

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

MINUTES

**Meeting of Wednesday August 5, 2015
Lakeport Senior Center Conference Room, 527 Konocti Rd. Lakeport**

Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Becky Curry. Roll call was taken by circulating an attendance sheet.

Voting Members Present:

District 1: A. Rubin; R. Green District 2: L. Baron; S. Howland; H. Riley; W. Manners;
District 3: L. Rigod; J. Sheehy District 4: V. Cerenio; M. Harris; T. Jordan District 5: B. Curry; A. Esutoki; H. Luia;
Ex Officio Alternates: J. Conard (Dodd); W. Holbrook (Thompson); J. Luiz (McGuire)

Voting Members Absent:

District 1: W. Harris (Stonewall); District 3: J. Evans; District 4: J. Swetnam (Garamendi);
District 5: L. Acosta;

Alternate Members Present

District 1: C. Negrete (Green); G. Zeit (Rubin) District 2: D. Smith District 3: L. Matthews (Rigod);

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of June 4, 2015 Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes: A. Esutoki / Approved as submitted.

Public Comment: None.

Appointments & Resignations: None.

Legislator's Reports:

Congress Member Mike Thompson Representative Holbrook

- U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson announced a \$10,856,088 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) grant for Child Start, Inc.
- U.S. Senators Grassley, Heitkamp and Congressmen Boustany, and Thompson introduced bipartisan companion language (H.R. 2911) and (S. 1697) known as the Small Business

Healthcare Relief Act to roll back existing Treasury Department guidance issued under the authority of the Affordable Care Act prohibiting the use of Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRAs).

- U.S. Reps. Mike Thompson, Harper, Black and Welch introduced H.R. 2948, the Medicare Telehealth Parity Act of 2015 expanding coverage of telehealth services under Medicare.
- Mike Thompson, Senator Blumenthal and Rep. Perlmutter introduced the *Safer Communities Act of 2015* (H.R. 2994), legislation aimed at reducing and preventing gun violence by keeping guns away from people who should not have them.
- Mike Thompson attended a White House celebration where President Obama used the executive authority granted to him under the Antiquities Act to designate the Berryessa Snow Mountain region as a National Monument. Under this designation, the region will be permanently protected.
- Mike Thompson's bipartisan legislation to improve health care service and access to Medicare beneficiaries, and save tax dollars passed the House and will go to the President to be signed into law. The Medicare Independence at Home Medical Practice Demonstration Improvement Act of 2015 (H.R. 2196/S. 971) extends the Independence at Home Medical Practice Demonstration Program (IAH) for two years.
- On July 16 Thompson voted against the House Majority's California water bill, H.R. 2898. The legislation would jeopardize jobs in and north of the delta, undermine existing state law, and override long-standing environmental protections.
- Thompson launched the webpage, <http://mikethompson.house.gov/backgroundchecks>, which provides the public with easy and open access to get the facts, read the bill and provide feedback on his bipartisan legislation to expand the existing background check system to cover all commercial firearm sales, including those at gun shows, over the internet or in classified ads.
- He introduced bipartisan legislation with Tom Reed to improve hospice care for patients, families and providers. *The Hospice Care Access Improvement Act of 2015* would help hospice patients receive the care they need by making sure they have access to the resources to make informed decisions about end-of-life-care, all while cracking down on bad actor hospice programs.
- Thompson, who is chair of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, released the following statement in response to the mass shooting in a Lafayette, Louisiana movie theater. **"After yet another mass shooting, we also need to recognize that there are things we can do to help curb this kind of unchecked and all-too-common violence. That starts by doing everything we can to keep guns out of dangerous hands. We've witnessed far too many tragedies to continue doing nothing. It's far past time Congress acted."**
- Thompson's bipartisan legislation to help veterans and their families save for and afford health care passed the Senate and went to be signed into law by the President. The bill, titled the *Help Veterans Save for Health Care Act*, passed as part of H.R. 3236, the Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015. Thompson's bill will allow veterans

who have supplemental health care coverage and also receive Veterans Administration (VA) care for a service-connected disability to enroll or participate in a Health Savings Account (HSA).

- On July 31 he announced that Santa Rosa Community Health Centers has been awarded \$242,750 Ryan White grant through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for treatment of patients living with or at risk of exposure to HIV.

Full report available on the website, www.lakecountymocrats.org.

Congress Member John Garamendi Representative Swetnam (absent):

No report.

State Senator Mike McGuire Representative Luiz:

- Legislators are on summer recess returning on August 17.
- All bills will have to be passed by the governor 9/11. The governor has called two extraordinary sessions; one to focus on medical issues and the other on transportation issues. They will also be looking at fixes to the state gas tax and fairness in distribution of tax monies.
- Cannabis regulation bill made it through all committees it was in front of. It will probably be combined AB 266, a more comprehensive regulation.
- Working in conjunction with OES to ensure that CalFire has all the resources they need to combat the Rocky Fire. People in need of assistance may call the Senator's office.
- Senator McGuire is hosting a Town Hall meeting in Lakeport on 8/6/15 at 6:30 pm at Clear Lake High School.
- Fiona Ma will be at the Town Hall. Any fee payers/ businesses affected by the fires may be eligible for sales tax extensions/fee waiving/interest waiving. Go to boe.ca.gov for a link to file for hardship extension etc.

Assembly Member Dodd Representative Conard:

- Legislators are on break, so no report except that Assemblyman Dodd is running for State Senate against Mariko Yamada.

Club Reports:

Lake County Democratic Club Representative M. Harris:

No report.

- Next LCDC meeting will be on Tuesday 8/11 at the United Methodist Church in Lower Lake at 6:30.

- Barbara Ehr, candidate for Board of Supervisors - District 5, will address the Club.

Stonewall Club Representative W. Harris (absent):

No report.

Officer's Reports:

ChairCurry:

- Assemblyman Bill Dodd has announced he is running for Senate district 3 open seat (Lois Wolk's seat) against Mariko Yamada. Dan Wolk has announced he is running for Bill's spot in Assembly District 4, as is Don Saylor, Yolo County BOS member. Bill Dodd has another 18 months in office and is assuring us that he has no intention of stopping what he's been doing for us.
- Letters to Assemblyman Dodd and Mike McGuire re. climate change legislation went out. Thank you received from Senator McGuire.
- El Dorado County visit three weeks ago. Chair of CDP Rural Caucus invited President Pro Tem CA State Senate, Kevin de Leon. The Keep It California group had a pre-meeting with Mr. De Leon to bring him up to date on the SoJ movement. Also discussed restoring the PILT fund, fire fee, and one-man-one-vote. Mr. de Leon takes an active role in leading the way on climate change legislation. "The world is watching what California is going to do, not what the US will".
- Attended Mendocino Women's Political Caucus campaign training.
- Will be attending the e-board 14th-16th of August in Burlingame.
- Sept. 3rd is the first day of County Fair. This interferes with our next DCC meeting. We could have the Lower Lake United Methodist Church hall the evening before, Wed. 9/2/15 at 6:30 pm.
- Holley Luia: Motion to move next DCC meeting to Wednesday 9/2 at the Lower Lake Methodist Church to avoid conflict with the County Fair. 2nd: Adckinjo Esutoki. Approved unanimously.

Vice ChairEsutoki:

- Adckinjo will be at the e-board meeting next week.

Secretary Rubin:

- Please consider supporting Planned Parenthood by signing any of the multitudes of on-line petitions.
- Anne will bring a paper petition/sign-up sheet to support PP that could be used at the voter registration booth.

Treasurer Evans (absent):

- Received BBQ sponsor donation of \$250 from the Plumbers' Union and one \$50 reservation, \$90 in dues. \$20 for glassware and \$31 in donations at the Concert on the Green voter registration booth. We paid \$450 for our accountant.
- Balance on hand is \$2,301.
- Revenue and expenses are close to the budget projections.

Full report available upon request.

Elections:

Chair Curry:

- Filing for the off-year local races ends Friday August 7th for election to open seats on school board, County Office of Education and Mendocino College Board.
- New candidate in the District 5 race: Republican Phil Reimers, from Cobb.
- DCC will not be endorsing for the June 2016 until spring of 2016. Members encouraged to attend local candidate events for more information to share with DCC in advance of consideration for endorsements.

Finance:

Becky Curry on behalf of Chair Evans (absent):

- Thanks to Dave Smith for calling lapsed members and getting some to renew membership. Four renewals came out of those calls and a new member, James Knox. We have 10 new members since January.
- James registered a democrat at the Bernie event at Denise and Loretta's.
- Sign-up sheet passed around for those who want to bring people to the BBQ.

Issues:

Chair Green:

- Legislative Request to Support U.S. Department of Peace Building Act of 2015: Issues Committee voted 7-0, with 1 abstention (Joy), to recommend the DCC endorsement. Motion by Ron Green: DCC endorsement of Legislative Request to Support U.S. Department of Peace Building Act of 2015. 2nd: Adckinjo Esutoki. Approved unanimously.
- GMO labeling: Monsanto Dream Bill or "The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Bill Act of 2015" aka "Dark Act", written by Monsanto. States cannot pass laws requiring GMO labeling on food. GMO free foods would have to submit to testing to prove their claim. Foods labeled "natural" could include GMO containing foods. House passed it 275-150 (republicans 230/Democrats 45), now in the senate. John Garamendi voted for it, Mike

Thompson against. Issues committee recommends 4 to 1 (3 abstentions) to send a letter to Garamendi expressing disappointment and inquiring why he voted this way. Motion by Ron Green: Send letter to John Garamendi expressing disappointment and inquiring why he voted this way. 2nd: Greta Zeit. Motion approved.

- US Senate Appropriations Committee voted 16-14 to change law to allow dispensaries to open bank accounts. Issues committee recommends (4 yes-2 no-2 abstain)/ Ron Green moved that the DCC send a letter expressing our disappointment to Senator Diane Feinstein, who sits on the committee, and who voted against this legislation, with 13 Republicans.

A. Esutoki: motion to close debate. Approved.

Motion by R. Green: That the DCC send a letter expressing our disappointment to Senator Diane Feinstein over her vote. 2nd: Bill Manners. Motion approved.

- Fair wage initiative has qualified for ballot signature gathering: This initiative proposes to raise the minimum wage to \$11/hr in January 2016 then by \$1 every year for the next four years.
- Issue Committee offered to make a motion to sign a petition or a letter of support for Planned Parenthood. Anne will find out what would be most helpful and report back.
- Walmart expansion: On 7/27 Victoria Brandon and Ed Robey met with Greg Folsom, new City Manager of Clearlake, who stated that Walmart signed the application to open the process.

They are going to do a complete EIR, including a traffic study. It will take 6-9 months before a draft is ready.

Becky Curry has a petition for those who would like to gather signatures. Ask and she'll email it.

Becky Curry: Issues Committee should participate in the public comment process by submitting a written comment to the Board of Supervisors.

Voter Registration:

Becky Curry on behalf of Chair Acosta (absent):

- Secretary of State Padilla has announced that the State will not pursue disenfranchising the low level offenders who were released due to the realignment.
- Thanks to those who volunteered to come to Power to the Youth even though it didn't happen. A new date for the event TBA.

Also, thanks to the people who have been going to Hidden Valley and those who came out to the Fourth of July event.

Fair shifts have been picked and Becky will send out tickets and reminders shortly. Adckinjo will attend the Fair Dinner as the party representative.

- Associate Member Gillian Parrillo has been organizing our participation in the National Voter Registration Day which is on Tuesday 9/22. She has obtained permission from Brock Falkenberg to go to local high schools. This is non-partisan. Sign-up sheet circulated for 2 hr shifts during school hours.

On Going Business:

Strategic Plan:

See finance committee report and Dave's membership renewals.

BBQ 2015:

- BBQ volunteers have been signed up.
- Sponsor checks from CTA and Bill Dodd.
- Garamendi will give us some money, but will not attend the BBQ.
- Thanks to Carlos for sponsoring the beer sales.
- Checks anticipated from: Teamsters, Op. Engineers 3.
- Still working on support from: CUHW, Laborers 324, Dan Wolk and Don Sailer.
- Wine from Guenoc not yet picked-up.
- Judy, Adckinjo and Dave are calling businesses for sponsorships/silent auction items. The deadline to make it onto the invitation or the press release is mid-August.
- For cataloguing purposes, personal item donations should be collected by the meeting next month. Don and Celesta will pick up donations from businesses (let Becky know). Donor forms were circulated.
- Gavin Newsome can't attend but would like to send a video greeting. Audio/video presentation equipment needs to be figured out.

Announcements:

- A benefit for KPFZ on August 22nd at 7 o'clock with Barry Melton. Tickets available on-line, at the Travel Center in Lakeport, and at Soper Reese. Tickets range from \$15-\$25.

- Bill Dodd will be on Harold's radio show in person some time soon.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday September 2, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m. at the Lower Lake United Methodist Church.

Adjourned 8:05 pm.

Minutes recorder by A. Rubin, Secretary