



Agenda April 18, 2021

Conducted online via Zoom
Any Questions: MarshCreekDems@gmail.com

New 2021 Members: René Lewellyn, Rand Payton, Julie Thornton, Anne Whatley, Nicole Xavier

Renewed Members: Daphne Muse, Laura West

I Call to Order and Introductions (New members, **Dignitaries**) (3 minutes) 2:05 p.m.

- A. All Attendees have been muted.
- B. Please rename your Zoom to your first and last name.
- C. At the end of the presentation, our speaker will take questions.
 - 1. Use Chat or click Reactions and Raise hand

II Approve Minutes from March 21st meeting Motion CV 2nd HT (2 minutes) approved

III Agenda Review (3 minutes)

- A. Any changes to the Agenda – Add under section ten – recall portion is a voting issue not an update
- B. Motion to Adopt Agenda: Motion LS 2nd TJ approved

IV Announcements: Shannon Skinner, MCDC President (3 minutes)

- A. Executive Board appointed Don Smith as Parliamentarian – to help us with making sure we follow bylaws.
- B. Mayor Thorpe of Antioch made a proposal to make amends to the Bay Area’s Chinese American Community for historic wrongs suffered at the hands of the city’s founding community. The proposal would designate a Chinatown historic district and offer an official apology from the City to Asian American and Pacific Islanders, including the Chinese Community.
- A. C. Mount Diablo Peace and Justice Center is hosting a dialogue to action – a community discussion on racism and prejudice in Contra Costa County – April 27th from 7-8:30 pm via zoom. A link will be sent out so you can register to attend.

V Harry Thurston – Vice President (3 minutes)

- A. Summary of Democratic Party Contra Costa County (DPCCC) 4/15 meeting DPCCC Membership Meeting was last Thursday, April 15th.

Items from the meeting of importance to the Club were:

- 1. Carolina Villaseca gave the Dist.3 Director’s Report. She will review her DPCCC report out update under today’s MCDC Communication report agenda item.
- 2. The DPCCC voting membership which included our Club Voting Representative, Shannon Skinner, voted to approve the following resolutions to:
 - a. Support the passage by the State legislature of Assembly Bill 20, The Corporate-Free Elections Act.
 - b. Support The passage of Assembly Bill 1199 to increase transparency by requiring all corporate landlords to report on the identities of their true owners held through LLCs and LPs, and to impose an excise tax on large real-estate corporations that rent out 10 or more properties in

California to disincentive consolidation in the rental market and generate revenue for first time home-buyer education and affordable-housing preservation.

~~A.c.~~ Support the Opposition to the recall of Governor Gavin Newson.

B. California Democratic Party State Convention runs from April 29th-May 2nd

VI Voter Outreach – Linda Smith (3 minutes)

- A. We have a pop-up set-up outside Farmer's Market at Bank of America Corner Volunteers needed – 8 to 11.
- B. We are using Vote Forward to write Thank You Letters to Georgia voters and encourage them to vote in Nov 2022. We received donations for stamps if anyone want to volunteer to write letters.
- C. Let us know if you would like to participate in letter writing - marshcreekdems@gmail.com
- ~~C.~~ We wrote 100 postcards for a PA state rep – Also, we wrote thank you letters in Ga for first time voters.

VII Guest Speakers: 2:30- 3:00

Sandhya Nadadur, Detention and Deportation Policy Analyst with the California Immigration Policy Center. Topic: Immigration issues within Contra Costa County, the State and at the US/CA Border.

See attached presentation in email.

VIII Issues Committee – Bill Nusbaum (5 minutes)

- A. Meetings are the first Saturday of the month at 10:30. Next meeting: Sat. May 1st at 10:30 via Zoom
- B. Status on Issues in progress -working on writing issue briefs on major issues.
- C. Executive Board voted to Endorse SB90/AB1416 The Ballot Disclose Act and was submitted to California Clean Money Campaign – made recommendation to Board to accept– the Board signed it and it was sent.

IX Membership – Linda Smith and Doug McClelland (3 minutes)

- A. To date, we have 77 members; 76 MIG and 1 Associate (57 Renewals and 20 New Members)
- B. 2021 Dues should be paid now. \$20 for 2021 membership from 2-20-20 to Feb 19, 2022
Ways to join — Credit Card at <https://www.marshcreekdems.org/all-products> or Venmo MarshCreekDems (3416) or Check (Write MarshCreekDems@gmail.com for mailing address)

X Communications – Carolina Villaseca (3 minutes)

- A. Posting on Facebook important news and call to action. Send any call to action to Carolina at marshcreekdems@gmail.com Next month is Asian/Pacific Islander month. She will post on those who have made contributions to our country.
- ~~B.~~ District Director Update – Recall of Newsom – Carolina read the proclamation to be voted on. A copy was sent out to all members prior to the meeting. Motion to accept: BN second LS Motion passed
- ~~B.~~ Meetings are the third Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. Next Meeting: May 20th

C. DPCC Hearing notes: Congressman Jerry McNerney held an SBA town hall, held several subcommittee hearings to include:

- child safety in the digital age,
- infrastructure funding including Amtrak and other portions from the Green New Deal
- held a Q&A with Mark Zuckerberg from FB about monetizing disinformation.

He also voted on:

- increasing broadband in underserved areas
- grants for digital equipment for CA, to protect Medicare/Aid from budget cuts
- to give farmers CAW (certified agricultural worker) certification establishing status to start a path to citizenship.

From County Supervisor Diane Burgis:

- Interviewed and seated the Committee that will handle the Measure X monies
- continues setting up clinics and getting shots in arms.
- set up the HousingisKey.com to help with rent relief for those that qualify.

The County Board of Education Opened programs on 4/12 beginning with special ed students. They also finished seating the 5 members of the new Oakley school board. Congratulations to Annette Williams and Consuelo Lara!

Knightsen, Byron, Brentwood, Discovery Bay and Antioch started hybrid model back to school this month. Antioch is using a teacher ZOOM with a limited number of kids in school with aides.

The new Oakley board will move forward with getting kids back to school.

Antioch Mayor Lamar Thorpe gave a state of the city address explaining priorities.

Antioch Vice Chair Monica Wilson has been educating us about sexual assault, what it is, what are the warning signs/flags and properly assist survivors.

Councilmember Jovita Mendoza has been working to defeat of SB9 in Sacramento, a bill that would allow partitions of single-family homes into rental units.

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XI Secretary – Barbara Coffman (3 minutes)

A. Zoom chat will now be held the 4th Saturday of each month at 10am. Next Meeting: April 24th

A-B. I will send a link to everyone about May 12th from 7:00 pm- 8:30 pm -

XII Swing Left Director – Doug McClelland (3 minutes)

A. Swing Left Update – Major goal is to get letters out to thank GA for voting. 100 postcards were sent out (not part of Swing Left) to voters in PA.

XIII Precinct Task Force – Carolina Villaseca (3 minutes)

A. Meetings are scheduled the third Thursday of the month. Next Meeting: May 20th at 1:00 p.m.

B. Precinct Captains – Carolina Villaseca, Harry Thurston, Linda Soliven, Linda Smith, Shannon Skinner, Michael Dupray and Gary Chambers

C. Precinct Captains are needed for all of our cities.

D. Update focusing on information on recall. Linda Soliven will be leaving the area and will not be a precinct captain any more.

XIV Treasurer’s Report – Thuy DaoJensen (5 minutes)

www.MarshCreekDems.org

Facebook: Marsh Creek Dems

XV Good for the Order (comments/suggestions) (3 minutes) Free covid 19 vaccine – walkin – 9am to 4pm. It takes about 15 minutes to finish. Mark Foley updated us on Bart – ridership up to 15% - highest this year. This Thursday he will

XVI Past President – Don Smith (3 minutes)

Remarks _

Last month I spoke about staying involved and helping to set the agenda for our work this year. I have decided that my personal goal for the year will be to learn more and do more to achieve a more equal and just society.

This all came about when my middle daughter told me about her book group and that they had just read the letters to his 14 year old nephew entitled “My Dungeon Shook” and “The Fire Next Time” written by James Baldwin. I read them and was profoundly moved.

Baldwin was raised in a strict Christian home in Harlem. His father was the senior minister of the Pentecostal church there and at the age of 14 James began preaching one service a week. He built up quite a following and was well enough known that, when he was 23 he was invited to meet with Elijah Mohammed, the founder of the Nation of Islam, also known as the Black Panthers. James had just left his father’s church and was questioning his Christianity, although Elijah didn’t know that. The purpose of the meeting was to convince James to join the Nation of Islam. James learned that Elijah considered whites the enemy of blacks and felt the whites no longer deserved to lead the country and did in fact no longer deserve to live. James could not agree and declined to join Elijah. In explaining, Baldwin said, “I have several white friends, some of whom I believe would die for me.” Elijah answered, “You **believe**.”

Baldwin explained in his letters to his nephew that he didn’t believe that equality would be achieved through hatred but only through love. He didn’t believe that the solution was to form two separate but equal societies, one black and the other white, but to form one **more perfect union** where race, creed, religious belief and skin color were of no importance. He said, and I agree, we have struggled to build a free and just republic for over 200 years. Abandoning that ideal and striving to create a dominate black republic to exist alongside a white republic would be doomed from the start.

One of the dominant features of the MAGA movement is that the people involved hate their lives, they feel cheated and mistreated by society and they are looking for someone to blame and to feel superior to.

LZ Granderson, a young black man, writes a column in the LA Times and he recently wrote:

“It’s not that Black people can’t let go of race, as we’re so often accused by those conditioned to avoid the subject. It’s that America can’t let go of white supremacy and all of its manifestations and benefits — like the ability to storm the Capitol and still be allowed to go on a Mexican vacation afterward or be given a Burger King meal soon after murdering nine Black people in church. We watched the abolitionist movement of the 1820s be met with the Fugitive Slave Act; Tulsa’s famed Black Wall Street burned down by racists in 1921; the 2020 election greeted with the Jan. 6 insurrection. It’s why despite the video showing Chauvin’s knee on George Floyd’s neck for 9 minutes and 29 seconds, many of us are worried it won’t be enough. Just as all of the other videos starting with Rodney King were not enough. We’ve all followed so many Chauvin-like cases that it is nonsensical at best and insulting at worst to hear elected officials say, “We are better than this.” No, we are not. We are exactly this. We are the country that looked at the historic turnout of our most recent election and drafted 253 bills in 43 states to restrict voter access. We may **want** to be better but we have to first be willing to **do** better. The Chauvin case is less about the soul of America and more about the goal of America. Who and what are we trying to be and are we ready to do the work to get there?”

What I have decided for myself is that I will learn more about social justice and what it means and do more to promote the ideals. But as Baldwin said, we cannot love others until we learn to love ourselves and to do that we

must learn to forgive ourselves our failures and our shortcomings and continually strive to be the best possible version of ourselves.

I think we actually CAN form a more perfect union. I will at least try.

A:

XVII Adjournment – 3:54 p.m.

Marsh Creek Dems Treasurer's Financial Statement
March 8 - April 4, 2021

Date	Description of INCOME	Amount
	BALANCE as of March 8, 2021:	\$ 3,011.24
8-Mar-2021	SQUARE Membership dues (2)	\$38.24
10-Mar-2021	SQUARE Membership dues (2)	\$38.54
11-Mar-2021	VENMO Membership dues (3)	\$60.00
12-Mar-2021	SQUARE Membership dues (1)	\$19.12
12-Mar-2021	CHECK Membership dues (3)	\$80.00
22-Mar-2021	CHECK Membership dues (2)	\$40.00
22-Mar-2021	CASH Membership dues (2)	\$40.00
22-Mar-2021	SQUARE Membership dues (2)	\$38.24
26-Mar-2021	CHECK Membership dues (1)	\$20.00
30-Mar-2021	CHECK Membership dues (2)	\$120.00
	Total INCOME	\$ 3,505.38

Check #	Description of EXPENSES	Amount
	Total EXPENSES	\$ -

	<u>\$</u>
<u>BALANCE as of April 4, 2021:</u>	<u>3,505.38</u>