

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 March 3, 2016 (Thursday)
Lower Lake United Methodist Church

Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by Chair Becky Curry. Roll call was taken by circulating an attendance sheet.

Voting Members Present:

District 1: A. Rubin; R. Green; Carlos Negrete / District 2: S. Howland; W. Manners / District 3: J. Evans; L. Rigod; J. Sheehy / District 4: V. Cerenio; T. Jordan / District 5: B. Curry; H. Luia;
Club Rep: D. Boivin / Ex Officio Alternates: J. Conard (Dodd); W. Holbrook (Thompson); J. Swetnam (Garamendi);

Voting Members Absent:

District 2: L. Baron; District 4: M. Harris

Alternate Members Present

District 2: David Smith; District 5: Areli Dohner-Chavez (Luia); District 4: J. Knox

Associate Members Present:

District 1: Monica Rosenthal; District 3: Carlene Leskar; Richard East; Ceva Giumelli; District 2: M. Kropp

Guests:

Guest of W. Manners

Approval of Agenda:

Approved as presented.

Approval of Feb. 2016 Minutes:

Approval of minutes: Need to correct spelling of Areli Dohner-Chavez' last name. Approved as amended.

Becky introduced Mark Kropp, who has been an Associate Member for two years and has now permanently moved to the area.

Mark briefly introduced himself.

Public Comment: None.

Appointments & Resignations:

Jim Knox has agreed to be the alternate for Virginia Cerenio (D-4).

Legislator's Reports:

Congress Member Mike Thompson Representative (Holbrook):

- U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson introduced the Lake Berryessa Recreation Enhancement Act (H.R. 4521), to transfer recreation management at Lake Berryessa from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).
- Mike Thompson introduced the bipartisan Resource Protection Act (H.R. 4558) to provide the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) the authority to recover costs of repairs and restoration to damaged to refuge resources.
- Rep. Thompson hosted Small Business Administration (SBA) roundtable discussion on SBA disaster loans, focusing on the 2014 South Napa Earthquake.
- On February 24th, U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson introduced the bipartisan legislation "Support and Defend Our Military Personnel and Their Families Act" (H.R. 4600) with Representative Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) to improve our immigration system for non-citizen service members, veterans and their families.
- Mike Thompson introduced HR 629, a bipartisan resolution recognizing March as Women's History Month.
He also recognized D-5 "Women of the Year".
 - Lake County "Woman of the Year" is Monica Rosenthal.
- Ravioli Feed 3/19/16 @ Boatique Winery at 5-7 pm, \$25 per person. Turn at Kit's Corner onto Red Hills Rd. It's approximately 1.5 miles up the road on the right hand side.

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

Congress Member John Garamendi Representative (Swetnam):

- Congressman Garamendi will be in Lake County on 3/10 for a Town Hall meeting at Clearlake Oaks Senior Center @ 2:00pm. Focus will be on senior issues.
- He will meet with DPLC members for lunch from noon to 1:30 at the Happy Garden in Clearlake Oaks.

For details visit <http://garamendi.house.gov/>.

Holley Luia circulated a petition for a ballot measure extending part of Proposition 30. The extension would ask individuals making over \$250,000 a year to continue to pay a little bit more in personal income tax. The money would go to public education.

State Senator Mike McGuire Representative Luiz (absent):

No report.

Assembly Member Dodd Representative (Conard):

- Assembly Member Dodd is working with the State Board of Equalization to expand the tax window for fire victims for another 60 days.
- Mr. Dodd was not endorsed by the Democratic Party of California at the convention.

For details see his website <http://asmdc.org/members/a04/>.

Club Reports:

Lake County Democratic Club Representative (Boivin):

- Becky: LCDC has submitted re-chartering documents.
 - Executive Board recommendation is to re-charter the Lake County Democratic Club. **Vote:** No objections. **Approved unanimously.**
 - The Club has submitted their \$25 check to James.
 - The Club's insurance application was forwarded to John.
- Dan Wolk and Brian Martin were speakers at the meeting in February.
- Discussion on delegation of duties for the Club and the Central Committee.
- Next LCDC meeting will be on Tuesday 3/8/16 at the United Methodist Church in Lower Lake at 6:30.

For full details see club web site at www.lakecountymethodistclub.org.

Stonewall Club Representative W. Harris (absent):

Becky spoke with Wanda H. and as soon as outstanding checks clear the bank, she'll close out the account and send the remainder to the Central Committee.

Officer's Reports:

Chair Curry

- Becky went to the Convention and had a great time.
- This was an endorsing convention: Whomever the State Party endorses, will be whom we endorse. State law and DPLC bylaws are in agreement: Voting members, their alternates and state convention delegates cannot publicly support non-endorsed candidates or encourage voting for a candidate who wasn't endorsed. No fundraisers or yard signs are allowed for a candidate who wasn't endorsed. We speak with one voice.
- Assembly District 4 candidate Dan Wolk won the party endorsement with 88% of the votes at the convention.

- If no candidate receives the endorsement we need to remain neutral.

Discussion ensued over the interpretation of the party by-laws and the DPLC by-laws re. voting members campaigning for and supporting non-endorsed candidates.

- Insurance application sent in for 2016 and the insurance application was forwarded to the Dem Club.
- Convention delegates need to send their receipts for dues and registration to James.
- Holley, Areli and Debra will send membership renewal letters to 50 associate members whose memberships have lapsed.

Vice Chair Esutoki (absent):

No report.

Secretary Rubin:

- Reported back from the MATH meeting in February:
 - Supervisor Farrington was there to talk about SB 634 and how the new County ordinance will closely align with State law.
 - Trespassing, vandalism and theft was reported by several South County residents. Brian Martin recommended forming neighborhood watch groups and offered to help facilitate. He talked about how the Sherriff's Department is severely understaffed and therefore unable to provide much assistance.
 - Next MATH meeting 3/10/16 @ 7:00 pm at Middletown Senior Center. Speaker will be Susan Jenn.
- Attended a Meet & Greet for Don Saylor, Candidate for AD-4, at Gillian Parrillo's home on 2/20.
- Attended a Bernie rally in Middletown. Over 20 people in attendance. Groups were formed by zip codes for phone banking.
- Deposit for candidate event delivered to Dave Bell at the Middletown Mansion.
- Sent in registration information to a young prospective activist.
- Will attend Monica Rosenthal's Meet & Greet at Greta's B&B on 3/13.
- Requested legislative and other reports from those reporting back to the Central Committee are emailed to Anne to help with the minutes.
- Thanked husband Russ and Wanda Harris for helping with the petition signatures.

Treasurer Evans

- Reimbursement requests from the convention should be sent to James' personal PO Box for speedier processing.
- General fund (read by Carlos):
 - In February we received \$120 in dues, \$85 in additional donations and \$2,500 from Congressman Mike Thompson for the SnoPac training.
 - We spent \$38 for office supplies, \$25 for postage and \$250 deposit for the Middletown Mansion for the Candidate event.
 - Balance on hand is \$4,857.
- Budget:
 - We are \$270 short of our first quarter goals.
 - We paid \$300 more for the venue for the candidate event than budgeted.

Elections:

Chair Curry:

- Petition signatures are due by 3/11. Submit a couple of days early in case you need to get more signatures.
 - At the last meeting Club members approved sharing member lists with members seeking petition signatures.
 - New term starts in August.
 - Alternates will have to be re-appointed.
- The election committee has sent out the endorsement applications and will have the interview of candidates for endorsement on Wed. 3/16 @ 6:30 pm at Judy Conard's law office.
 - Monica was sent an application. Two democrats in District 5, Joan Moss and Helena Walsh of Cobb, also received an application.
 - District 4 has no eligible democrats running for office this time.
- Ron will check with Registrar of Voters to see if there are more candidates running.

Finance:

Chair Evans

No report.

Issues:

Chair Green:

- Walmart summary:
 - They want to add 40,000 square feet increasing the store size by 1/3.
 - Garden center would be removed and replaced by smaller garden center on the other side of the building, larger food department and general merchandise.
 - Expanded store would be open 24 hrs/day 7 days a week.

- May also include alcohol sales for off-site consumption and a medical and/or vision clinic and other retail tenants.
- Walmart claims they would create 85 new jobs.
- Tire and lube express would be removed.
- EIR is in the process of being prepared.
- It is anticipated to be ready for the planning commission late summer/early fall 2016.
- Public comments are accepted by the City of Clearlake on an on-going basis. Submit comments to gary@plannerprice.com.
- Tentative Walmart schedule: public review period of EIR 6/28-8/11.
- Public review of final EIR will be for 10 days only October 11th –October 20th.
- Planning Commission hearing Oct./Nov.
- City Council hearing will only be required if the project is appealed.
- City of Clearlake has a vacancy on the planning commission. Bill Perkins resigned. We need someone for this position.
- They are not required to do an Economic Impact Report. The City Council can require one. We are working with UFCW; maybe we could get them to pay for one.

- Convention:

Democrats took certain positions on ballot measures:

- Steinberg amendment (suspension-of-legislators amendment) on the ballot in June. Allows suspension of legislators with a resolution containing justification, as well as potential forfeiture of salary and benefits.
- Plastic bag ban (referendum) on the ballot in November. Democratic Party is on record as supporting the ordinance banning plastic bags. (Vote yes).
- Democrats voted to oppose a ballot initiative funded by conservative republicans, “Revenue bond statewide voter approval”.
- Tax extension to fund children’s education and health care (prop 30). This is not yet on the ballot. Convention voted to authorize the Chairman to support it, if and when it passes.
- Democrats also authorized the Chair to support, if it qualifies, the “Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act”.
- Convention voters came out in favor of “Safety for All Act of 2016”. Petition is still being circulated. Chairman was authorized to support if it qualifies.
- Cigarette tax increase up to \$2/pack to fund health care. (“California Health Care Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act of 2016”). Chairman was authorized to support it if it qualifies.

The Convention took no position on the following statewide ballot measures:

- State prescription drug purchases prohibiting the State to pay more than Veterans Affairs for drugs.
- Requiring performers in adult films to wear condoms. On the ballot for November.

- School bonds funding for K-12 and community college facilities: Authorizing \$9b in general obligation bonds.
- There are about 60 other initiatives circulating; most of them will probably not make it.
 - There are a couple of cannabis related initiatives one of which will pass due to millionaire funding.
 - There are also a couple of death penalty initiatives in the signature gathering phase.

Go to the CADEM website for details on the initiatives.

- ❖ An Initiative is when people or lobbyists collect signatures. If they collect enough, the matter goes on the ballot.
- ❖ A referendum is when legislation has been passed, but opposition signatures are collected to hold it up until it goes on the ballot for a vote.

- State of Jefferson: Currently has a ballot measure in Lassen County. They are still trying to do something in Nevada County, but have mostly been defeated.
- Ceva G: SEIU representing IHSS was at the convention. IHSS workers are gathering signatures for \$15/hr minimum wage across California. Ceva circulated a petition.

Voter Registration:

- There are still many more Democrats than Republicans in Lake County and more “Decline-to-state” than Republicans. This is a statewide trend.
 - Democrats dropped from 38.78 to 38.41, which may have more to do with voter turnout than number of registered Democrats.
 - Every political jurisdiction in Lake County has a majority of Democrats.
- We need 7-8 voter registration cards to get to 50 and the bounty!
- “Motor voter” law has passed; it won’t impact this election.
- Legislation to do away with off year elections has been signed by the Governor.
- We contacted Diane Fridley, Registrar of Voters, about information for fire victims on where to vote. Our questions were emailed to her. No response received yet.

Convention Report:

- Joy: Went to all the vendor booths, found it very educational and had a lot of fun. Found it very inspiring as a Democrat.
- Judy: Went to the session on Millenials. There is a big nationwide push to register young adults. The most eye-opening issue was student loans.

- Holley: The labor caucus felt more subdued this year. Asked Bill Dodd about financial relief for Lake County schools to offset the loss of ADA after the fire. Mr. Dodd didn't have much to say on the subject. Senator McGuire told her it only affected the Middletown schools. It was good to hear Vice President Biden give an excellent speech. Holley learned about the process when Dodd got the endorsement which was then challenged. Mariko Yamada had to get 300 signatures in two hours at the convention; she got 500 signatures and beat Dodd.
- Dave: Joe Biden was very charismatic.
- Debra thought it was really exciting. Everyone should do it sometime.
- Becky thanked delegates for attending the convention.

Ongoing Business:

Becky thanked Anne for securing the Middletown Mansion event center for the Candidate Event. Sign-up sheet circulated.

- Spring candidate event is on April 23rd 3-5 pm:
 - Dan Wolk was endorsed and has been invited as will other endorsed candidates.
 - Fiona Ma has agreed to MC the event.
 - Presidential candidate surrogates are being sought to attend; Sean Bagely for Hillary and possibly Joe Wildman for Bernie.
 - Music by David Neft has been confirmed.
 - Printing and mailing to 400 people by 4/4/16 will be done by Adckinjo, Joy, Shirley and Anne. We will ask to use Judy's mailing thing.
 - Lenny has volunteered to prepare savory hors d'oeuvres.
 - Desserts: Joy, Judy with Debra to help.
 - We have a \$400 food budget.
 - No raffles or silent auction; event is only two hours.
 - Wine & beer will be served. Need volunteers for serving and collecting donations for wine/beer glasses.
 - Becky will handle insurance: "We're not selling anything; it's all donations".

Announcements:

- Wally: There will be a Kelseyville school bond measure on the June ballot.
- Ron's show has Dan Wolk on Saturday 3/19 @ 10 am; repeated on Mon. 3/21 @ 10 am. If you missed it, you can request a CD of Dan Saylor's appearance on 2/6 and Cecilia Aguiar-Curry's appearance on 2/27 by calling KPFZ at 363-3640. Ron hopes to get all the supervisor candidates on his show before the election.
- Thompson Ravioli Feed: 3/19 @ 5 pm at Boatique Winery on Red Hills Rd., Kelseyville.
- Reminder: Thursday 3/10 Garamendi wants to meet with Central Committee members noon-1:30 at the Happy Garden Restaurant, before his Town Hall meeting in Clearlake Oaks Senior Center 2-3:30 pm.

Next meeting will be on Thursday April 7th , 2016 @ 6:30 p.m. at Kelseyville Senior Center.

Adjourned 8:11 pm.

Minutes recorded by A. Rubin, Secretary.

