

LAKE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
PO Box 1151, Lakeport, CA 95453  
Phone: 707-533-4885; [www.lakecountymocrats.org](http://www.lakecountymocrats.org)  
FPPC#961174/FEC#C00389189

**MINUTES**

**Meeting of April 2, 2015**

**Lakeport Senior Center Conference Room, 527 Konocti Blvd. Lakeport**

**6:30 pm**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Becky Curry. Roll call was taken by Secretary Rubin.

**Voting Members Present:**

District 1: A. Rubin; District 2: L. Baron; S. Howland; H. Riley;

District 3: None District 4: M. Harris; District 5: B. Curry; A. Esutoki; L. Acosta;

Ex Officio Alternates: J. Conard (Dodd); W. Holbrook (Thompson); J. Luiz (McGuire)

**Club Representatives Present:** W. Harris (Stonewall Democratic Club), D. Smith (Lake Co. Democratic Club)

**Voting Members Absent:**

District 1: R. Green (x) District 2: W. Manners (u) District 3: J. Evans (u); L. Rigod (u); J. Sheehy (u) District 4: V. Cerenio (x); T. Jordan (x); N. Strasser (u); J. Swetnam (u);

District 5: H. Luia (u);

**Alternate Members Present**

District 1: C. Negrete (Green)

District 4: Toni Jordan (Cerenio); V. Spohn (Tom Jordan)

District 5: St Elmo Mosby (Esutoki)

**Approval of Agenda:**

Motion to approve agenda: J. Conard / Approved as presented.

**Approval of March 5, 2015 Minutes:**

Motion to approve minutes: J. Conard / Approved as submitted.

**Guest Speaker:**

Susan Jen, Lake County Health Leadership Network, presented on Way to Wellville and how it will benefit Lake County.

**Public Comment:**

Anne Rubin reported on new developments and good news from Hidden Valley Lake. In the recent Planning Commission hearing, on 3/26/15, the HVL Watershed Group's appeal on Wild

Diamond Vineyard project's grading permit was rejected by the Commission. The HVL Watershed Group has vowed to re-appeal. The vineyard is now mandated to chip & mulch, rather than burn, vegetation they cut down in the process of clearing land for grape vines. This is thanks to multiple complaints by residents to the Air Quality Office.

Another development from HVL is that the Board of Directors was reorganized and the power structure is now favorable to those who have long protested the practices of previous administrations. This was a beautifully executed power re-structuring and demonstrated how you can make a change for the better with persistent, systematic grassroots action.

Carlos Negrete reported back from the MATH meeting 3/12/15.

- Jesse Robertson of Lake APC's State Active Transportation gave an update on the feasibility study on proposed improvements to the Middletown corridor.
- Giselle Gransow Stahl talked about Lake County Trails and informed the group that there are plans to build a trail all the way from Middletown to Hidden Valley Lake.
- Lisa Kaplan talked announced the Grand Opening of Middletown Art Center and invited all to attend the on 3/28.
- Chili cook-off was announced for 5/16 at 10:00. There is a \$1,000.00 first prize. The competition also includes salsas.
- Steve Greenberg talked about the proposed Hartmann Event Center in Hidden Valley Lake and how the community cannot really afford the cost.
- Regular MATH meeting date has been changed from April 9<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> to accommodate Bill Dodd as speaker.
- Gibson Museum is celebrating its first anniversary on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Middletown Farmers' Market will be hosted by Lovie's Garden Supply. Start date TBA.

For more details please contact Carlos directly.

**Committee Appointments:**

Vote on appointment of Luisa Acosta to District 5. Nominee gave brief statement. W. Harris gave a statement of support. Vote to appoint L. Acosta was unanimous. Chair Curry assigned the new D-5 rep to the Voter Registration Committee.

Joey Luiz has been appointed by State Senator Mike McGuire as his Ex Officio Alternate to the Lake County Central Committee.

Appointment of alternates: D5- Vice-chair Esutoki has appointed St.Elmo Mosby as his alternate.

**Legislator's Reports:**

Congress Member Mike Thompson

Wally Holbrook reported that:

- Congressman Thompson was appointed to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.
- Announced more than \$1.4 million for Napa County's Child Start, expanding high quality early learning opportunities for Napa and Solano counties.
- Together with Jenkins, introduced the Medicare Patient Access to Hospice Act which will allow Physician Assistants to provide care to patients in hospice.
- Introduced legislation together with Congressman Eshoo to make health insurance more affordable in high cost areas like San Francisco.
- Announcing \$4.9 million in a grant for Head Start and Early Head Start in 12 centers throughout Sonoma County.
- More than \$4.3 million has been allocated to restore river and tidal marshes habitats and improve water quality in Napa/Sonoma counties.
- Congressman Thompson recognized five county women of the year for their contributions. Pamela Phillips, Lake County's Woman of the Year; Cynthia Guzman, Napa County; Karen Taylor, Solano County; Maureen Toms, Contra Costa and Gaye LeBaron, Sonoma County.
- Statement: US District Court ruled against the Wappo Tribe seeking status restoration, in order to be able to build a casino in Napa or Sonoma County.
- Thompson secures the final installment of \$1.8 million to complete the Napa River Flood Project, total cost of which was \$16.62 million.
- Thompson & Fitzpatrick urge appropriators to provide funds to strengthen background check systems.
- Voted against House GOP budget. If Senate passes the budget it will probably be vetoed by the President. The budget, if passed as submitted, would destroy 2.9 million jobs and decrease the economic growth by 2.5%.

Full report available on the website, [www.lakecountymocrats.org](http://www.lakecountymocrats.org).

Congress Member John Garamendi

No report.

State Senator Mike McGuire:

Joey Luiz was appointed last night, so there is no report.

- Joey expressed excitement to have been appointed for the position and expects it to be easy to get information from Senator McGuire's office as he shares much of the same territory, and works out of the same building a couple of times a month, in his work as Fiona Ma's District Liaison.
- Mike and Fiona have been working closely together on some projects and have formed an alliance since they were both elected.
- One example of their collaboration is the Lake County Marijuana Compliance Pilot Project, which sets up the tax mechanism for the eventuality of legalization of marijuana in 2016.
- We may have the best representation the county has had in many years.

Assembly Member Dodd:

Judy Conard reported that:

- We are in an excellent position to build momentum.
- Bill Dodd is very busy and communicative, and views Lake County as important to his continued success, a positive thing for our county.
- As of January 5<sup>th</sup> he has authored the Gender Equity Bill (AB1354), the Clear Lake Restoration & Protection Bill, the Low Income Water Rate Assistance Bill, all issues very important to our county.
- Safety door locks in all classrooms allowing them to be locked from the inside. He has numerous consumer protection measures
- AB607, Real Estate Brokers' Trust Accounting Fidelity Bond.
- BBQ will take place on 5/23 at Chacewater Winery in Kelseyville 5:00-7:00. Volunteers needed. Organizing staff meeting next week.
- Bill Dodd will be here for Mike Thompson's Ravioli Feed.

**7:35 Break**

## **Club Reports:**

### **Lake County Democratic Club:**

Club Representative Dave Smith reported that:

- Clearlake City Council Member Bruno Sabatier was the guest speaker at the 3/10 meeting and his topic was the State of the City.
- The Club Chair, A. Esutoki, talked about the March 8<sup>th</sup> workshop and the State of Jefferson.
- The Club lost its secretary. They have someone to fill the position temporarily.
- Three new members.
- State of Jefferson organizers have formed a PAC and have to disclose their income sources. SoJ will be on the ballot in Nov. 2016.
- Candidates and Issues: six people showed up for the meeting.
- Storage shared between Central Committee and Lake Dems' Club; Stonewall Club has not yet been approached about sharing the storage unit.
- Next Club meeting will be on Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the United Methodist Church in Lower Lake. There will be no guest speaker.

### **Stonewall Club:**

Club representative Wanda Harris reported that:

- The Club will meet in April, date and place TBD, to put together a strategic plan and discuss frequency of club meetings as well as .
- The Club membership has risen to over 30.
- All are invited to attend and become members.

## **Officer's Reports:**

### **Chair:**

Chair Curry reported that:

- She sent letters to the legislators and to the Board of Supervisor members.
- State of Jefferson: on April 7<sup>th</sup> she will attend, with Victoria Brandon, the Sate of Jefferson Regional Strategy meeting in Redding to come up with a campaign template to be used by any county resisting SoJ.

- Convention information: hotel rooms are probably no longer available. A sixth delegate will be elected from the DCC for the 2016 convention. It would be nice to have a man, to balance out the delegate roster.

**Vice Chair:**

Vice Chair Esutoki reported that:

- It has been a busy month, starting with the Strategic Planning Workshop.
- CDC Leadership and treasures workshop was held in Napa 3/14. Another excellent workshop.
- Attended the California Democratic Council Meeting in Fresno Mar. 22 and was elected to the position of Executive Vice President.
- Attended a meeting in Fairfield on the 28<sup>th</sup>.
- All voting members on the Committee are now up-to-date on the website except one person and she will be on the site after this meeting.
- Thanked St Elmo Mosby for agreeing to be his alternate.
- Dem2016: Adckinjo will make sure everyone gets their pins. There is now a contest for two backstage seats to the convention. Register on-line for the contest on the CDP web site. All you have to do is get people to sign up for Dem2016. Highest number wins the back stage tickets.

**Secretary:**

Secretary Rubin: report given during public comments.

**Treasurer:**

Report given by Chair Curry:

- \$300 received in dues last month.
- Balance on hand is \$744.20.
- We have 60 total paid members and some other members who have lapsed.
- Full report given to Secretary Rubin. Copies available upon request.

**Elections:**

Becky Curry reported that:

- The committee will meet on May 21 at Judy's at 7:00 pm. Other members are welcome.

- Joey Luiz has joined the Elections Committee, as well as the Issues Committee.

### **Finance:**

Becky Curry reported on behalf of Finance Committee that:

- Carlos has agreed to sit on the finance Committee.
- We have 60 paid members and we will call those lapsed members to try and get them back.
- Ravioli Feed and Dessert Auction: Paula will be on site at 4:00 pm to receive the desserts and you will have to sign an in-kind donation form.

### **Issues:**

Chair Curry reported on behalf of the Issues Committee that:

- They met on Mar. 22, 2015. Assignments were made for areas of focus; local issues, state issues & national issues and resolutions.
  1. Shirley and Louis have agreed to be the point people on local issues,
  2. Shirley and Nelson will be the point people on the state & national issues, and
  3. Becky will take resolutions.
- Issues any one would like the committee to take a look at, please talk to the point people. All suggestions will be taken under consideration.
- Current issues to vote on:
  1. GMO labeling legislation: recommended action was a letter from the Lake DCC to our House members asking for their co-sponsorship on this legislation introduced by Congressman Vic DeFazio to label GMOs.
  2. State of Jefferson campaign: we will have monthly updates, since nothing much is happening currently.
  3. Trans Pacific Partnership: we are already on record as opposing the fast tracking of TPP, so we recommend no action on that.
  4. Three resolutions for the convention:
    - a) Recommending that DCC endorse a resolution in support of divestment from fossil fuel companies by public pension investment agencies. This resolution was presented by Alameda County. (Document is posted on the web site).
    - b) Resolution by Maggie Koren, from Sonoma County, to Encourage the UN Support of Global Resolution that Urges the Creation of Infrastructures for Peace Building within Governments and Civil Society of the 196 UN

Member Nations. Lake County Democratic Party endorsement recommended for this resolution.

The Issues Committee recommended to endorse the above two resolutions.

Central Committee vote on endorsing: unanimous/no opposition.

- c) Resolution to require cooling towers at Diablo Canyon forwarded by Dale Axelrod of Sonoma County DCC.
  - i. Local Congresswoman Lois Capps has not taken any position on this and
  - ii. The San Luis Obispo DCC has yet to decide whether they support this resolution or not.
  - iii. There is an on-going conflict between labor and the environmental contingent.
  - iv. Lake County DCC has no recommendation at this time.
  - v. This resolution is an attempt to have Diablo Canyon decommissioned by demanding expensive upgrades to the cooling system as a condition to approve PGE's license renewal application.
  - vi. If we decline to endorse at this time, we can do it after San Luis Obispo makes a decision.

Motion to postpone taking action on this resolution until we have more information: W. Harris. Member discussion, comments and some clarification of implications of this resolution.

Vote: 14 members voted to postpone action on this item. One member was opposed. Motion approved.

Chair Curry will inform Mr. Axelrod of Sonoma County DCC of our decision to wait until we have more information. She will inform the other two that we are endorsing their resolutions.

- Additional topics discussed at the Issues Committee meeting:
  - 1. Our involvement with Way to Wellville
  - 2. Identifying issues that resonate with Lake County electorate

Next committee meeting TBA.

**Voter Registration:**

- Voter Reg Booth at Cinco de Mayo: Shirley will look into it.
- Voter Reg Booth at Lower Lake Days: Louis has picked up the application for this event for the end of May.
- Voter Reg Booth at Concert on the Green: Anne made some phone calls and found out we can have a booth there for free since we're a non-profit, and we are allowed to identify ourselves as Democrats and register voters. The concerts will take place on the



third Friday of the month starting April and ending September. The first one will be Friday 4/17. Anne and Wanda will staff the booth. We will try one concert and see whether it is a good venue for us.

- Voter registration statistics published on 2/10/2015 presented by Becky: comparing October 2014 to February 2015 showing that we have lost approximately 500 registered voters. Every category has lost voters, with the exception of “declines to state”. We need to revisit what kinds of things we need to work on that will speak to democrats.

**Bylaws:** Judy Conard presented suggested changes to the Standing Rules.

- Appendix A Standing Rules, Section G: meeting times and places are out dated. Remove this standing rule due to conflict between bylaw language and the rule.
- Standing Rule H: Different levels of membership bring no advantage to higher paying members. Treasurer has revoked the membership form, eliminating these categories and adding an additional donation category. Remove H due to conflict between bylaws and standing rule.
- Standing Rule K: Remove at request of Treasurer Evans because it causes more work for him and doesn't really work as intended.

**Motion:** Approve removal of the above standing rules / W. Harris. **Approved:** unanimously.

**On Going Business:**

- Strategic Plan presented by Becky. Copies of work shop results emailed to members, as well as provided at the meeting. Full report available upon request. Highlights as follows.
- Some goals have already proven themselves to be unattainable, for example selling drinks at the proposed events. The plan is adaptable and will be revisited on a regular basis and changed to fit current circumstances. The plan must be written down, have tangible quantifiable goals and accountability from volunteers.
- 2013 Strategic Plan Goals were reviewed and conclusions were drawn on what worked and what didn't.
  1. As far as accountability goes, we did great.
  2. We failed to fill all our open Central Committee seats and get alternates for all committee members.
- Brainstorming regarding outreach, fundraising and capacity building.
  1. **Fundraising Goals:** (James/Holley/Becky/Anne) Establish new fundraising events selling drinks at July 4<sup>th</sup> events in Lakeport and Clearlake, and at HVL Concerts on the Green.

- a. Anne followed up with HVLA re possibly selling beer at the Concert on the Green. We cannot sell beer at this event, but we can have a donation box.
  - b. Becky followed up with sponsors of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event in Austin Park. Cannot sell drinks at this event.
  - c. Next month when we meet we will work on the BBQ.
2. **2016 Election Goals:** (Ron, Adckinjo, Dave and Tom H.)
- a. Flip supervisor D5.
  - b. Create timelines and assess what we realistically can offer a candidate.
  - c. This process will be repeated for D1.
  - d. Election committee will meet in May and report in June.
3. **Outreach strategies goals:** (Carlos, Wanda, Nelson, Moira, Shirley and Wally)
- a. New member/volunteer outreach
    - i. Assign members to follow up on new members/volunteer outreach calls to new members and members whose dues have lapsed. (Wanda and Dave)
    - ii. Who is going to be accountable to give reports on this goal?
  - b. Form three new clubs (see notes from Carols/available upon request)
    - i. Need to lower the goal; focus on one new club a year, starting with the young Democrats' Club, which will include Hispanic, Native Americans and other minorities
    - ii. Mendocino College have agreed to connect us with students who might be interested in helping
    - iii. Marymount University has stated they will have no involvement with this effort, except to allow us to post a flyer
    - iv. Yuba College has not yet responded
    - v. Minimum requirement for each club would be 20 members
    - vi. Target date for forming this new club: March 2016
    - vii. This will be a monthly agenda item (Wanda & Carlos)

Motion to adopt the Strategic Plan, as amended: W. Harris/ Approved.

**New Business:**

- 2015 BBQ date set for Sunday October 4, as this is when David Neft is available. Becky will work on securing the senior center.

**Announcements:**

- Sodomite Suppression Act: Harold is requesting that more people get involved by calling the legislators and urging them to stop this initiative.

**Next meeting will be on Thursday May 7, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m. at the Lower Lake Methodist Church Community Center, Lower Lake**

**Adjourned 8:55 pm**

Minutes recorded by Secretary Anne Rubin.