

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

June 26, 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. Our July meeting will take place on July 17 (a return to our regular 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday schedule).
- 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.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>June</b></p> <p><b><u>Renewing Members</u></b> Joan Budne Ted Elwell Brenda King-Randall</p> <p><b><u>New Members</u></b> Elinor Bell Amelia Payton Fernando Sandoval</p>
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### II Minutes for May (3 minutes)

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

### III Agenda Review (3 minutes)

- A. Any changes to the agenda:
- B. Motion to Adopt Agenda: Motion CV 2<sup>nd</sup> MF

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

- A. Update and calls to action regarding overruling of Roe v. Wade – meetings, marches, other actions we can take to show our outrage.

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

- A. Introduction of Brian Helmick, Chief of the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District, who has extensive experience both in direct firefighting and as the leader of the East Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, which is merging, effective July 1, into the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District.
- B. We are still working to arrange our speaker for July and hope to have someone address abortion and other privacy rights that are endangered by the Supreme Court decision in Dobbs.

### VI Brian Helmick's presentation: 2:30 – 3:00

**Update on East Contra Costa County Fire Protection District** – Brian provided an update on recent enhancements to EC Fire Protection capabilities. Brian's excellent presentation is attached to these minutes, and we are all very grateful to him for his service and leadership.

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

- A. **2022 Membership – 91 Members as of June 1**
  - 1. That's up from 79 members as of June 2021.

2. Now is the time to increase our membership! Try to bring at least one new person to our July 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 volunteers for July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8 to 11. Otherwise, we are full up for all of July.
- B. Postcard/Letter Writing –
1. We’ve written **700** postcards from the Center for Common Ground, for Florida Primary to get people ready for November – Mailing August 2<sup>nd</sup>
  2. We’ve written **3500** 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.
  3. We’ve written **200** postcards for Swing States (Nevada, Georgia, Arizona, Pennsylvania, or Wisconsin) — Mailing October 19<sup>th</sup>
  4. Beginning on Wednesday, July 20, Linda will be holding letter and postcard writing parties at her home every other Wednesday from 10:00 am to noon.
- 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. Linda introduced Doug McClelland, Swing Left Chair to conclude membership remarks and report on Swing Left activities.
- B. Aside from continuing to write letters, and hold monthly meetings in Trilogy, MCDC Swing Left Chapter branched out to different activities for the remainder of 2022, supporting Congressman Josh Harder whose re-drawn district now includes parts of Contra Costa County, in the midterm elections. Marsh Creek Dems and Swing Left hosted a Meet and Greet for Mr. Harder and sent 500 emails and knocked on 350 doors for the primaries.
- C. Doug noted we need to continue letter writing and will help set up a meeting for any member who wants to host one at their home or a public venue like Mountain Mikes. While he was sensitive to the cost of stamps, he compared our effort today with that of resisting authoritarianism in World War II, when the U.S. borrowed (adjusted for inflation) \$25,000 from each man, woman, and child in the U.S. Beating Trumpism will not be free, or cheap.
- D. If you want to help others who are writing letters with the cost of stamps, you can donate on the Marsh Creek Dems website. ([Marshcreekdemms.org](http://Marshcreekdemms.org)) using the BIG donate button at the top of the page.
- E. Doug is hoping to register voters in Reno (Casino trip, anyone?) this summer and canvass in October in either Las Vegas or Tucson. If interested in learning more, contact Doug at [MarshCreeksl@aol.com](mailto:MarshCreeksl@aol.com).

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

- A. Meetings first Saturday of the month at 11:30 am. Next Meeting – Sat. July 1<sup>st</sup>, 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. We have not yet received a response.
- C. The Fact Sheet on Gun Control should be posted on the website, and the committee is continuing its work on that issue, which has attracted so much additional concern and activism because of the massacres in Buffalo and Uvalde. Linda will follow up on posting the fact sheet.
- D. Update on other issues the Committee is working on, including enhanced teaching of civics in our public schools. Can you help? We'd love to have you join us!

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

- A. Several recent and important postings on Facebook regarding important news and calls to action. Send any call to action to Carolina at [marshcreekdems@gmail.com](mailto:marshcreekdems@gmail.com)

**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**

**June 6 – July 3, 2022**

Date	Description of INCOME	Amount
	<b>BALANCE as of June 6, 2022:</b>	<b>\$3,869.55</b>
10-Jun-2022	CHECK deposit of (4) membership dues	\$80.00
28-Jun-2022	SQUARE deposit of (1) membership dues	\$19.12
	<b>Total INCOME</b>	<b>\$3,968.67</b>

Check #	Description of EXPENSES	Amount
1062	Website domain renewal, envelopes, postage stamps	\$209.53
	<b>Total EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$209.53</b>

**BALANCE as of July 3, 2022: \$3,759.14**

### **XIII Secretary's Report – Connie Harden**

- A. The minutes of the May meeting have been posted on the website.
- B. If you haven't been watching the U.S. House of Representatives hearings on the January 6 insurrection, I urge you to do so. The new information that is emerging is a shocking call to action to every Democrat or other citizen who cares about the preservation of our democracy and Constitutional protections.
- C. 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, even though the election is over 4 months away. There is much to do, and you can help, whatever your skills or interests. Talk with your friends who aren't yet members of MCDC. Tell them about your reaction to the House hearings and your concerns about the November election, and invite them to join us. Be ready to discuss President Biden's many successes in office, and the obstacles he currently faces that are completely outside his control. Be informed, and share what you learn.
- D. In April, our speaker Paula Hawthorn told us about the work she was doing to plan a gun surrender event (called "Guns to Garden Tools") in Oakland. The event took place in June and was a great success. The Oakland police participated enthusiastically, and 131 guns (including several assault rifles) were collected. Each person surrendering a gun received a gift card worth between \$100 and \$300, depending on the type of gun they brought. Some funds remained from the contributions collected, and Paula looks forward to a repetition of the event next year. In the words of Nancy Pelosi, **"We don't agonize, we organize!"**

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

- A. Zoom chats have resumed and take place at 10 am on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month.
- B. Report by Elected Officials in attendance
  - 1. Brentwood City Council Woman Jovita Mendoza reported that the next City Council meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, June 28, will be important. Discussion will include the budget, the planned soccer center, the innovation center, and removal of a planning commissioner. Another extremely important issue currently being discussed is Brentwood's state-determined allocation of new affordable housing units. Although the original determination was that 1,552 housing units were required, there is now a move to increase that goal to 5,000. Compliance with the final goal is very important, because the state can take over the City's planning process if the city fails to meet the goal. All are urged to attend Tuesday's meeting.
  - 2. Connie Harden read to the meeting an essay she wrote regarding the terrible impact of the overturning of Roe v. Wade on women's lives.
  - 3. Bill Randle urged everyone to watch the Netflix program "Who We Are," which he described as an important and compelling look at the lives of Black people in our country.

### **XIV Adjournment**