

Approved at May 2017 meeting

MINUTES

Meeting of Thursday, April 6, 2017

Kelseyville Senior Center, 5245 3rd Street, Kelseyville

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order 6:30pm by Vice Chair Becky Curry. Roll call taken by circulating an attendance sheet. Quorum verified to be present.

Voting Members Present:

District 1: Susan Cameron, Ron Green, Wanda Harris,

District 2: Shirley Howland;

District 3: Deb Baumann, James Evans, Louis Rigod, John Sheehy; Jonathan Holt

District 4: Larry Bean, Virginia Cerenio, Tom Jordan, Natalie Higley (voted in at this meeting)

District 5: Debra Boivin, Becky Curry, Adckinjo Esutoki; Holly Luia

Ex-Officio Alternates: Michael Friel (Thompson), Joey Luiz (McGuire), Lenny Mathews (Aguiar-Curry)

Club Representative: Richard East

Voting Members Absent:

District 1: C. Negrete (no Alt present);

District 5: Areli Dohner-Chavez

Sissa Harris (Garamendi); -- *Attendance not required*

Regular Member Alternates Present:

Carlene Lesker; Jim Knox

Regular Member Alternates Not Present: (N/A - striking this section from minutes per approval at mtg)

Associate Members present:

Tim Everton*, Moira Harris, Anna Ravenwood, David Rogers*, Kristine Stempe (* new Associates)

Guests:

Linda Holt

Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved as amended (M/S by J.Evans/H.Luia - Approved)

Approval of March 2, 2017 Minutes:

One correction: Moira Harris is Associate Member (not guest)

Minutes approved as amended (M/S by J.Evans/J.Holt - Approved)

Public Comment N/A

Appointments & Resignations

Alternate Appointments:

D1 – Dolores Barron for Wanda Harris

Resignations:

D5 – Move to accept resignation of Areli Dohner-Chavez **M/S/A**

New District Regular Members:

D4 – Move to confirm Natalie Higley for open seat in D4 – **M/S/A**

Open seats for regular members *as follows:*

D2 – 2 seats; D4 – 1 seat; D5 – 1 seat (following resignation of Dohner-Chavez)

- D.Baumann nominated David Rogers for open seat in D4, seconded by S.Cameron, to be voted upon at May meeting.
- D.Baumann nominated Tim Everton for open seat in D2, seconded by S.Cameron, to be voted upon at May meeting.

Legislator's Reports

Congress Member Thompson – Alternate M. Friel

- Mike kicked off the month by introducing a bipartisan resolution in recognition of **National Women's History Month**. He also held the Third Annual Woman of the Year Awards, where he honored one woman from each county in the 5th Congressional District for her leadership and impact on our community. This year's winners were Sylvia Villa- Serrano from Contra Costa, Madelene Lyon from Lake, Karen Cakebread from Napa, Dr. Rhonda Renfro from Solano, and Ronit Rubino from Sonoma. He also posthumously recognized Magrit Mondavi for her lifelong dedication to our region.
- As a Senior Member of the Ways & Means Committee, Mike led the fight against the Republicans' **ACA Repeal**. He spoke forcefully against the repeal during the Committee's 17 hour marathon mark-up and on the House floor. Thanks to widespread public outcry, Speaker Ryan yanked the bill off the floor before it could go to a vote.
- With healthcare a dominant topic this month, Mike introduced a bill to make health insurance more affordable for families in high cost areas. His proposal would ensure the ACA's tax credits also account for the real expenses families face, not just their income.
- Mike also introduced a bipartisan bill to help homeowners prepare for earthquakes. Currently, California residents can receive grants to retrofit their homes in the event of an earthquake—preventing catastrophic losses and saving the state and country from costly repairs. Those grants are exempt from taxes at the state level. Mike's bill would also exempt them from federal taxes, making it easier for residents to take advantage of the California Earthquake Authority's Brace + Bolt program.
- Finally, Mike led more than 100 bipartisan Members in calling for Congress to fund the **North American Wetlands Conservations Act (NAWCA)**. Wetlands are a critical part of our ecosystem, and they reduce damage from floods and storms. NAWCA has helped restore and conserve more than 33.4 million acres of wetlands, and it also creates about 7,500 jobs each year.

ADDITIONAL Lake County DCC DISCUSSION: Anna Ravenwood requested DCC send letter to Thompson for a Constituent Service Office in Lakeport, perhaps joining with CA Senator McGuire and AD Aguiar-Curry. Becky Curry reminded that it cannot be called a "Democratic" office because electeds serve all constituents. Michael Friel moved to research free/low rent office space and cooperation among electeds to share it, with Anna R. as co-lead. **M/S/A**

Congress Member John Garamendi – Alternate S.Harris not present, B.Curry gave report sent by Sissa:

I attended Congressman Garamendi's Women's Roundtable in March, meeting with two of the Congressman's staff people, and briefly with the Congressman. I submitted a report shortly after that meeting to the Chair and Secretary of the DCC. I received my appointment letter as the Ex-Officio Rep later in the month, and met with Carlos Negrete for signing the County forms. This paperwork was then forwarded to the Registrar of Voters. I thank the committee for suggesting this.

A local DCC member asked me to get clarification as to the criteria for Congressman Garamendi's Women of the Year awards. I spoke with Jeannie Klever today, who provided clarification. The woman nominated must reside in the 3rd Congressional District and in the nominating person's opinion be worthy of recognition for "making a meaningful difference in the community", "good works", "serving as a mentor", etc. Nominations are made through the Congressman's web page (link here): <http://garamendi.house.gov/2017-women-year>

The Congressman continues to do weekly video updates through his Facebook page (link here): <https://www.facebook.com/repGaramendi/?fref=ts> His last update (March 30th) dealt with his opposition to SR 34 (internet privacy, now passed and signed into law); HR 1430/1431 (repealing the EPA and other federal agencies' ability to do research on climate change), and a caution that the Republicans in congress will try again to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Congressman Garamendi thanks all of you for your activism, stating that this *is* making a difference. He also encourages all of us to keep it up.

Congressman Garamendi's upcoming event in Lake County: April 20, 2017 – Senior Roundtable at the Live Oak Senior Center, 1:30 pm.

State Senator Mike McGuire – Alternate J.Luiz gave report:

- Values Act SB54 “diversity makes CA strong” – Senator McGuire added language regarding cannabis grows.
- Disclose Tax Returns (no presidential candidate can appear on California ballot unless tax returns are disclosed) – McGuire/Weiner bill passed judiciary committee this week

Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry - Alternate Lenny Matthews gave report:

- AB 707: Blue Ribbon Committee for the Rehabilitation of Clear Lake- The purpose of this Committee is to assess the quality of the lake and submit a report on what data was collected and what solutions are recommended for clean-up. The goal is to rehabilitate the lake, resulting in heightened tourism and water recreational activities that will economically benefit Lake County.
- AB 401: Telepharmacy – will create a state license for remote dispensing pharmacies, by increasing access to pharmacist for those living in pharmacy-deprived areas.
- AB 920: California Reliable Renewable Energy Act of 2017- is meant to keep geothermal jobs in Lake County and maintain the collection of property taxes and other local revenue the county receives from the Geysers Geothermal Complex. Lake County also has a lot of dead trees that could be used to fuel biomass plants and this bill would encourage the continued use of biomass energy.
- AB 1066: Tree Removal Projects-will specified that tree removal services qualify as “public works” projects under existing Prevailing Wage Law. By making this change, government contracts for tree removal services will be required to pay workers prevailing wage.
- AB 1420: Small Irrigation Pond--Streamlines the process for a farm or vineyard owner to obtain a permit from the State Water Board to divert water into a small irrigation ponds.
- AB 1503: Agricultural Apprenticeship Program- Allow non-profits to run training programs for young farmers so they can take over paperwork, payroll, etc.
- ACA 4: 55% Vote for Affordable Housing and Public Infrastructure-Assembly Constitutional Amendment would lower the necessary voter threshold to approve local general obligation bonds and special taxes from a two-thirds supermajority to 55% for affordable housing and public infrastructure projects.
- CO-AUTHOR FOR AB 1665: Internet for All Now Act of 2017-This bill will extend the California Advanced Service Fund and authorizes additional collections of modest fee on telephone bills to support broadband infrastructure deployment and broadband adoption among low-income households. It is the only mechanism available today for the State of California to help close the Digital Divide.

Club Report - Richard East, temporary Chair:

- The Lake County Democratic Club met March 8th.
- Several new people attended, including several members of South Lake County Indivisible.
- The guest speaker was Craig Cheslog, Region 2 Director of the CDP. He talked about the Party structure and the best ways to carry on the resistance.
- Vice-Chair Louis Rigod gave the results of the 2017 priorities survey.
- Susan Cameron talked about single-payer health care.
- Most of the rest of the meeting concerned the preparations for the 100 Days Dinner on April 8th.
- Next month’s speaker is Justine Schneider from People Power; her subject will be Immigration and Law Enforcement.

Officer Reports:

Chair Negrete – not present, no report

Vice Chair Curry:

- Attended CDP chair debate @ beginning of the month in Redding w/Debra B
- Attended CDP delegate training in Sacramento w/Susan Cameron
- Those trainings are up in a power point - I'll try to get them on the website
- Met w/sheriff Martin re ACLU action on local enforcement of policies re undocumented.
- Attended follow up ACLU meetings - will be working to get city govt positions made public and strategizing on other tactics to get info of those policies out to impacted communities focusing on outreach via migrant education, migrant headstart and Catholic churches
- Encouraged by the sheriff's position.

- Attended BOS mtg in support of Tina Scott's follow up discussion on this issue - cautiously encouraged.
- Dollar general RIV at BOS on 4/25. Lucerne dollar general don't know status - suggest D3 people contact their BOS member.
- Walmart expansion - public comment period is open until May 1. We anticipate it going to Clearlake PC sometime in May
- Please follow lake county local on facebook for updates.
- As soon as i get a link up for people to participate i will email it out.
- Thanks to Sissa Harris for requesting the PIR re police activity in the area behind Walmart that is a homeless camp. With the closing of Ray's and the subsequent natural disasters the camp has exploded in population. A very dangerous situation that the city seems to be avoiding addressing.
- We are looking for litigants to be named for the lawsuit that will be filed to challenge the EIR. Clearlake resident or work in Clearlake.

Secretary Baumann:

- Progressive Democrats of America/Our Revolution Lake County meets 3rd Thursdays, topic in April is Single Payer Health Care and supporting SB 562.
- Has been gathering Issues/Resolutions/Bills via the CDP's Rural and Progressive Caucus list-serve discussion groups to share with Issues Committee which will meet twice in April in order to present findings/recommendations in time for LC DCC to vote prior to May Convention.

Treasurer Evans: J.Evans:

- **March 2017**, 3-1-2017 to 3-31-2017 BOH = \$3,728.37
- General Fund:
 - In March we received \$175 in dues, \$25 in additional donations and \$25 for the Club charter.
 - We spent \$1 for Act Blue fees, \$100 for the Concerts on the Green booths and for the 100 Days Dinner we spent \$453 for printing and mailing, \$50 for the alcohol permit, \$159 for the Senior Center rent and \$750 for deposits. When Carlos delivered the \$909 check to Melissa at Clearlake City Hall she told him it was the wrong amount and to return it and get a check for \$589. She said that it would not disrupt our use of the Senior Center and that she knew we were good for it. This indicates to me that she knew that someone on her staff had made an error which is one reason why it is always best to work only with Melissa when renting the Senior Center. This mistake is also one reason why I always want a bill or receipt on vendor stationary before I request a check.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elections -- Tom Jordan, Chair / Ron Green, Holley Luia, John Sheehy, Lenny Mathews, Joey Luis

- Chair Jordan requested tabling report until next meeting

Finance -- James Evans, Chair / Adckinjo Esutoki, Carlos Negrete, Virginia Cerenio, Susan Cameron

- See Treasurers report.

Issues -- Deb Baumann, Chair / Louis Rigod, Shirley Howland, Jim Knox, Michael Friel, Joey Luis, Lenny Mathews, Sissa Harris, Ron Green

Committee met at Round Table Pizza on 3-28-2017.

- 1) **California Values Act (SB 54-Deleon)** – Issues Committee Recommends = **YES Support**
The California Values Act will protect the safety and well- being of all Californians by ensuring that state and local resources are not used to fuel mass deportations, separate families, or terrorize our communities. The bill will provide essential safeguards to ensure that police, schools, health facilities, courts, and the California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement remain accessible to Californians from all walks of life and that California's limited resources are directed to matters of greatest concern to state and local governments.

LC DCC voted to Support SB 54

- 2) **SB 31 California Religious Freedom (Lara)** -- Issues Committee Recommends = **YES Support**
This bill prohibits collection of religious affiliation data and if already collected or collected for religious accommodation, the data must not be shared with outside agencies so that it cannot be used for the creation of the religious registry.

LC DCC voted to Support SB 31

- 3) **Santa Clara Democratic Central Committee Resolution to Remedy Voter Suppression** (From Rob Means via Becky Curry) -- **Issues Committee Recommends = NO**
(Rationale: Disorganized, not well constructed, resolution too vaguely phrased)

4) Sonoma County DCC - DNC Election Protection Resolution (From Dale Axelrod)

– Issues Committee Recommends = **YES Support**

- Resolves that the California Democratic Party urge the DNC to demand the Civil Rights division of US Dept of Justice do full and expedited investigation into Interstate Crosscheck program's racially-biased purge operation, and that the entire list of 7 million Americans suspected of voting/registering in two states be released,
- Resolves that the CDP urge the DNC to establish a 50-state strategy to proactively explore, investigate and pursue all remedies in overturning the methods currently being used in undermining US Citizen's right to vote.

LC DCC voted to Support Sonoma DCC's DNC Election Protection Resolution

- 5) **Request to OPPOSE Walmart Expansion in Clearlake** -- Issues Committee Recommends = **YES Support sending formal DCC statement in opposition to Walmart Expansion**. May 1 is deadline to submit comment.

DCC discussion: Question raised of why oppose expansion when stores are so clean, inexpensive and handy? Because Walmart is largest welfare recipient in nation (full time Walmart employees being paid so little that they need government assistance), expansion likely to put union Safeway workers out of work, prices are cheap at the beginning but once Walmart has driven smaller local businesses out of business it then jacks the prices up... Baumann moved to end discussion, Luis second (**Approved**)

LC DCC voted to send Letter Opposing Walmart Expansion

Voter Registration -- Debra Boivin, Chair / Shirley Howland, Wanda Harris, Larry Bean, Jonathan Holt, Natalie Higley

- Voter Registration Booths:
 - Sat. April 22 – Earth Day Austin Park Clearlake 12p-3p (free)
 - Sun. May 7 – Cinco de Mayo – Bruno's parking lot Lakeport 10:30a – 5:30p
- MOU/Bounty paperwork has been completed

Descriptions of Standing committee duties are in the DPLC bylaws

<http://lakecountymocrats.org/about-us/bylaws/democratic-party-of-lake-county-bylaws-revised-june-7-2015/>

ONGOING BUSINESS

100 Day Dinner – Debra Boivin, Chair – Committee members – J. Evans; S. Harris; W. Harris; C. Negrete; A. Ravenwoode; L. Rigod;
Everything ready, reminder that desserts need to be delivered by 3pm, bring recipe card

New Business

- 1) MOE trainings – CDP date/time/location tba
 - Becky Curry distributed informational flyer
 - Who from our DCC is interested in participating in the training?
 - Deb Baumann, Becky Curry, Virginia Cerenio, Susan Cameron, Carlene Lasker, Natalie Higley, Carlos Negrete, Dave Rogers
- 2) Ron Green requested that Bylaws Committee be formed after the Convention to revise & clarify attendance and membership
- 3) Susan Cameron – April 13 Healthcare For All event in Middletown

Announcements

Next meeting is Thursday May 4th 2017 at 6:30pm – Lower Lake Methodist Church Community Room

Adjourned at 8:45pm

Minutes recorded by secretary D.Baumann