

SANTA CLARA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

6:45 PM, County Building Cafeteria, 70 W. Hedding St., San Jose

Meeting will start at 7 pm sharp and MUST end by 8:45 so that we are out of the building before 9 PM**MINUTES FOR Thursday, December 1st, 2011****1. CALL TO ORDER:****7:20pm****2. ROLL CALL**

Absent: Deepka Lalwani, Jey Surier, Marsha Grilli, Gilbert Wong, Megan Young, Omar Torres, Ken Yeager, Hope Cahan, Alex Kennett, Jeremy Barousse, Denise Alejandro, Tony Alexander, Rich Gordan, Luis Alejo, Elaine Alquist, Zoe Lofgren, Evan Low, Chris Stampolis, Mertyl Ferrande, Herlinda Aguirre, Andres Quintero, Mehdi Sofapour, Marc Berman, Martin Monica.

Alternates for: Jacquie Hefner, Bob Wieckowski, Paul Fong, Nora Campos, Bill Monning, Ellen Corbett, Joe Simitian, John Laird, Jerry McNerney, Anna Eshoo, Mike Honda, Kerri Hamilton, Rena Modell.

3. IDENTIFICATION OF VISITORS

1. Rowan Pike
2. Shawn Gerrin

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- a. Peter Allen moves to add item concerning opening a permanent Democratic Party Office.
- b. Moved; seconded; passed.

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

- a. Due to technical emergency, Minutes for the November meeting were not posted in time for the meeting,

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Dream Menders' Jobs not Cuts rally January 9. Presentation.
 - 1) "Jobs Not Cuts!" Rally on Monday, January 9th, 5:30pm-7:30pm, at San Jose City Hall.
 - 2) Guest speakers will include Congressmembers Zoe Lofgren and Mike Honda.
 - 3) Unlike OWS, this rally will be a call to action and voter registration
- b. Establishment of Chairs' Council to raise funds for SCCDP.
 - 1) Proposal would be a \$10 a month automatic online contribution that would help finance our office and pay the bills, and fund daily operations.
 - 2) Moved to adopt as worded; seconded; passed.

7. OLD BUSINESS*a. Frequency of Central Committee Elections.*

- 1) Having elections every two years would be difficult; with the new "top two primary", partisan elections would happen every 4 years with presidential elections.
- 2) Discussion:
 - David Cohen: Two-year cycle preferred, but economic favor 2-year.
 - Clarence Madrilejos: Two-year cycle will bring in diversity and new blood every term.
 - Bill James: We must be proactive with this. Concern for off-year elections; Presidential cycles will have a more engaged electorate.
 - Steve Chessin: Off-year elections DO bring an engaged electorate, ie Gubernatorial races.

-Emily Gatfield: Opposes caucus system for electing central committee members.

- Bill James: Motions to align Central Committee elections with partisan primary elections very even year. Seconded; passed.

b. Having proportional Assembly Districts for the elections, in terms of how many Democrats are elected.

1) Discussion

- Swanee Edwards: This seems more fair.

- John Graff: What about the idea of supervisorial districts?

-Steve Preminger: Supervisorial districts are nonpartisan seats; whereas Assembly Districts are partisan seats.

-Thomas Wang: Lower turnout might effect the number of seats allocated with this proposed system.

- Ross Gomez: If seat allocation based on population, San Jose delegation would have more influence that those from South County,

- David Cohen: With redistricting, Santa Clara County will go from 42 seats to 36 seats.

-Steve Chessin: We need to do a survey on this.

2) Motion to do a straw poll; seconded passed.

a. Assembly District vs. Supervisor District: **Assembly District preferred.**

b. Total Population vs. Number of Democrats: **Number of Democrats in proportion to population preferred.**

c. Democratic Registration vs. Democratic Turnout: **Registration preferred.**

d. New system vs. status quo: **New system preferred**

c. Permanent Democratic Office

1) Reasons include:

- This will be the **flagship** headquarters for Santa Clara County, working in coordination with North and South County offices.
- The preferred setup is a **storefront** office in Downtown San José, providing **high visibility** and **foot traffic**, proximity to a variety of **food options**, and **convenient parking**.
- A Downtown San José location will also have desirable proximity to **San Jose State University** (for volunteers) as well as **City Hall** and **Plaza de Cesar Chavez** (for demonstrations).
- **Public transit** access will be strongly encouraged, reducing the carbon footprint of our campaign activities.
- Within the office, there will be ample **space** for phone banking, precinct walk and rally staging, voter registration operations, community outreach, office work, selling swag, and other interactive activities.
- The office will have a **paid manager** and **volunteer staff** under the guidance of a **Board of Directors**.
- We will coordinate with *both* **OFA** and the **DNC** as well as **CDP** and all other Democratic organizations.
- We will focus on electing good Democrats to office **at all levels**.
- We will not forsake **local races** at the expense of larger ones.
- **Operation and maintenance costs** will be raised creatively from a variety of sources, including candidates for office, current and former office holders, and major leaders in the Democratic Party and South Bay community.
- All Democratic clubs and electeds as well as endorsed candidates will have access to the office and amenities in exchange for **assistance** with monthly O&M. (Obviously, exceptions could be made for YDs and students.)
- The success of this model will be critical to the cause of establishing a **permanent** Democratic field office in San José.

2) Passes out a survey to the central committee for input.

8. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND OTHERS

a. **Executive Board: Andrae Macapinlac**

1) South County Democratic Club issue: Alex Kennett has apologized, and incidents like this will not happen again.

b. Chair: Steve Preminger

c. Vice Chair: Clark Williams

d. Treasurer: Drina Collins

Close to \$0 in the bank; in need of funding.

e. Secretary: Andrae Macapinlac

f. Issues: Jon Kessler

g. Community Services and Voter Registration: Judy Pipkin

h. Finance: Hope Cahan

i. Candidate Recruitment and Endorsement: Darcie Green

j. Communications: David Cohen

k. Campaign Services: Tom Cochran

l. Political Outreach (Clubs): Diane Rolfe

m. Regional Director: Emy Thurber

n. Regional Director: Shawn Bagley

o. Democratic National Committee: Chris Stampolis

p. Pro-Choice Coalition: Claudia Shope

q. DTV Report: Steve Chessin

1) November was Neil Struthers, CEO of the Santa Clara and Santa Bonita Counties Building and Construction Trades Councils. Our guest in December is TBD.

r. CDC Report: Herb Engstrom

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

12. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

13. ADJOURNMENT