

## General Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2022

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.
- B. All Zoom Attendees have been muted.
- C. If joining via Zoom, please rename your Zoom to your first and last name.
- D. At the end of the presentations, our speaker will take a few questions.
  - 1. Use Chat, or click Reactions and Raise Hand.

#### **May Renewing Members**

Jocelyn Baker  
Ben Kellogg  
Angela Lowrey

#### **New Members**

Phil Arnold  
Tamish Torres Walker

### II Minutes for April (3 minutes)

- A. Motion to Adopt Minutes: Motion\_DS 2<sup>nd</sup> CV

### III Agenda Review (3 minutes)

- A. Any changes to the Agenda: None requested.
- B. Motion to Adopt Agenda: Motion \_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_ Approved by Acclamation\_\_

### IV Shannon Skinner – President (5 minutes)

- A. Update
- B. Recap results of MCDC endorsement meeting in April

### V Yolanda Mendrek – Vice President (3 minutes)

- A. Update on Future Presentations
  - 1. June 26: Brian Helmick, Chief of the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District, will provide an update on recent enhancements to EC Fire Protection capabilities.
  - 2. We hope to have a July speaker on the likely overruling of Roe v. Wade.
  - 3. Members are invited to tell us about speakers they'd like to hear or issues they want discussed.

### VI Today's Guest Speaker: 2:30 – 3:00

**East Contra Costa County Mental Health Issues** – Gigi Crowder, Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Contra Costa has worked in the behavioral health field for over 32 years. In addition to her position at NAMI, she is the FaithNet Coordinator and has advanced efforts statewide to reduce mental health stigma by training faith leaders using the Mental Health Friendly Communities training curriculum she co-designed. One current focus is on addressing the needs of those who are often criminalized for living with a medical condition, She spoke to the meeting about the many activities and resources offered by NAMI of Contra Costa County. Her PowerPoint presentation is attached.

**VI Membership – Linda Smith and Doug McClelland (3 minutes)**

**A. 2022 Membership – 88 Members as of May 1**

1. 78 Members as of May 2021
  2. Now is the time to increase our membership! Try to bring at least one new person to our June meeting.
  3. 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 their dues are paid.
- C. New members become Members in Good Standing and may vote 30 days after their dues are paid.

**VII Voter Outreach – Linda Smith (5 minutes)**

- A. **Update on Farmers’ Market** – We need more volunteers to sign up for two-hour blocks, beginning at 8:00 am and going to noon on Saturdays. Republicans have sometimes been taking our usual spot at the Farmers’ Market, so we need to get there early. We’ve been putting out handouts for Floy Andrews, Diana Becton and Ben Therriault.
- B. **Postcard/Letter Writing** –
1. We’ve written 1250 letters to Swing States so far and are concentrating on places Swing Left has identified as critical: Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin. The goal is to increase participation of historically underrepresented communities and Democratic leaning voters in Mid-Term elections. The letters will all be stored and mailed on October 29, 2022. Vote Forward’s goal is to have over 10 million letters ready to go on October 29th. Just let Linda know what state you are interested in.
  2. Postcards form Center for Common Ground – We are waiting for them to identify more states to write postcards.
- C. Register to Vote in Contra Costa County at [www.Cocovote.us](http://www.Cocovote.us)
- D. See website for helpful list of Joe Biden’s accomplishments, prepared by Linda Smith.

**VIII Swing Left Director – Doug McClelland (5 minutes)**

- A. Swing Left Update: The next Wine Barn meeting will be this coming Thursday, May 19, from 2:30-4:30. This will be a gathering of like-minded friends to chat, visit, discuss politics and/or write letters to Swing States. With all that is going on, we thought it would be fun to commiserate, plan and just talk. Wine and treats will be provided!
- B. The email address of Swing Left is [MarshCreekSL@aol.com](mailto:MarshCreekSL@aol.com).
- C. “BluePrint.org” is a new approach to consolidating contributions to national Democratic candidates in a single location. The contributions are then distributed to candidates on the basis of a careful analysis of which Democratic candidates are in close races for seats that could be flipped. This helps ensure that contributions are used in the most effective manner possible. Doug urged meeting attendees to consider making any political donations to national candidates through BluePrint.org.

**IX Issues Committee – Bill Nusbaum (5 minutes)**

- A. Meetings first Saturday of the month at 11:30 am. Next Meeting - **Sat. June 4** at 11:30 am via Zoom.
- B. We have sent a letter in support of AB 1223, which would impose an excise tax on the sale of gun ammunition, to Assembly Member Levine.
- C. The Fact Sheet on Gun Control has been posted on the website.

- D. The Committee is currently focusing on preparing a fact sheet regarding the effective teaching of civics courses in our schools.

**X Communications – Carolina Villaseca (3 minutes)**

- A. Several recent and important postings on Facebook regarding vital news and calls to action. Send any call to action to Carolina at [marshcreekdems@gmail.com](mailto:marshcreekdems@gmail.com)
- B. Carolina urged members to contact her if they are interested in distributing “doorknob hangers” or in sending out emails regarding Democratic candidates.

**XI Precinct Task Force Update – Carolina Villaseca (3 minutes)**

- A. Precinct Captains – Carolina Villaseca, Linda Smith, Thuy DaoJensen, Doug McClelland, Audrey Wright, Troy Christensen, Jennifer Baker, and Gary Chambers
- B. Precinct Captains and Buddies are needed for all our cities.

**XII Treasurer’s Report – Thuy DaoJensen (5 minutes)**

**Marsh Creek Dems Treasurer’s Financial Statement**

**April 4, 2022 – May 1, 2022**

Date	Description of INCOME	Amount
	<b>BALANCE as of April 4, 2022:</b>	<b>\$ 3,826.73</b>
5-Apr-2022	SQUARE deposit of (2) membership dues	\$38.54
8-Apr-2022	SQUARE deposit of (1) membership dues	\$19.12
11-Apr-2022	SQUARE deposit of (2) membership dues	\$38.24
11-Apr-2022	SQUARE deposit of (2) membership dues	\$47.65
12-Apr-2022	SQUARE deposit of (1) membership dues	\$19.12
22-Apr-2022	SQUARE deposit of (1) membership dues	\$19.12
	<b>Total INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 4,008.52</b>

Check #	Description of EXPENSES	Amount
	<b>Total EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

**BALANCE as of May 1, 2022: \$4,008.52**

**XIII Secretary’s Report – Connie Harden**

- A. Any questions about Minutes of March meeting? (None raised.) They’ve been posted on the website.
- B. Each one of us can help by informing voters, getting new MCDC members, writing letters and postcards, putting up signs, distributing doorknob hangers, etc. Now is a critical time to act! No matter what your skills or interests, we have a place for you and invite you to participate.

### **XIII For the Good of the Order (comments/suggestions) (3 minutes)**

- A. Because of redistricting, Congressional Representative Josh Harder's District 9 now will encompass Discovery Bay (which is currently represented by Jerry McNerney, who is retiring). Diane Alexander is hosting a meet and greet at her Discovery Bay home on Tuesday, May 24 at 7 pm for all Discovery Bay Democrats who would like to meet Josh. Please email Diane at [dapa@comcast.net](mailto:dapa@comcast.net) if you would like to attend, and she will send you the address.
- B. Chris Duncan is running for a potentially flippable State Assembly seat in Orange County and has asked Shannon for any help we can give with writing postcards to support his candidacy. Shannon knows Chris and believes strongly in his abilities. Chris was previously working at the Department of Homeland Security.
- C. Zoom chats have resumed and take place at 10 am on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month.
- D. Report by Elected Officials in attendance.
  - 1. Jovita Mendoza raised the issue of oil and gas drilling in Contra Costa County and discussed efforts to get it banned entirely. Brentwood currently requires a 3400 ft. setback for wells; however, a complete ban is badly needed. The current situation with drilling reflects generally poor past planning for growth and development in Brentwood.

### **XIV Adjournment**