



**2024 New and
Renewing Members:
Elinor Bell
Roy Bell**

General Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2023, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Room and Zoom
Any Questions: MarshCreekDems@gmail.com

I. Call to Order and Introductions (New members, Dignitaries) (3 minutes) 2:10

A. Zoom:

1. All Zoom Attendees will be muted
2. Please rename your Zoom to your first and last name.
3. To ask questions: Raise Hand

II. Minutes for August (3 minutes)

- A. Motion to Adopt October Minutes: Motion LS 2nd EB by acclamation

III. Agenda Review (3 minutes)

- A. Any changes to the agenda?
B. Motion to Adopt Agenda: Motion LS 2nd DS

IV. Shannon Skinner – President (5 minutes)

- A. General update: All MCDC committees are looking for additional help

V. Upcoming Activities: (3 minutes)

- A. December 17th – MCDC Holiday Party
B. Mac and Cheese Fundraiser – January 14th from 5 to 7:30 at Brentwood Community Center Tickets from \$20 each –

VI. Carolina Villaseca – Vice President (3 minutes)

- A. Upcoming Speakers:
1. December – Holiday Party
B. If you have a person who would like to come and speak to our club, please contact Carolina Villaseca at (216) 570-1270 or mcvillaseca@yahoo.com

VII. Today’s Guest Speaker – (15 minutes)

John Garamendi,
U.S Congressman, California’s 8th District

See Below

VIII. Membership – Elinor Bell, Co-Chair (3 minutes)

- A. To date, we have 89 members.
- B. Membership dues of \$20/person (\$10 for students) runs for 12 months from February 1 to January 31 of the following year. For those joining November 1st or after, the cost is \$10 (\$5 for students) and expires the following Jan. 31. After joining, new members must wait 30 days before being eligible to vote on any official MCDC business such as election of officers, changes to bylaws, and candidate endorsements.
- C. 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 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.

IX. Voter Outreach: Linda Smith (5 minutes)

- A. Farmer’s Market Update – Thanks to Suzanne cook, sue Higgins, Carolina, Carole Main, Liz Fuller, Joe Ely, Diane Alexander and Ray Cole for staffing our booth.
 - 1. We always need help – Shift is 9:00 am – 11:30 am.
 - 2. Liz Fuller is chairing the volunteer signup
 - 3. Ray Cole saves out spot at 7:30 each Saturday 😊
- B. 5,000 Letters and Postcards for Wisconsin, Ohio & Virginia in 2023
 - 1. Changed Wisconsin Supreme Court Makeup
 - 2. Beat back Ohio Republican ballot initiative to 60% to stop a majority Ohioans from making abortion legal
 - 3. Virginia – All 100 House of Delegates and 40 State Senators up for election.

X. Webmaster – Joe Ely www.MarshCreekDems.org 3,931 Visitors this year

XI. Social Justice – Ray Cole, Chair – E-mail Ray at raycole6s@outlook.com to join the committee

- A. We have 3 members – responsibilities have been divided up – Dr. Roberts – Educational issues Ray – LBGTQ We have divided up attending school board meetings. Carolina - DEI

XII. Issues and Legislation – Bill Nusbaum, Chair (3 minutes) – Next Meeting is Saturday, December 2nd, 11:30 am

- A. Meetings are held via Zoom on the first Saturday of the month at 11:30 am.
- B. Issues Survey: Survey will go out in December. Please participate as this will define our work for 2024.

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

We voted in the CADEM Pre-Endorsement forum. We have club delegates, DPCCC delegates that are members of this club and people who ran to be an elected DPCCC delegate. Results:

Senate District 3 (Brentwood, Oakley, Discovery Bay, Byron, Knightsen, Bethel Island and part of Senator Dodd’s district) - No consensus meaning no one obtained enough votes to be places on the consent calendar. The three candidates are Christopher Cabaldon, Rozzana Verder-Aliga and Jackie Elward. Their websites:

<https://cabaldonforsenate.com>

<https://rozzana4senate.com><https://www.jackie4senate.com/splash?splash=1>

Senate District 9 (Antioch, Pittsburg heading west to Crockett and San Leandro) - Marisol Rubio received 64% and Tim Grayson received 28% of the vote. Neither candidate reached 70% so it will go to an endorsement vote at the convention.

Assembly District 15- Monica Wilson won her endorsement with 80% of the vote. Her name goes on the consent calendar for the formal endorsement vote on 11/17-11/18.

We will post the results from the CADEM Endorsement Convention as soon as they are available.

XIV. Carolina Villaseca, Chair of Publications and Social Media Committee (3 minutes)

- A. **Contact Carolina at** (216) 570-1270 or mcvillaseca@yahoo.com.
- B. 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

XV. Swing Left – Doug McClelland (5 minutes) – Update

XVI. Elections Chair, Valerie Thurston

- A. MCDC Elections January 21st for President, Vice-President, Secretary & Treasurer

XVII. New Business

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

**Marsh Creek Dems Treasurer’s Financial Statement
October 2 – November 5, 2023**

Date	Description of INCOME	Amount
	BALANCE as of October 2, 2023:	\$ 2,846.24
1-Sep-2023	SQUARE deposit	\$30.47
6-Sep-2023	SQUARE deposit	\$23.00
2-Oct-2023	ADJUSTMENT from July 2 -August 6	\$103.67
2-Oct-2023	Check 1082 to DPCCC not cashed (March 5, 2023)	\$40.00
	Total INCOME	\$ 3,043.38

Check #	Description of EXPENSES	Amount
	Total EXPENSES	\$0.00

	\$
<u>BALANCE as of November 5, 2023:</u>	<u>3,043.38</u>

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

- A. Our letters/postcards make a difference – Barbara Coffman

- B. Jovita Mendoza, Brentwood City Council – There was a serious car accident that occurred in Trilogy. She is asking for people to send their concerns to the City Council – they are looking into different options to deal with the traffic situation. There are some issues with the Rec Center – there was to be an internal investigation and it was cancelled. She is hoping to get the council to address. She has been receiving information from workers at the center alleging some concerns. She addressed concerns about a new development that was zoned housing with a park that was supposed to be paid for by the developer. City Council was going to take in lieu money for the park and put it into the soccer complex. This would be taking money to build a park in a poorer area of Brentwood where there are not very many amenities. The Council is not going to do this anymore. She encourages people to write to the Council and hold people accountable.
- C. Christopher Cabaldon - Running for State Senate for District 3 – served in West Sacramento

XX. Adjournment 4:02

Highlights from John Garamendi's presentation:

- The 8th Congressional District here in Northern California has all 5 Northern Ca oil refineries and a good portion of its chemical industry. We are looking to figure out how to transition the incredible talent operating these refineries into a green energy economy. Two of the refineries are looking into renewable biodiesel and there is a potential for green hydrogen.
- He is interested in building the Interstate 80 BioAg research and manufacturing corridor. This is a new industry being created around the world- biomanufacturing and biopharmaceutical. A good portion of this is being started here in the Bay Area.
- We are also looking at how to deal with the maritime Industry. When the Navy moved out of Mare Island 30 years ago, 20,000 employees lost their jobs in one year. Vallejo and that area has not recovered. On Mare Island, rebuilding of drydocks and repair of ships is providing a couple of thousand jobs.

Things we need to focus on in California to make it successful in the future:

- Education – Higher education is very good, K-12 is troublesome and Pre-K is pretty much non-existent. Unfortunately, Republicans in the last two months have been doing everything to not fund public education
- Research: We are blessed with research being done by Davis, Berkeley, Stanford and UCSF. This research needs to look at products and new opportunities. This is part of his "Make it in America Agenda" that goes back to the 1980's. We need to make things – that is where you are able to generate economic wealth and you spread that wealth out across the society by making sure unions are strong and there is an opportunity for everyone to participate.
- We have to be international. We are all here in Ca. The entire world is here and these are people who want to do better. These are achievers. In many cases they suffered mightily and took enormous risk to get here.

He asked us to support three California Congressional races that can be flipped from Republican to Democrat:

- District 3, East of Sacramento – Democrat to support is Jessica Morse
- District 13 in the Merced area – Adam Gray
- District 22 in between Fresno and Bakersfield – Two Democrats are running – Rudy Salas and Melissa Hurtado

Questions and Answers:

- Concern about Tommy Tuberville's blocking of military promotions
 - This is on the Senate side but John Garamendi did stress that he is using his position to push his anti-abortion agenda. It is very dangerous to national security. The leadership across every branch of the

government is in jeopardy. Many have retired and the acting positions are not able to carry out all of the responsibilities that they have. The Senate could resolve this problem anytime it wants. The Democrats have 51 votes and they have been negligent in letting this go – Schummer specifically. The problem is that none of them one to take action against Tuberville because it sets a precedent. They are unwilling to give up their power in the future via precedent if they ever need one to exercise the same power.

- Stalemate in House – we have a lot of funding bills coming up including a government shutdown.
 - What will happen is what we have seen three times now – with the debt limit continuing resolutions. In all three situations, the republicans could not do the job and the leadership – McCarthy twice and Johnson once – reached out to the Democrats and the Democrats provided 2/3 of the votes. That is what will happen in January. Republicans cannot even pass their own horrible, draconian appropriation bills. What will likely happen is the Senate will pass some sort of appropriation bill – (perhaps one or more) There are 12 different bills and they might try to put them all together. That puts pressure on the House to take it up. The negotiations are not going to go well because the Republicans want to fund at 1991 levels. They are operating in a different world. It is going to be very difficult and chaotic and there will not be any good new legislation. What Democrats are looking to do is to implement the legislation of the last Congress with the Inflation Reduction Act and all the green energy and all of the research and medical services in that. And two other pieces of legislation, principally transportation and infrastructure. We are going to do our best to implement those to the fullest extent that we can by providing the funding. If we can do that in the next 14 months, we would consider that to be a victory.
- Where do you see the funding for Ukraine and Israel going?
 - We have to fund Ukraine and we have to provide the money for Israel to continue to irradiate Hamas.
 - In regards to Israel/Gaza situation, I said a week ago Saturday that Israel should stop the aerial bombardment. I think it is creating horrendous problems and far too many people have died as a result of it. He feels that Israel can defeat and irradiate Hamas by other means. Obviously, there is going to be a need for a new government in place and that is going to take a lot of thinking which I don't think has happened yet. There could be a UN mandate that would be in place until a rational government can be formed there as well as in the West Bank.
 - In regards to Ukraine, I think this is a Donald Trump move. I think there are within the MAGA Republicans folks who are listening to Donald Trump and he has been very clear that he could end the war in one day. He could by defunding Ukraine. We absolutely have to fund Ukraine. If we fail to do that, Ukraine will collapse and Russia will occupy. Russia will not stop at Ukraine. He will take on Moldova almost immediately. Then there is going to be very serious risk for the Baltic States – Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania. Putin has been very clear, he wants to reestablish what he considers to be the legitimate Russia. We have to do this in the next three weeks. Munitions are continuing to flow but there is only about three more weeks on this authorization to do that. It is extraordinarily important. We are looking at various ways to achieve that. Once again, we are probably going to end up with 100 rational Republicans and a couple of 100 Democrats to get it done.