



**MCDC General Meeting Agenda
May 19, 2024, 2:00 – 4:00 pm**

New Members
Leslie May
Laura Moore
Paulette Terry

Renewing Members
Cindy Blitz
David Blitz

Zoom Link:

[HTTPS://us02web.zoom.us/j/6304996072?pwd=ZGVhcBZYVVUrQWFMRVd1MEZ5anNMdZ09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6304996072?pwd=ZGVhcBZYVVUrQWFMRVd1MEZ5anNMdZ09)

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 by President Villaseca

I. Agenda Review

There were no changes to the agenda which was approved by acclamation

II. Minutes of the April General Meeting

Approval of the April Minutes was deferred due to lack of a quorum.

III. Announcements:

Everyone is invited to join us after the meeting for an early dinner at Jalisco’s Restaurant located at 8335 Brentwood Blvd <https://www.jaliscosmexican-restaurant.com/> Please RSVP at the meeting so we can give them a count of how many are coming so they can arrange the tables.

IV. President Carolina Villaseca

Carolina announced that the “Dying to Vote” documentary by Loki Mulholland will be scheduled at an upcoming General Meeting. If you belong to any other group that might be interested in viewing this very important and topical documentary, please e-mail marshcreekdems@gmail.com and we will give you the information.

V. Ian Cohen Vice President’s presentation was delayed pending Ian’s arrival.

VI. Guest Speaker

President Villaseca introduced today’s speaker Michelle Sinnot Petersen, Leader of the local “Mom’s Demand Action” chapter. Moms Demand Action (MDA) is a grassroots movement of Americans fighting for public safety measures that can protect people from gun violence. Ms. Petersen also serves as a delegate for the California Democratic Party and following an unsuccessful run for the School Board in Danville, helped start the Lift up Our Schools coalition within Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

Ms. Petersen noted that with ten million supporters, MDA has changed the tide of gun violence prevention in America, yet still every day over 100 people in America are victims of gun violence. African Americans are ten times more likely to be victims of gun violence, and firearms are the leading cause of death in the United States. Two thirds of all suicides are from guns. Indeed, there are more guns in America than there are people.

MDA has been working on numerous remedies and proposals, for example to increase the waiting period throughout the U.S. to 72 hours. While California has a waiting period, Nevada does not, and a recent murder was committed by a resident who simply traveled to Nevada to purchase a weapon before using it on another citizen.

Another effort in Jan Jose requires gun owners to purchase insurance, the proceeds of which go to victims of gun violence.

Members can learn more at [HTTPS://MomsDemandAction.org/about/victories](https://MomsDemandAction.org/about/victories)

V. Ian Cohen – Vice President

Ian reported on future speaker plans (below) and asked members that if they have a person who would like to speak to the club and whose discussion would align with democratic values and goals of our club to contact him at (510) 650-6444 or via email: ianscohen@hotmail.com Planned future speakers are:

- a) June: Peggy O’Neal from Unite for Democracy
- b) July through November are currently open. I am planning to talk to Mark Foley for a BART update in June.
- c) December - Accomplishment party!
- d) If you have a person who would like to come and speak (speaker aligns with democratic values and the goals of the club) to our club, please contact Ian Cohen at (510) 650-6444 or via email: ianscohen@hotmail.com

VII. Membership – Elinor Bell, Co-Chair

- a) Membership stats: 84 as of May 4, 2024
- b) Outreach efforts: Looking for volunteers to improve outreach efforts beyond the Supporters/Members list and Farmers Market. Discussion: Outreach ideas? We are exploring a newsletter and what content it should contain. If you have ideas, please let us know what information you would like to receive. marshcreek-dems@gmail.com.
- c) Continue to update interest forms - Looking for volunteers to improve outreach efforts beyond the Supporters/Members list and Farmers Market.

VII. Voter Outreach: Linda Smith

- a) Postcards for GOTV in Nevada.
- b) Letter Writing for November Elections in the Swing States of Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania has begun. Letters are due October 1, 2024.
- c) Postcard/Letter Writing Parties will be held on the following Wednesdays: May 22nd, June 5th, June 19th, July 3rd, July 31, Aug 14, and 28th.
- d) Contact Linda at lismithtech@gmail.com for an appointment to make a postcard sample or to pick up letters.
- e) Farmer's Market – Help staff our booth on Saturdays from 9 am to 12 noon at the corner of 1st and Oak in front of Bank of America. Email marshCreekDems@gmail.com to volunteer. Over 50% of the membership comes from the Farmer's Market.

VIII. Webmaster – Joe Ely – Please submit ideas or content to Joe. We want the website to be useful and dynamic.

IX. Social Justice – Ray Cole, Chair (report below, not in attendance)

- a) Met with the librarian for the Brentwood Library, Andrea Freyler to understand how books are selected for the library; the process for handling requests for banning or restricting books; and ask if there have been requests for banning books and, if so, how were they handled.
- b) Andrea was very open and helpful. Books are selected on the county level and there is a very detailed written policy that governs the process. In general, books are assigned by reader age groupings and a large variety of books are added to the inventory. There have been no requests for banning books at this location, so it is currently not an issue. Good news. I came away with a much greater appreciation of our library.
- c) I am continuing to read the top 10 banned books of 2023 and have three more to go. The intent is to write short 'book reports' for these and then change focus to another area. My current sense is that homelessness, Prop 1, and criminal justice (probably property crimes) are the areas that deserve attention. Am open to suggestions and, as always, volunteers to take on these or other issues.

X. Issues and Legislation – Bill Nusbaum, Chair:

- a) We are looking for members to join to help research issues and legislation. This work helps our club take informed positions and ask thoughtful intelligent questions of guests. Meetings are held via Zoom on the first Saturday of the month at 11:30 am.
- b) The next meeting is Saturday, June 1st, 11:30 a.m. If interested in joining, email Bill Nusbaum at billnusbaum13@gmail.com.

XI. DPCCC District 3 Update – Carolina Villaseca, DPCCC District 3 Director:

- a) We had a really great event for Marisol Rubio to get votes in Antioch. In attendance: Head of Cameroon group; Nigeria; hundreds of people who get together for cultural events. Looking for more cultural groups to supplement our club membership. Marisol Rubio missed getting endorsed by CADEM by 4 delegate votes. The good news is that Tim Grayson received even fewer votes so no one in that race was endorsed.
- b) Thuy (Congressional District 10) and Debra Vinson (Congressional District 8) were elected as delegates for the Chicago convention.
- c) Pushing for more access to PDI (Political Data) and to get the new voter roll files and looking to get training from Katherine Van Winkle to be more effective in the general election using data.

XII. Carolina Villaseca, Chair of Publications and Social Media Committee:

Pushing for more access to PDI (Political Data) and to get the new voter roll files and looking to get training from Katherine Van Winkle to be more effective in the general election using data.

XIII. Swing Left – Doug McClelland:

Still struggling to boost participation and visibility. We will be canvassing (knocking on doors distributing election and Get Out the Vote materials to registered democrats) in Reno starting in June. It is easy, and you get a small vacation while you are at it. We will also be canvassing in Lathrop (District 13) because Joe Biden won that district (in its newly defined boundaries so this district is flippable). In addition, I am hoping to start another swing left group in Roseville which can assist in our Reno efforts.

Doug is working with the Josh Harder team (CA-10, Stockton area and small portions of CoCo County) and hopes to get Josh out for another informational meeting with his constituents in this area, as well as organize canvassing efforts for him.

Still have a goal of 3,000 letters being mailed, we are also mailing 100 to citizens in seven different countries around the world, if you are interested in participating, check with Doug at dougatsfo@aol.com.

XIV. Treasurer’s Report– Thuy DaoJensen, Treasurer:

Marsh Creek Dems Treasurer's Financial Statement April 10-May7, 2024

Date	Description of INCOME	Amount
	BALANCE as of April 10, 2024:	\$ 5,205.40
25-Mar-2024	SQUARE deposit	\$48.25
22-Apr-2024	CASH deposit of (1) membership dues	\$20.00
23-Apr-2024	SQUARE deposit Membership Dues (1)	\$19.12
	TOTAL INCOME	\$ 5,292.77
Check #	Description of EXPENSES	Amount
1112	Survey Monkey fees (2 months)	\$198.00
	Total EXPENSES	\$198.00
<u>BALANCE as of May 7, 2024:</u>		<u>\$ 5094.77</u>

XV. For the Good of the Order (comments/suggestions)

General comments were heard about the importance of the upcoming election, the most compelling one was

“It’s not about talking, it’s about taking action.”

XVI. Meeting was Adjourned at 3:20 PM