at iJava Café in San Mateo.

Assemblymember Phil Ting (AD-19):



- Alex Walker: Event with Senator Wiener to celebrate Lunar New Year. At State building in San Francisco. February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Assemblymember Ting also there. 2pm-4pm.

Assemblymember Kevin Mullin (AD-22):

- No report.

Assemblymember Marc Berman (AD-24):

- No report.

Coastside Democratic Club:

- No report.

Hillsborough Democratic Club:

- No report.

North Peninsula Democratic Club:

- Sandra Lang: Next meeting will be on March 16 at 8:30am. It's that early so we don't interfere with the Jackie Speier event. Josh Becker invited to speak. Michael Brownrigg was at our last meeting. We'll have all the candidates.

Pacifica-Daly City Democrats:

- No report.

Peninsula Democratic Coalition:

- Nicole Fernandez: Zoe Lofgren and Anna Eshoo event at the Los Altos Youth Center. It's a great event. February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11:30-2:00. They'll be giving an update on Washington. We're also holding elections for our officers.

Peninsula Young Democrats:

- No report.

San Mateo County Democracy for America:

- Ashleigh Evans: Next meeting is Wednesday, March 6. The speaker is Alice Smith, founder of National Voter Corps and an ACLU board member. She'll be discussing "Understanding Voter Rights/Voter Suppression: After Shelby County v Holder Neutered the Voting Rights Act." As always, our meetings are at the

Woodside Road United Methodist Church in Redwood City (corner of Woodside and Alameda) at 7pm.

- Evans: Monday, March 11, SMC DFA is co-sponsoring an event with the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley. The speaker is Sally Lieber. She'll be talking about "The Refugee Crisis: Worldwide and At Home." Taking place at the Garden House in Shoup Park, 400 University Ave, Los Altos. 6:30 potluck. 7:00 program.

### **Lightning Round (one-minute announcements/remarks)**

- Jon Levinson: Shout out to think about Oakland teachers. They are on strike. Think about them. Very moving.
- Karen Maki: Invite you to the annual banquet of the NAACP. It's on March 31 in Foster City at the Crowne Plaza. Tickets are \$100. I'm going. Alexis Lewis or me can give you more details.
- Gina Papan: I'm proud to announce I was just elected to the MTC. Looking forward to working with everyone on transportation to work and home. It's an important lifestyle issue.
- Sabrina Brennan: Committee for Equity in Women's Surfing and Harbor Commission. AB467 is being introduced by an assemblywoman down south. It will require equal pay for athletic events on state lands. Going to committee in mid-March. Not known which committee yet.
- Michelle Kleytman: Intern for Josh Becker for State Senate. Campaign Kick Off is March 3<sup>rd</sup> in Mountain View. There is another event in Burlingame from 3pm-4:30pm. I have flyers. That one also celebrates Josh's 50<sup>th</sup>
- Alexis Lewis: I'm the new chair of the Political Action Committee of the local NAACP branch. There is still racism and sexism in politics. Please consider becoming a member of the NAACP.
- Mike Dunham: I was elected an ADEM delegate. Also a member of a group called Housing For All Burlingame, and we are tracking a project in our city that we are really concerned about. The Peninsula Health Care District is a public entity that controls 8 acres of public land next to the Mills-Peninsula Medical Center, where the old Peninsula Hospital used to be. They are currently considering how to develop the property, and the current plan is to lease it to two for-profit developers who will build several office buildings and 300-400 units of senior housing. Unfortunately, at least 90% of that senior housing is planned to be at market-rate, which if you've seen it, is about \$6,000 per month for retirement facilities in San Mateo County. That is out of reach for many seniors, and several community groups are asking the Health Care District board to bring an affordable housing developer into the conversation to make as many units affordable as possible. The next opportunity to engage the board is next Thursday, February 28th at 6:30 pm at Millbrae City Hall. Please come out and urge the board to make affordable housing their top priority with this project.

- Harini Krishnan: First of all, I am so grateful to David Burruto for appointing me as his alternate and to Nancy and Nicole for extending such a warm welcome. Secondly, I will be part of the California Delegation traveling to DC on March 4th and 5th for Arts Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill organized by Americans for the Arts, where we will be meeting with 18 Legislative Representatives in Congress and Senate as well as with Speaker Pelosi and asking them to continue to support funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities and continue funding Arts Education. Americans in the Arts will be recognizing Rep Steny Hoyer as the Arts Legislator of the Year.

## **Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 9:31pm.