



General Meeting Agenda
February 19, 2023, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Any Questions:MarshCreekDems@gmail.com

- I Call to Order and Introductions** (New members, Dignitaries) (3 minutes)
 - A. This month’s meeting is being held both at our regular Brentwood Community Center meeting room and on Zoom for the convenience of those unable to attend in person. **Masking is optional (but recommended)**. Our next meeting will be on March 19, 2023 at the same time and location. All Zoom Attendees will be muted.
Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6304996072?pwd=ZGVhcDZYVVUrQWFMRVd1MEZ5anNMdz09>
Password: Orange
 - B. If joining via Zoom, please rename your Zoom to your first and last name.
 - C. At the end of their presentations, our speaker will take a few questions. (Use Chat or click Reactions and Raise Hand if on Zoom.)
- II Minutes of January Meeting** (3 minutes)
 - A. Motion to Adopt Minutes: Motion _____ 2nd _____
- III Agenda Review** (3 minutes)
 - A. Any changes to the agenda:
 - B. Motion to Adopt Agenda: Motion ____ 2nd _____
- IV Shannon Skinner – President** (5 minutes) (Shannon is unable to attend today, so Carolina will be assuming her duties.)
 - A. General update: All of the MCDC committees are looking for additional help, so please step up if you are interested!
- V Carolina Villaseca – Vice President** (3 minutes)
 - A. Update on Future Presentations:
 - (1) Rather than listing possible speakers for coming meetings, today we will have an open discussion about issues in which you are most interested and speakers you would most like to hear from. One suggested approach would be to select speakers based on work being done by the Issues and Legislation Committee. (Bill Nusbaum will be telling you more about their plans for the year in the March meeting.)
 - (2) You can reach Carolina at (216) 570-1270 or mcvillaseca@yahoo.com.
 - B. **Introduction of today’s speaker:**
 - (1) Marivel Mendoza-Matheu will speak on Hijas del Campo (Daughters of the Field), of which she was a founder, about the organization and the services it provides to local farm workers.

VI Membership – Elinor Bell, Chair of Membership Committee (3 minutes)

- A. Current Membership – MCDC memberships are on a calendar year basis. At the end of last year, we had 106 members. As of mid-February, we have had 30 member renewals and three new members. (This number does not include some renewals that were processed in December.) Please renew your membership now or join now if you haven't been a member previously. We have a lot of work (and fun) ahead in 2023. If you have already paid your dues but haven't submitted an updated membership form, please do so today – we have copies of the form for you to use or it's available on our website, <https://marshcreekdems.org>. New and renewing members through February 14 are listed at the end of this agenda.
- (1) Ways to join — Credit card at <https://www.marshcreekdems.org/all-products> or Venmo MarshCreekDems (3416) or Check sent to Thuy DaoJensen/MCDC, P.O. Box 521, Brentwood, CA 94513
- B. Renewing Members become Members in Good Standing and may vote as soon as dues are paid. New members become Members in Good Standing and may vote 30 days after their dues are paid.

VII Voter Outreach – Linda Smith, Chair of Voter Outreach Committee (5 minutes)

- A. Update on Farmers' Market – The MCDC Farmer's Market table will return in March, weather permitting.
- B. We will start writing postcards in March (please don't forget to bring stamps). The causes we will support with postcards are still being considered.

VIII Swing Left Committee –

- A. Doug McClelland has retired from his position as Swing Left Director, and we are seeking someone to take on the role. Please let us know if you are interested in this challenging and engaging position, which offers an opportunity to work closely with Swing Left, which is arguably the Democratic Party's most effective organizing entity.

IX Issues and Legislation – Bill Nusbaum, Chair of Issues and Legislation Committee (Bill will be unable to attend today's meeting.)

- A. Meetings are held via Zoom on the first Saturday of the month at 11:30 am. The next meeting will be on March 4, 11:30, on Zoom.
- B. In its February 4 meeting, Committee members discussed the issues they are currently planning to focus on in 2023. One of the criteria for choosing an issue is whether a given problem is something we can impact as an East Contra Costa Democratic Club. We will be editing, adding to, or deleting issues if we either don't have the resources for them or they seem beyond our purview. In March, we will look to MCDC membership for your input.

X Publications and Social Media – Carolina Villaseca, Chair of Publications and Social Media Committee (3 minutes)

- A. We are continually posting important items on Facebook regarding news and calls to action. Send any call to action to Carolina at marshcreekdems@gmail.com.

Check our Facebook page often for our frequent updates, and post your comments and “likes” whenever you can!

XI Precinct Update – Carolina Villaseca, Chair of Precinct Committee (3 minutes)

A. New “Rapid Response Team” initiative

XII DPCCC District 3 Update – Carolina Villaseca, DPCCC District 3 Director (3 minutes)

A. Carolina’s February DPCCC District 3 report is attached.

XIII Treasurer’s Report – Thuy DaoJensen, Treasurer (5 minutes)

**Marsh Creek Dems Treasurer's Financial Statement
January 8 - February 5, 2023**

Date	Description of INCOME	Amount
	BALANCE as of January 8, 2023:	\$ 2,727.61
5-Jan-2023	SQUARE deposit of (1) membership dues	\$19.12
10-Jan-2023	SQUARE deposit of (1) membership dues	\$19.12
12-Jan-2023	Credit for BANK CHECKS ordered in Nov, not received	\$57.68
13-Jan-2023	SQUARE donation	\$0.67
16-Jan-2023	CHECKS deposit of (5) membership dues	\$100.00
16-Jan-2023	CASH deposit of (8) membership dues	\$160.00
16-Jan-2023	VENMO deposit (6) membership dues	\$120.00
16-Jan-2023	VENMO donation	\$20.00
17-Jan-2023	SQUARE deposit of (1) membership dues	\$19.12
17-Jan-2023	SQUARE deposit of (1) membership dues	\$42.79
18-Jan-2023	SQUARE deposit of (1) membership dues	\$42.12
24-Jan-2023	CHECKS deposit of (2) membership dues	\$40.00
	Total INCOME	\$ 3,368.23
Check #	Description of EXPENSES	Amount
ONLINE	Ordered BANK CHECKS on January 10 (free shipping)	\$52.19
1077	Plaque from American Trophies and Awards	\$55.53
	Total EXPENSES	\$107.72
	BALANCE as of February 5, 2023:	\$ 3,260.51

XIV Secretary’s Report – Connie Harden, Secretary

A. The minutes of the January meeting are available on the MCDC website.

B. **Book recommendations:** I have finished reading the *January 6 Report*, and found the additional details regarding pre-event coordination interesting, particularly the discussion of planning among Trump and his associates and

among the various militia groups that participated. Now I am looking forward to reading:

- (1) Erwin Chemerinsky's book *Worse than Nothing: The Dangerous Fallacy of Originalism* (Yale University Press, 2022) (Professor Chemerinsky has been Dean of the UC Berkeley Law School since 2017 and has a distinguished history as a constitutional law professor);
 - (2) *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism*, Robin Diangelo (Beacon Press 2018) (I will be giving away a copy of *White Fragility* at today's meeting);
 - (3) *Living Toward Virtue: Practical Ethics in the Spirit of Socrates*, Paul Woodruff (Oxford University Press, 2023); and
 - (4) *Stolen Focus: Why You Can't Pay Attention and How to Think Deeply Again*, Johann Hari (Crown Publishing, 2022).
- C. Reminders from last month's book recommendations (in addition to *The January 6 Report*): *Formidable: American Women and the Fight for Equality – 1920-2020*, Elisabeth Griffith (Pegasus Books, 2022), described by Hillary Clinton as "an essential history of the struggle by both black and white women to achieve their equal rights." Also, *The Riders Come Out at Night: Brutality, Corruption and Cover-Up in Oakland*, Ali Winston and Darwin BondGraham (Simon & Schuster, 2023). Described by the New York Times as a case study of corruption and reform (really??) within the Oakland Police Department.

XV For the Good of the Order (comments/suggestions) (3 minutes)

- A. **Contra Costa County is establishing a Violence Prevention Coalition.** As explained in the attached introduction to the application for membership, the VPC is an initiative of Contra Costa Health, funded through a 3-year grant from the US Department of Justice Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative, and its goal is to prevent and reduce gun violence in the County "by providing high-risk populations with social support and services informed by evidence-based practices, social determinants of health, and equity principles as drivers of social change." If you have the knowledge and personal experience that you feel suit you to a position on the VPC, please consider applying! This is a wonderful opportunity to make a real and lasting impact on the strength and health of our communities. Please see the attachment for details, and visit the following website to apply:
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3tkgKC3cY0OGJvKwA0OMRblUbhymcUtEnU9ZzNDZXUBOUtJT0tWoe9BTUFLTzFHR1JEUzRNN TU2Ny4u>.
- B. **On a nonpolitical note:** Please be aware that H5N1 bird flu is widely circulating among wild birds in North America, and it is an ecological crisis that affects far more than egg prices. No bird species is immune; however, so far, it is only affecting waterfowl and raptors in this area. If you have backyard bird feeders, though, please remember to clean them every two weeks with a bleach solution. (The disease is spread through bird feces.) If you see dead birds in your yard, please pick them up with a plastic bag (do not touch the bird). If, in a short period of time, there are multiple bird death that are otherwise unexplained, contact the Lindsay Wildlife Center in Walnut Creek to see whether the birds should be

brought to them for necropsy. There has been some limited spread to mammals (e.g., bears, seals, mink) and at least one incidence of minks spreading the disease to each other, but there is currently no significant concern about transmission to or among humans. A recent (rather frightening) article in *The Atlantic* discusses the disease in greater detail.

- C. Zoom chats take place at 10 am on the 4th Saturday of each month.
- D. Report by Elected Officials in attendance.

XVI Adjournment

New and Renewing Members through February 14, 2023
(Not all members who renewed in December are included below.)

New Members:

Anita Roberts

Ana Valles

Judy Zuckert

Renewing Members:

Elinor Bell	Yolanda Mendrek
Cindy and David Blitz	Bill Nusbaum
Chuck Carpenter	Maria Perrone
Barbara and Gary Chambers	Bill and Brenda Randle
Barbara and Bob Coffman	Tyler Shira
Ian Cohen	Shannon Skinner
Julie Elam	Don and Linda Smith
Mike Foley	Jennifer Storm-Alvez
Sue Higgins	Harry and Valerie Thurston
Mike Kleeman	Monica Wilson
Carole Main	Lisa Woener
Jovita Mendoza	

DPCCC District 3 Director's February Report

Presented by M. Carolina Villaseca

I have met with several candidates to help them get ready for election or re-election to include social media presence as a resource, public comments, attending events. We also discussed possible candidates running against. This will all be preparation for the election strategy they will need to implement after they pull papers.

- I have been contacting newly electeds to see how things are going.

- I facilitated the election of representatives from our district to the California Democratic Party. The representatives attend meetings to build the platform and endorse federal, state and county candidates.

Saludos,

M. Carolina Villaseca

Violence Prevention Coalition Application Questionnaire

Contra Costa Health's Violence Prevention Program (VPP) is seeking dedicated and passionate individuals to join a new Gun Violence Prevention Coalition, set to officially launch in March 2023 and support the efforts of the VPP.

VPP is a newly funded initiative of Contra Costa Health made possible through a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative. The overarching project goal is to take a public health approach to prevent and reduce gun violence in Contra Costa County by providing high-risk populations with social support and services informed by evidence-based practices, social determinants of health, and equity principles as drivers of positive social change.

The Contra Costa Gun Violence Prevention Coalition's (GVPC) goal is to prevent and reduce the incidence of gun violence and its associated negative community and health impacts. The coalition will seek to increase collaboration among residents, community partners, and agencies who are interested in and are actively involved in reducing gun violence, advancing gun violence prevention policies and practices rooted in equity, and utilizing trauma-informed approaches to promote healing and restoration across communities in Contra Costa.

Within the first few months of establishing the GVPC, members will be asked to support the following activities:

- 1) Research and planning efforts to address root causes of gun violence in Contra Costa, which will include a community assessment of the incidence of violence in Contra Costa, as well as an exploration of community assets and community needs to support efforts to address the issue from a public health approach.
- 2) The development of an evidence-based Gun Violence Prevention Strategic Plan will be used to guide the efforts of VPP.
- 3) The development of a final report that will include a gun violence prevention sustainability plan for areas of Contra Costa most impacted by high incidences of gun violence.

The GVPC will be a diverse, community and multi-agency-driven collaborative. We are currently seeking applications from representatives of community-based organizations, law enforcement agencies, other health-centered and faith-based organizations, and those who were formerly incarcerated and justice-involved. We strongly encourage residents to apply with lived experience, diverse backgrounds, and perspectives.