

SANTA CLARA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE
6:45 PM, County Building Cafeteria, 70 W. Hedding St., San Jose
MINUTES FOR Thursday, November 4, 2010

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:15 pm

2. ROLL CALL

Absent: Bill Ferguson, Ron Lind, Eric Larson, Marsha Grilli, Bill James, James Rowen, Xavier Campos, Omar Torres, Rosemary Kamei, Dan Kenney, Alex Kennett, Denise Alejandro, Rebecca Scheel, Tony Alexander, Ira Ruskin, Joe Coto, Bill Monning, Anna Caballero, Ellen Corbett, Joe Simitian, Elaine Alquist, Anna Eshoo, Marie Highby, Carol Garvey, Juan Vergara, Jordan Eldridge, Martin Monica, Jill Chessler, Jon Graff, James Kim, Andy Parker, and Andres Quintero.

Alternates For: Craig Dunkerley, David Parker, Jim Brady, Hope Cahan, Alberto Torrico, Jerry McNerney, Mike Honda, Zoe Lofgren, Rena Modell, and Clarence Madrilejos.

Excused: Javier Gonzalez

3. IDENTIFICATION OF VISITORS

- a) Forrest Williams, Former City of San Jose Councilmember – Thanked Central Committee members for their support on his campaign for Santa Clara County Supervisor.
- b) Congressman Jerry McNerney Re-Election Campaign – Votes are still being counted. Thanked Central Committee members for their support. McNerney is up by 250 votes over opponent David Harmer. Santa Clara County will be uploading 240,000 votes in the near future. Need volunteers and volunteer lawyers to ensure process has integrity. Election results to be certified by November 30. There may be a recall. Asked for contributions to offset some of the campaign's expenditures.
- c) Kamela Harris, Attorney General Candidate Representative: Election results are still to be finalized. Currently a .2% percentage difference between Kamela Harris and opponent, Steve Cooley. Need volunteers to assist in observing the ballot counts in Santa Clara County. Contact Alyson Abramowitz for additional information.
- d) Peter Arellano, Gilroy City Councilmember – Thanked Central Committee members for their support on his re-election to his 3rd term to Gilroy's City Council. The Council now has 2 Democrats.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Add: Resolution – Fair Elections – New Business

Motion to Approve as Amended; Seconded; Motion Approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Minutes are/will be posted at sccd.org)

- a. October 7, 2010 Minutes

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. November 2 Election Results:
 - i. Paul Fong, 21st AD: Informed attendees he was proud of all volunteers. Democrats were successful in maintaining all seats in the legislature in addition to increasing by one.
 - ii. Jim Beall, 24th AD: Acknowledged Dr. Pan of the First 5 Commission, who wrote Proposition 8, this was a great victory. Republicans targeted 4 races, which were all won by Democrats. Acknowledged Don Rocha winning the San Jose City Council, District 9 seat.
 - iii. Ken Yeager, President, Santa Clara County Supervisor: Santa Clara County's Measure A, Children's health insurance ballot measure, failed. Will be difficult to come up with the additional funding needed. Measure B, the Transportation Improvement Program ballot measure passed, Proposition 23 was defeated, and Proposition 25 passed.
 - iv. Jeff Lease, Elected San Jose City/Evergreen Trustee: Thanked Central Committee members for support.
 - v. David Cohen, Berryessa School Board Member: Came in 1st place in his re-election campaign.

Thanked Central Committee members for their support.

- vi. Clark Williams: Elected to Open Space Authority: Election occurred in August. Filling seat left vacant by Mike Potter.
- vii. Pete McHugh, City of Milpitas Mayor Candidate: Stated he was grateful for the Central Committee's endorsement and support.
- viii. Sally Lieber – Thanked Central Committee members who get democratic voters to vote. Proposition 25, the simple majority ballot measure passed. Age of austerity and to focus on the 5 important things to you. Suggested Central Committee get-together with other counties and find out what top 5 issues we want to focus on.

Election Results Discussion:

- i. Had a lot of great results. Worked more on individual campaigns.
- ii. MOE program is in place.
- iii. Concern about elected democrats that endorse republicans.
- iv. Need to be diligent throughout endorsement process to elect democrats. Need to be smart about who's running in our party.
- v. Suggestion made to E-Board a resolution be presented at a future Central Committee meeting, which would declare that any elected democrat who endorses a republican in an elected office is thereby disqualified by this body for any seat. Needs to also be publicized. Steve Preminger stated that at last meeting, Chris Stampolis requested this be discussed. This item to be placed on E-Board agenda after the election.
- vi. Suggestion made that anyone who requests an endorsement, would like to see 10+ years of being a solid democrat. Request would be a measure the individual is a verifiable democrat.
- vii. SVYD informs non-endorsed candidates why they are not being endorsed.
- viii. Attendee expressed disappointment that some elected officials, Central Committee officers, democratic leaders, etc. endorse candidates in a non-partisan party. Recommended a by-law review by the established committee to make some reforms to the current by-laws to move this issue forward. Other Central Committees throughout the state currently has this type of by-law in place.
- ix. Xavier Campos, won his election for San Jose City Council Seat, District 5. Huge win for county party. Madison Nguyen won her re-election to the San Jose City County, which was a very close race.
- x. Members of County may be little clearer. Have this discussion at next meeting.
- xi. Thanked DEAN Democratic club who walked Morgan Hill, Santa Cruz Women's Club; Both high schools in Morgan Hill (20 regular students) volunteered for Congressman Jerry McNerney re-election campaign. Most recent results, Jerry is up by 560 votes as of 8:00 pm.
- xii. Meg Whitman spent \$18 million on her campaign and lost the election. Governor elect Jerry Brown's representative thanked Central Committee members for the support.
- xiii. Senator Barbara Boxer's win was significant. Optimistic for the future.
- xiv. Local Latino groups raised \$10,000 for Jerry Brown's campaign. Proud of what Latinos did in this election.
- xv. Excited democrats did so well in the national and local races. Labor Council and South Bay offices appeared there weren't enough volunteers or enthusiasm.
- xvi. Recommendation was made to send a survey to everyone. Survey would contain, what did you do and what did you work on. A virtual campaign was available through MOE. Survey responses would be private. Responses are needed in the near future in order to get ready for 2012.
- xvii. Believes California will lead the nation out of the recession. Optimistic. Country will be watching California. Optimistic nationally, however, what happened in senate. Every Senate tea party candidate, who was endorsed by Sarah Palin and Jim DeMint, lost their election bids with the exception of Wisconsin.
- xviii. National Election: Big disconnect in terms of what democrats said that they had done. Did not do a good job in selling Healthcare. Only heard sound bites – need to give people substance. Need to reach out to the Latino vote in the next 2 years.
- xix. Messaging control that is positive and proud of accomplishments. Believe we lost because Republicans made it a negative regarding healthcare.

- xx. Did extremely well in California. Balance of country's belief, if we got into trouble, it was Washington's management's fault (Pelosi, Reid, etc).
- xxi. There are still over 100,000 Latinos in this county that need to be registered to vote.
- xxii. Expand media message through Facebook, Twitter, etc. Outreach to younger people. Internet is the path that should be made. Need to give accomplishments a voice.

b. Fair Elections Now Act Resolution:

- i. Establishes a fund to pay the campaign expenditures in Congress. Support elections in public dollars.
- ii. Motion to Approve as an Emergency Resolution, Seconded, Approved.
- iii. Motion to Support Emergency Resolution, Seconded, Approved.

b. OLD BUSINESS

c. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND OTHERS

a. Executive Board: Margie Mitchell

Nothing to Report

b. Chair: Steve Preminger

Involved in issues that arose regarding absentee ballots, which is still being dealt with.

c. Vice Chair: Clark Williams

Was on a nationwide telecast on November 2, speaking up for democrats.

d. Treasurer: Drina Collins

Informed attendees that Watsonville City Councilmember, Luis Alejo, won his election for Assembly.

Balance: \$1200.35

Reminded attendees Central Committee will begin to collect membership dues in January.

e. Secretary: Margie Mitchell

Nothing to Report

f. Issues: James Kim

Nothing to Report

g. Community Services and Voter Registration: Judy Pipkin

Informed attendees, we really well on the election, pulled together, and saw this through by taking California.

There were a lot of volunteers that worked. San Jose office had more and more volunteers coming. Clubs pulled through. Volunteer base is holding together. An event was held at Lincoln High School, which resulted in signing up 30 students to do volunteer work.

h. Finance: Hope Cahan

Nothing to Report

i. Candidate Recruitment and Endorsement: Jon Kessler

California results were better than most. Locally, our endorsements did very well. San Jose council races did very well. Jamie Matthews, Evan Low and Rich Waterman were huge wins. Acknowledged Evan Low, City of Campbell Mayor, in recruiting Rich Waterman.

Communications: David Cohen

Nothing to Report

j. Campaign Services: Tom Cochran

Enlightened attendees about the following: a) Corporate power and how they have more power and rights than us, b) Last election allowed the tea party control the news, which created a cast system of activists, c) two camps of active democrats in city and county, d) Lately hearing and reading that we are part of a machine and endorsed candidates are part of the machine and e) Democrats believe in equality in every sense, i.e. homeless, healthcare for everybody, etc.

k. Political Outreach (Clubs): Diane Rolfe

Thanked clubs increasing and cohesive working for candidates and values.

Thanked the SVYD for this evening's refreshments. Next month will be the Bay Iranian. Reaccreditation for all democratic clubs is due to Diane Rolfe no later than December 30, 2010. Guidelines will be e-mailed to all clubs.

Issues: Plan for 2012 – how many members are in each club. Silicon Valley Young Dems are interested in

reviewing PAC guidelines and requirements.

l. Regional Director: Emy Thurber

Used MOE system for this election.

Democratic Party provided door hangers. Expenditures were paid by the Democrat 2010 funds, which members can contribute to on a monthly.

E-board meeting to be held December 18, 19, and 20 in Sacramento.

North County Headquarters Outcome: Registered 965 voters. Organizing for America (OFA) is occupying at least half of the office.

Century Club – San Jose State Professor Terry Christiansen will be guest speaker on Friday, November 12.

Contact Ann Mack for details.

m. Democratic National Committee: Chris Stampolis

Has received requests from DNC regarding best practices, i.e. identify best practices that worked in California. Requested this item be on the December agenda.

n. Pro-Choice Coalition: Claudia Shope

Need to maintain pro-choice view.

o. DTV Report: Steve Chessin

October guest was Joe Kenney, Director of Pride at Work. November Guest – TBD.

p. CDC Report: Jay Jackman

Nothing to Report

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Martin Mansour – Informed attendees that he was very upset regarding the recent ethnic cleansing and bombing in Iraq. Asked attendees send a letter to President Obama and Senators Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein denouncing these activities. Pre-prepared letter can be found at the following url: assyrianamericancoalition.org/takeaction.php. Sally Lieber: Announced her candidacy for State Senate, District 14, which is Senator Elaine Alquist's seat. Asked for attendee's support.

Mia White: Alex Lin replaced her at Congresswoman's Zoe office. Mia now works as the Volunteer Manager for Loaves and Fishes.

Jon Kessler acknowledged Emy Thurber's birthday, which was Monday, November 1.

12. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

13. ADJOURNMENT: 9:20 pm

Club Announcements:

Bay Area for Change: Worked on election. Phone banked in Sunnyvale, North county office and Labor Temple. Next meeting will be held on November 16 at Hagan (?) Restaurant in Mountain View. There will be a follow-up panel discussion regarding Afghanistan.

Democratic Caucus of SJ: Thanked attendees for attending Bill Clinton rally. Volunteered on a lot of elections. Will be focusing on community service.

DEAN – 40 individuals consistently volunteered. Raised several thousand dollars for candidates.

Santa Clara County – 29th Annual Holiday Party will be held at Fiorrello's on December 9. Club supported candidates by nearly contributing \$7,000 to campaign efforts.

SVYD: Several Young Democrat members were elected and ran local campaigns. Election After-Party will be held at The Garrett in Campbell on November 5 at 7:00. Annual Holiday Party and Toy Drive will be held on December 20.

Democratic Club at the Villages: Adopted, printed, and mailed an endorsement brochure which was followed by the Central Committee recommendations to all registered Democrats in the Villages. San Jose State Professor Terry Christiansen will be guest speaker at the next meeting.

West Valley for Change: Phone banked at Santana Row in addition to other locations.

PDC: Annual Holiday Party will be on December 11 at the residence of Emy and Jim Thurber. Articles that clubs would like to go out to PDC members are to be sent to the Thurbers.

Democratic Club of Sunnyvale: Club used MOE. Holiday Party will be held on December 12.

Silicon Valley Democratic Club: Joint Club Holiday Party will be held on December 10 from 6:00 to 8:30 at the residence of Tom and Parris Cochran.