

General Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2024, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02zoom.us/j/630496072?pwd=ZGVhczZyVWU0QWFMRYUjMEZ5aG5hNmZ0L0p1>

password: orange

- I. Call to Order at 2:06 p.m.**

Carolina thanked everyone for getting out the vote.
- II. Agenda Review**
 - a. There were no changes to the agenda.
 - b. Approve Agenda: Motion IAN Second VALERIE Approved by acclamation
- III. Approve Minutes of February General Meeting**
 - a. Approve Minutes: Motion LINDA Second SHANNON Approved by acclamation
- IV. Carolina Villaseca – President**
 1. For April meeting will schedule a 30-minute viewing of, “Dying to Vote” by Loki Mulholland with an additional 30 mins after for Q&A and discussion. April report-outs will be suspended until the May General meeting. We will find out the launch date for “Dying to vote.”
 2. No election results were presented. We will likely know by the March General meeting. If no candidate wins outright, then there will be a run-off in November. Monica & Rozzana have conceded leaving no reps in East Contra Costa except Lori Wilson in Discovery Bay.
 3. I will be offering a class on the following:
 - i. How to send e-mails to support our endorsed candidates.
 - ii. How to write a letter to the editor.
 - iii. How to write to City Council.
 - iv. How to write to the BUSD School Board.
 - v. How to call into City Council
 - vi. How to give public comment at school board and city council meetings. By ZOOM and in person.Anyone interested in taking this class, please text me at (2160 570-1270).
- VI. Ian Cohen – Vice President**
 - a. March -. Ian introduced our speaker: Erin Levine, Resource Recovery Manager World Centric, a leading manufacturer of certified compostable food service ware. She has been involved with resource recovery for nearly 20 years. She began by working with large generators of electronic waste by organizing collection and drop off events. Then for over 10 years she focused solely on organic waste management and finished compost applications. She has supported commercial compost facilities throughout the West Coast and has worked closely with various end users of compost including the agriculture community. Erin has a B.A. from St. Mary’s College in Liberal and Civic Studies and is a Certified Composting Professional through the US Composting Council. She is also a member of the California SB 54 Advisory Board, representing the compostable product manufacturers. In addition, she is on the Sustainability Commission for Contra Costa County.
 - b. April - Ellen McDonnell, CCC Public Defender – “Dying to Vote” Video
 - c. May - Moms Demand Action, Michelle Sinnot Petersen
 - d. June through Nov are currently open. Planning to talk to Mark Foley for a BART update in June.
 - e. Dec - Accomplishment party!
 - f. 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: 68 members as of 3/11/2024; 22 new and renewing since the Feb meeting. Welcome to Beverly Brown, Joan Budne, Susan Burselson, Lynn Champion, Colin Coffey, Betsy Ehrenberg, Julie Elam, Barbara Freitas, Sue Higgins, Micha Morris-Silveira, Rand Payton, Marisol Rubio, David Shaeffer, Sarah Shaeffer, Jennifer Storm-Alves, Karen White, Susana Williams, Monica Wilson, Barbara Wozniak, Greg Wozniak, Audrey Wright, and Judy Zuckert.

- b. Outreach efforts: Reviewed 2023 membership list and found 57 who had not renewed. Sent emails to all 57 of which 24 answered with renewals. Searching for individual(s) interested in expanding MCDC outreach efforts.
- c. Continue to update interest forms -received 24 updated forms from new/renewing members. Updated lists of interested people have been sent to Board officers and committee chairs.
- d. Membership dues of \$20 (\$5 for students) runs 12 months from January 31 to February 1 of the following year. After joining, new members must wait 30 days to be able to vote on any official MCDC business such as election of officers, changes to bylaws, and candidate endorsements. Renewing Members in Good Standing may vote as soon as dues are paid. If you are not a registered Democrat you are considered an Associate Member and are welcome to participate in any aspect of the Club; however, you may not vote on official MCDC business.
- e. Three ways to join--- credit card at 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

VIII. Mac & Cheese Fund Raiser: Linda Smith

- a. Power Point will be shown to highlight the results of the Mac & Cheese Fund Raiser. (Attached to minutes)
- b. 2nd Annual Mac & Cheese Cook-Off – Sunday, January 19, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Brentwood Community Center. To enter the competition, e-mail MarshCreekDems@gmail.com
- c. Special thank you to Harry and Thuy who did extra duty for the Mac & Cheese fund raiser.

IX. Voter Outreach: Linda Smith

- a. Postcard/Letter Writing for Swing States starting NOW
 - 1. **Postcards** for Virginia and Georgia for state primaries to increase turnout and solve voter problems before November ballot. Letters mailed May 1, 2024. Only concentrating on the biggest primaries as some states have multiple primaries.
 - 2. **Letter Writing** for November Elections in Swing States of Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania has begun. Letters are due October 1, 2024.
 - 3. **Postcard/Letter Writing Parties** will be held on Tuesdays March 19th and 26th April 2nd and 16th and then change to Wednesday's May 22nd, June 5th, June 19th, June 30th, July 31, Aug 14, 28th. First postcard gathering generated 500 postcards!
 - 4. **Contact Linda** at lismithtech@gmail.com for an appointment to make postcard sample or to pick up letters.
 - 5. **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.

IX. Webmaster – Joe Ely showed what replaced the, “Democrats deliver,” section with 2024 presidential election info. He also posted page comparing Trump v. Biden. Biden’s State of Union address is on the website. MCDC general meeting agendas and minutes are also uploaded just before the meetings, so you may follow along on your tablet or phones.

X. Social Justice – Ray Cole, Chair

- 1. Ray Cole will reach out to the members who expressed an interest in this committee. The Social Justice Committee, for now, will focus on:
 - Supporting school boards as needed on LGBTQ issues/curriculum
 - Reach out to LGBTQ organizations to form supportive relationships
 - Continue the banned book reviews to educate our membership.
 - 1. Ray will share books with those interested. Just return after you are done with them. These banned books are not pornographic, as they have been made out to be.

XII. Issues and Legislation – Bill Nusbaum, Chair – The following materials were distributed at the meeting (and are uploaded to the MCDC website):

- i. Notable People who have refused to endorse Donald Trump
- ii. Invest in a strong democracy with Marsh Creek Victory Fund
- iii. What may happen if the Republicans win the 2024 National Election?
- iv. Voting for the Democratic Party
- v. Fact Check: Performance in Managing the Country’s Economy (Trump v Biden)

- vi. Doug asked, “how many have heard of project 2025?” It is the roadmap if Republicans get elected in November and was developed by the Heritage Foundation.
- vii. The next piece will be on immigration. we’ll begin to share with other clubs. crafted by the heritage foundation.
- a. Meetings are held via Zoom on the first Saturday of the month at 11:30 am.
- b. Next meeting is Saturday, April 6th, 11:30 am. If interested in joining, email Bill Nusbaum at billnusbaum13@gmail.com.
- c. The Issues Committee has been hard at work developing materials to activate the key findings from the 2024 Issues Survey, which was Protecting Democracy!
 - Fact Check: Performance in Managing the Country's Economy Trump vs Biden - one page that we would like to make into a poster for the Farmer's Market table, as well as send out as noted above. This document was most liked save a few corrections.
 - Saving Democracy - a PowerPoint presentation on 2 critical Congressional bills. I'm sending 2 versions a pdf & a PowerPoint for those who may not have MS Office. May change this to a Word Doc.
 - Voting Democratic Up & Down the Ballot - a piece that seeks to show the importance of voting Democratic.
 - What Voting Republican Will Get You - a longer piece to educate on what Republicans want to do if they are in power based on the Heritage Foundation Project 2025
 - Your Action Now - a reprise of the piece we made back in 2022.

XIII. DPCCC District 3 Update – Carolina Villaseca, DPCCC District 3 Director

- a. Since the meeting isn’t happening this month, there is no update.

XIV. Carolina Villaseca, Chair of Publications and Social Media Committee

- a. Please show our beautiful website and FB page to 3 friends.

XV. Swing Left – Doug McClelland-30 people came to a Trilogy meeting last week. He will hold two mtgs per month every second Thursday at Trilogy’s wine bar. He will start canvassing. The process is to only go to democratic households. Please consider donating to the Marsh Creek Victory Fund with a goal of reaching a total of \$10k.

- a. Working on getting more people involved. Effort to put hangers out there. Will start writing letters or post cards this month.
- b. Act Blue fund-raising page is up. <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/blueprint-marsh-creek-victory-fund> Doug created a drop down and people can customize what they want to give. When we put this out, we can suggest what should be given to each area. Can be updated monthly. Want a resolution to adopt this and put it out to all democratic voters in the East County. Carolina motioned to accept Doug’s proposal, and Bill seconded. Accepted by acclamation.
- c. Pushing for Josh Harder’s district DISCO BAY, which currently has a Republican incumbent. Good chance to flip it. Doug has been canvassing there and will continue. Also, he will go to Reno where there is a worry about the Reno senator. Did 500 RENO doors last election; hope to do a lot more.

XVI. Treasurer’s Report– Thuy DaoJensen, Treasurer

Marsh Creek Dems Treasurer’s Financial Statement February 7 to March 5, 2024

Date	Description of INCOME	Amount
	BALANCE as of February 8, 2024:	\$ 5,040.10
6-Feb-2024	SQUARE deposit	\$19.12
9-Feb-2024	CHECK deposit of (1) membership dues	\$20.00
15-Feb-2024	SQUARE deposit	\$212.72
16-Feb-2024	SQUARE deposit	\$144.75

16-Feb-2024	SQUARE deposit	\$76.48
19-Feb-2024	CASH deposit of (1) membership dues	\$20.00
19-Feb-2024	CHECK deposit of (2) membership dues	\$40.00
19-Feb-2024	City of Brentwood refund	\$250.00
20-Feb-2024	SQUARE deposit	\$57.66
20-Feb-2024	SQUARE deposit	\$19.12
23-Feb-2024	CHECK deposit of (2) membership dues	\$40.00
26-Feb-2024	SQUARE deposit	\$19.12
26-Feb-2024	SQUARE deposit	\$19.12
28-Feb-2024	CHECK deposit of (3) membership dues	\$60.00
	Total INCOME	\$ 6,038.19

Check #	Description of EXPENSES	Amount
1105	WIX renewal	\$396.99
1106	P.O. Box 521 renewal, 5 postage stamps	\$94.40
1107	Rozzana Verder-Aliga (Endorsed candidate)	\$50.00
1108	Shanelle Scales-Preston (Endorsed candidate)	\$100.00
1109	Monica Wilson (Endorsed candidate)	\$100.00
1110	Marisol Rubio (Endorsed candidate)	\$100.00
	Total EXPENSES	\$841.39

BALANCE as of March 5, 2024: \$ 5,196.80

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

- a. **Angela Lowry:** I am an elected official but speaking on my own as a local citizen. **AB205** signed in 2022. July 1st, PGE bill will be paying based on usage and a flat fee based on income. Democrats are looking for a repeal. Also looking for signature amendment of **Prop 47** that made it a misdemeanor if more than \$950 or less is stolen, to making it a felony for repeat offenders.
- b. **Jessica Morse:** campaign –3rd congressional district Sacramento, Lake, Tahoe, Sierras will represent all the water than comes from this district. She is running against Kevin Kiley who is a MAGA Republican, supports the 2025 agenda, Moms to Liberty elected to school boards, and is pushing a national abortion ban. Kiley won because of low democratic turnouts for the primary. We know we can mobilize, and win based on turning out Democrats. Jessica Morse is the Deputy Secretary for Forest and Wildland Resilience at the California Natural Resources Agency. She is the only woman in a challenger’s seat in California. She raised \$1M, but needs \$5M. Join us and help flip the house!
- c. **Jovita Mendoza:** meeting next week reviewing tobacco ordinance. thought we banned all such shops in Brentwood but apparently, we didn’t, so, asking again. Tuesday – review CEQA California Environmental Quality Act– make sure we are safe. Legislators are chipping away at CEQA. Scott Weiner and David Alvarez are chipping away at it – allowing development on the coast. Thursday recap on Instagram if you want to follow me. Land use Monday at 5:30 p.m.; Planning Commission Tuesday @ 6 pm. What is an example of what CEQA does? Looks at what developments do to neighborhood flow, calmness, etc.
- d. **Susanna Meyer:** Community Day of Service 4/27 – volunteers sign up to support nonprofit needs. Some opportunities, you take home, some you go there. 400 vols interested in taking part – all abilities welcome. Here is a link to sign up: <https://www.brentwoodca.gov/government/city-manager/community-day-of-service>
- e. **Linda Smith:** after the mtg is over, going to La Hacienda grill – vegetarian menu. 71 Sand Creek, Brentwood.
- f. **Harry Thurston:** I was a poll worker. You should try it; quite interesting to see how the process works. Tomorrow 630pm Antioch City Council, after 3 years, is having its 1st police oversight meeting at the city council. Go in person or watch on zoom. Harry is the chair of the commission.
- g. **Ian Cohen:** African book fund raiser resulted in \$600 raised to ship 1358 books to Zimbabwe.

XVIII. Adjournment 4:07 PM