

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 Thursday, March 1, 2018

Location: Lower Lake Methodist Church Community Room

#### **CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL**

Meeting called to order 6:30pm by Chair Carlos Negrete. Voting Member list completed by Secretary and Quorum verified to be present.

#### **Voting Members Present:**

*District 1:* Susan Cameron via alternate, Ron Green, Doug Harris, Carlos Negrete

*District 2:* Shirley Howland

*District 3:* Deb Baumann, James Evans, John Sheehy;

*District 4:* Larry Bean, Virginia Cerenio, Tom Jordan, Chloe Karl, Dave Rogers

*District 5:* Becky Curry, Adckinjo Esutoki

*Ex-Officio Alternates:* Sissa Harris

*Club Representative (attendance not mandatory):* Richard East

#### **Voting Members Absent:**

District 2: Tim Everton

District 3: Louis Rigod

*Ex-Officio Alternates (attendance not mandatory):* Stephanie Pahwa

**Regular Member Alternates Present:** Carlene Leskar, Greta Zeit (alternate for Cameron)

**Associate Members present:** n/a

**Guests:** Louveina Hopkins

**Approval of March Agenda:** Agenda approved as amended (under Ongoing Business changed presenter for Action Plan to James Evans, and added discussion of May 3 meeting location)

**Approval of February 2018 Minutes:** Minutes approved as presented.

#### **Public Comment**

- Deb Baumann: DCC's are the frontline troops who can help party Leadership understand how the Democratic Party can return to being a party of The People, to provide voters with positive reasons to vote for Democrats. Recent polls show our party has its lowest approval rating in 25 years. Conventional wisdom says the key to winning is to be centrist and "middle of the road"... How has that worked out? In the past decade Dems have lost over 1,100 seats, most Governorships, 69 of 99 legislatures, the House, the Senate, the Supreme Court and the White House. More voters are registered Independent than either Dem or Rep, but the single largest voting block is eligible voters WHO DO NOT VOTE. Politicians inside the Beltway Bubble have lost touch. Bernie Sanders tapped energy and desperation felt by people who perceive establishment has abandoned them. The Democratic Party's largest donor, Tom Steyer, published an op-ed urging Democrats that if they want to win again, they need to "be like Bernie." (Shared hard copies of the Steyer article with DCC members.)
- Larry Bean: Americans don't know much about how our political system works, and this civic ignorance creates real danger for democracy. Trump is a cancer, but how did he get there? We need to work to educate our fellow citizens, using every opportunity that we have to educate friends, family, neighbors.
- Tom Jordan: heard Tom Steyer speak at the CADEM convention in San Diego, was impressed with him, and his "Five Values" statement. Steyer is promoting a movement to impeach Trump, but we should be worried about Mike Pence in 2020... might be better to see the GOP implode with Trump...?

- Ron Green: Bylaws Article 3 says the DCC must remove a member who supports someone running against someone endorsed by the DCC, wants to revise the Bylaws (will work offline on that and bring back to DCC perhaps next month).
- Adckinjo Esutoki: Hoover infiltrated the black community, now we see Putin laughing at us... first we need to elect Democrats, and then we can try to move them to the left. We need to focus on electing Dems, not criticizing the party.

### **Appointments & Resignations**

- Open seats for regular members *are now as follows:*  
*D2 – 1 seat; D3 – 1 seat; D5 – 3 seats*
- Ann Bauer has been nominated for D3 seat. She is in Mexico this month and therefore cannot be present as required for confirmation vote. She will attend the April meeting.
- Open seats for alternates:  
*D1 – 3 seats; D2 – 2 seats; D3 – 3 seats; D4 – 1 seats; D5 – 2 seats*
- Deb Baumann: many current Alternates have not paid their 2018 dues and therefore cannot serve as Alternates until/unless they pay their dues.

### **Legislator's Reports**

#### **Congress Member Thompson – Alternate position still vacant, report read by Carlos Negrete:**

- Congressman Thompson helped secure nearly \$90 billion in federal funds for disaster relief as part of the bipartisan budget deal. This includes fire relief and recovery funds for our district as we recover and rebuild from the devastating fires of last Fall. He partnered closely with local leaders in advocating for these funds that will ensure our fire communities don't suffer under the heavy financial burden of recovery.
- The Congressman also ensured that the federal government provided adequate assistance for the enormous debris removal costs facing our local communities following the fires. At his urging, the federal government increased the share of the cost they would take one to 90 percent, ensuring that local governments not only have the tools they need to recover, but aren't hit hard by the costs of recovery.
- The Congressman has also led the fight for action to help prevent gun violence, including securing a record number of Democrat and Republican co-sponsors for his bipartisan background checks bill. This bill would strengthen the system and close loopholes to help keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals. He also led efforts to force a vote on the bill and started a petition that if signed by a majority of members, would bring the bill to a vote immediately, despite efforts to block by the Speaker.
- The Congressman also presented his Public Safety Heroes of the Year awards to exceptional local law enforcement officers and first responders in our community. Recipients included Officer Craig Long and Officer Aldo Serrano, Vallejo Police Department; Captain Eric Strom, Vallejo Fire Department; Robert J. Fenton, Jr., Regional Administrator for Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IX; Mark Ghilarducci, Director of Cal Office Emergency Services; Shana Jones, CAL FIRE Unit Chief for Napa-Sonoma-Lake-Mendocino; Officer Chad R. Tardiff, California Highway Patrol; Detective Zachary R. Blume, Pinole Police Department; Undersheriff Chris Macedo, Lake County Sheriff's Office; Mike Ciancio, Northshore Fire Protection District; Jodi Traversaro, Cal Office Emergency Services Regional Administrator ; Sonoma County Sheriff's Office; Santa Rosa Fire Department; Santa Rosa Police Department; Cotati Police Department; Kenwood Fire Protection District; Sonoma Valley Fire and Rescue; Rincon Valley Fire District; Mayacamas Volunteer Fire Station; Schell Vista Fire Department; Bennett Valley Fire Department,; Rohnert Park's Department of Public Safety; Crockett-Carquinez Fire Department; City of Calistoga Fire Department; City of St. Helena Fire Department; Napa

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County Fire Chief Barry Biermann; Napa County Fire Department; City of Napa Fire Department; American Canyon Fire Protection District; City of Calistoga Police Department; City of St. Helena Police Department; City of Napa Police Department; City of American Canyon Police Department; Napa County Sheriff John Robertson; and Napa County Sheriff's Office.

**Congress Member John Garamendi – Alternate S.Harris:**

- **Events:** The Congressman is holding several events around District 5 this month. The closest one, described as a “Senior Conversation & Town Hall, for Lake County constituents is on Thursday, March 29 from 1:00 to 3:00 at the Live Oak Senior Center (12502 Foot Hill Blvd., Clearlake Oaks). Other March events are scheduled in Colusa, Fairfield, and Rio Vista. There are events scheduled in Marysville and Woodland in May.
- **Survey:** There is a survey for Third District residents to assess our priorities and interests. I encourage you to participate. You can access the survey at: <https://garamendi.house.gov/contact/survey>
- **Issue:** The congressman joined with 43 House colleagues in sending a letter to the White House opposing the administration’s plan to eliminate clean water safeguards and allow mining activities in Bristol Bay, Alaska.
- **Issue:** Opposes Governor Brown’s “single tunnel project”, the successor to the “twin tunnel project.” The Congressman is concerned that this plan does not set out to conserve/recycle water, and instead siphons Northern California Water off to Southern California.
- **Issue:** The Congressman joined 135 other lawmakers in sending a letter to President Trump requesting support for the Office of Community Oriented Police Services (COPS Office). This program supports community oriented policing efforts. See his column in the Daily Republic for more information - <https://www.dailyrepublic.com/community-news-and-views/cops-program-too- important-to-back-down-on/>
- **Issue:** Mass Shootings/Gun Control – Asks why we are not dealing with an Assault Weapons ban after yet another school shooting.
- **Issue/Concerns:** The Congressman’s concerns about the President’s budget proposal include all the following – Cuts to Medicaid and Medicare; Border Wall costs being passed on to taxpayers; cuts to education; lack of infrastructure funding; cuts to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System; and lack of funding for research & development – and of course the tax boondoggle that passes the vast majority of tax savings on to the top 1% while significantly increasing the national debt. Policy concerns that include budget items, but aren’t exclusively budgetary items, include: lack of action on climate change; lack of protections for the environment; trend toward isolationism; and changes in defense policy.
- **Concern:** Issued a video stating his concerns that nothing is being done (defensively or offensively) to protect the nation against a current cyber-attack by Russia. This statement was regarding Senate testimony by Rear Admiral Rogers, National Security Advisor, yesterday.
- **Legislation:** The Recognize, Assist, Include, Support and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act, sponsored by Garamendi and Thompson (& others) was signed into law this month. This provides education, training, long-term services & support for people caring for family members with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias.
- **Legislation:** Introduced HR 4001, the Student Loan Refinancing & Recalculation Act to address student loan debt. Nearly \$900 Billion is held by the federal government at an interest rate of 7%, exceeding the market rate. This legislation would allow students to refinance their debt at a lower interest rate (at the 10-year Treasury rate, currently 2.9%).

**State Senator Mike McGuire – Alternate VACANT – no report**

- Carlos Negrete: Joey Luiz is no longer ex-officio for Senator McGuire. McGuire's office is arranging for Denise Rushing to be the new ex-officio.

**Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry – Alternate Stephanie Pahwa not present, no report**

**Club Report** - Richard East, Club Representative:

- Met February 14, no guest speaker.
- Meeting was a workshop, splitting into break-out groups for standing committee ideas.
- Fundraising ideas: wine tasting, events at Soper Reese or Tallman Hotel
- Candidates: requested list of local candidates from Registrar's office
- Program ideas: have speakers from business community, meet on different nights, participate in parades
- Membership ideas: post flyers, invite newly registered voters
- Next regular business meeting will be on March 14 with guest speakers Shandra Harry and Susan Krones

**Officer Reports:**

**Chair Negrete –**

- Attended CADEM convention in San Diego
- Attended CADEM Workshop for Chairs, discussion included FEC website, political parties endorsement process, assembly districts, Project Veritas (has been infiltrating campaigns, tried to hit Kevin De Leon's campaign), survey, CADEM making training materials tool-kit
- Many candidates at CADEM received "no endorsement," Central Committees do not endorse state candidates (only local ones), so the slate mailer will not have endorsements for those state races.

**Vice Chair Curry –**

- Circulated sign-ups for set up/clean-up for the May 5 candidate event.
- Set up Act Blue account & emailed that link and a membership form to those members whose dues have lapsed in mid Feb
- Feb 6 - Met with Taylor Morrison from Sen McGuire's office re the county BOS pursuit of housing and homeless assistance funding thru No Place Like Home legislation  
There are billions of dollars available for low income construction grants/one time grant awards to counties to assist in getting resources for our homeless and providing adequate affordable housing.

We also discussed the SB 1 (gas tax) revenue that Lake will receive:

Gas Tax Numbers (SB 1):

- SB 1 is bringing dollars locally into Lake County.
- Lake County will be receiving \$3.3 million annually for roads in unincorporated areas.
- New city street & road investments in Clearlake will be \$354,000 annually, and Lakeport \$109,000 annually.
- The bill has a split in funding so that both the state highway and local roads will receive funding annually to fix and maintain roads
- Because of concerns that the funds from the generated tax could be diverted to the general fund the legislature referred an amendment to voters for the June 5, 2018 election that would create a Transportation Taxes & Fee Lockbox Amendment. If voters approve this amendment it will require that revenue from fees and taxes on vehicles or their operation only be used for transportation projects.
- Feb 7 - Election Committee - met with local candidates appearing on the June ballot for an orientation assessment

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- Feb 11 - Campaign Field Training - had about 20 attendees, among them several local candidates and our field team - seemed to be a great success. For those of you who sent in your feedback, thank you so much! Thanks again to Carlos for the venue/Sen. Mike McGuire for lunch. Special thanks also to Congr Thompson and BOE Fiona Ma for coming by and speaking to the attendees, giving us inspiration and encouragement. I saw trainers Michelle Larkey and Val Hinshaw at convention - they were very grateful for the opportunity and we will stay in touch as new trainings are planned.
- Convention:
  - MOE training with Susan - Trying to spend more time with this. I'd really like to make more use of this tool as we move in to November for our field campaigns. The election committee is responsible for getting our November election slate mail piece out, and our MOE is our database of voters that we will use to reach those voters with our mail.
  - Delaine Eastin - delegates held the party to no endorsement - this was option B. As DCC members, we are free to work on any Democratic campaign we choose for the Primary.
  - Rural Caucus - Joy Sterling elected chair by a 3/1 margin - she's ready to go to work.
  - Platform - Rural plank adopted into the 2018/2019 platform - bringing more attention focus on how legislation affects rural Californians
  - Statewide Ballot Initiative Recommendations (handout). Will post on facebook & send out an email to Dems
  - Legislation Committee Report - Also will post on fb & send out email
    - Sunday, February 25, 2018 - The California Democratic Party Legislation Committee recommended the adoption of the following legislative positions:
    - State Legislation
      - SB830 – Support - Pupil instruction: media literacy: model curriculum - Sen. Bill Dodd
      - AB315 – Support - Pharmacy benefit management - Assy. Jim Wood
      - AB 1217 – Oppose - Private Investigator Act - Assy Bocanegra
      - SB 463 – Support - English learners: reclassification - Sen. Ricardo Lara
    - Federal Legislation:
      - HR861 – Oppose - To terminate the Environmental Protection Agency - Congr. Gaetz
      - HR899 – Oppose - To terminate the Department of Education - Congr. Massie
      - HR1987 – Support - Oversight Commission on Presidential Capacity Act - Congr. Raskin
      - HR4223/S2060 – Support - BURMA Act of 2017 - Congr. Engle/Sen. McCain
      - S170/HR2856 – Oppose - Combating BDS Act of 2017 - (Rubio FL)/HR 2856 (McHenry NC) allows state/local govts to divest/prohibit investment of assets from entities that engage in bds targeting the state of israel
      - HR 391 – Support - McCollum MN - Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children

#### Secretary Baumann-

- Have been documenting attendance for the DCC for a year now, observe that attendance of our members is outstanding – cannot recall belonging to any group whose monthly attendance has so consistently been 95% or higher.
- Attended convention “virtually” thanks to proxy Sissa Harris and also thanks to the Facebook closed group for CDP delegates – so many people posting updates by the minute and live-streaming, it felt like I was there.
- On phone today with the Delaine Eastin campaign and the Alison Hartson campaign, working on behalf of local Our Revolution chapter to bring candidates to speak in Lake County. Will inform DCC of date/time if event happens, and potentially work with Carlos to make such an event co-sponsored by Our Revolution and the Lake County Democrats.

Treasurer Evans:

- **February 2018** 2-1-2018 to 2-28-2018 BOH = \$5,452.06
- **General Fund:** In February we received \$275 in dues and additional donations, \$25 for the Club charter and \$50 from the Kelseyville Senior Center for the rent of the meeting room in December that they cancelled. We paid \$335 to the accountant and \$25 to reserve the Clearlake Senior Center for the Candidate Event. Our balance on hand is \$5,452.
- **Membership:** Three new members joined in February. We welcome Susan Krones and Steve and Janine Citron. 6 additional members renewed in January. 2 regular voting members have not renewed. 1 Alternate voting member has not renewed. 32 other members have not renewed for 2018. Total paid membership so far this year is 27.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

NOTE 1: As DCC Chair, Carlos Negrete is a member of all committees.

NOTE 2: \* indicates committee which should have at least 1 member from each District

**Elections\*** – D4 Tom Jordan, Chair / D1 Ron Green, D2 Tim Everton, D3 John Sheehy, D4 Virginia Cerenio, D5 –Becky Curry, Ex Officios

- Committee met on March 7, all members present. Discussion on how to recruit candidates. Questionnaire for candidates was finalized and sent out.
- The Elections Committee held an Orientation Meeting on March 22 for new candidates to office. An invitation was issued to Shanda Harry, Susan Krones, and Bruno Sabatier. Only Mr. Sabatier did not respond.
- Ms. Harry came with her campaign staff Gillian Parillo. Ms.Krones came alone. Both were questioned individually by the committee on their pending campaign and guidance was provided as necessary.

**Finance** – D3 James Evans, Chair / D1 Susan Cameron, D4 Virginia Cerenio, D4 Tom Jordan, D5 Adckinjo Esutoki

- **Membership:** Three new members joined in February. We welcome Susan Krones and Steve and Janine Citron. 6 additional members renewed in January. We have 21 voting members and 3 have not renewed. 32 other members have not renewed for 2018. Total paid membership so far this year is 27.
- **Budget:** The full year Committee budget and the four supporting event budgets have been emailed to the membership. I move we approve these budgets.
- **Credit Card contributions:**
  - Act Blue is not set up to receive credit card contributions from devices such as the Square device that plugs into cell phones and enables credit cards transactions.
  - The Square device sells for about \$50 and plugs into high end cell phones. Their collection and payment to us service charges 2.75% per transaction. The device accepts magnetic strip, chip, and tap technology cards. An ISP is required to download the Square program, updates and probably for processing transactions. The Square system deposits transactions in our bank account and sends transaction records to the cell phone registered with Square and used to make the transaction.
  - I have not received requests to donate by credit card of more than \$5 at any one event. Requests to donate for entry or silent auction items by credit card would increase that amount. If that occurs we could lose out on those donations. But I have several problems with these remote credit card transactions:
    1. A high end cell phone and ISP are required. I don't have one and don't want one. The expense for the Committee to buy one and subscribe to an ISP would be many hundreds of dollars.
    2. We would have to rely on the treasurer's personal high end cell phone. The cell phone would have to always be in the possession of the treasurer to allow for

downloading of transaction and deposit records, printing them for FEC and FPPC report back up and treasurer record keeping and for transmittal to our accountant.

3. Possession of a high end cell phone would become a requirement for future treasurers.
4. The transaction records will not include FEC and FPPC required information on address, occupation and employer of contributors. This information is usually collected at the reception table or silent auction check out, but not always. The transaction record will not include any means to contact the contributor to collect that information.
  - o I don't think that the cost and additional accounting problems associated with credit card contributions are worth the small additional contributions we would receive at this time. This could change if we lose out on entry or silent auction donations in the future.
- Action Plan: The Action Plan was emailed to the membership. This is the plan for our activities for the two year election cycle. We have far more activities in even numbered election years. The plan indicates when various activities relating to our activities should commence, their progress reports and the committees responsible for the activities. If the activity is not included in the heading of a standing committee then the responsible committee is appointed by the DPLC Chair. As the budgets for all 5 of these activities has been approved by the DPLC, I don't think that a vote on the Action Plan is necessary. If you have any questions or comments please contact me.

**Issues\* -- D3 Deb Baumann, Chair / D1 Doug Harris, D2 Shirley Howland, D3 Louis Rigod, D4 Jim Knox, D5 VACANT, Ex Officios**

- Issues Committee did not meet last month.
- Meeting schedule for 2018 now set for 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 6:30pm at Stone Fire Pizza in Lakeport.
- Issues Committee meetings are open to all DCC members.
- DCC members may propose/submit agenda items for any Issues Committee meeting.
- Local ballot measures will be discussed at next meeting.

**Voter Registration\* -- Chloe Karl, Chair, D3, D1 VACANT, D2 Shirley Howland, D4 Larry Bean, D5 VACANT**

- Chloe Karl: Larry Bean will be the contact for the storage unit. (James Evans noted that prices for that unit keep rising every year, suggested we look for new space.) Chloe met with Mary Borjon from the Club, between the two they will divide up coverage of events.
- Deb Baumann: When you have a date/time/location set, please feel free to circulate a sign-up sheet so we can all volunteer to help.

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**

- 2018 Action Plan – James Evans (already covered in Finance Committee Report)
- UDC office – Dave Rogers volunteered to find office space
- Meeting date on May 3 will be the Kelseyville Senior Center (because Lower Lake not available)
- **“WE STRIVE” – Susan Cameron via alternate Greta Zeit**  
 Lake County Democratic Club document for consideration by the DCC to be also identified on it. In February the DCC requested amendment of deleting words “from the powerful” at end of third bullet. Susan said document would need to return to the Club for vote on accepting the new version. The Club approved while adding “and empower and” to third bullet. Now returning to the DCC for another vote. Becky Curry moved, Deb Baumann second -- **APPROVED**

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### **WE STRIVE**

- To demonstrate a generosity of spirit and sharing to bind us together as Americans
- To elect Democrats who will provide leadership that reflects our values and defends our Constitution
- To provide a voice for the voiceless **and empower and** protect the powerless
- To maintain our American tradition as a welcoming place to those who seek opportunity or refuge
- To promote a government which ensures equality, fairness, compassion, and progress
- To encourage participation in our democracy through direct communication with our elected representatives

### **JOIN THE LAKE COUNTY DEMOCRATS TO PURSUE...**

a government of the people, by the people and for the people!

LakeCountyDemocraticClub.org

### **New Business**

- **Candidate Event** – Greta Zeit: Susan Cameron has reserved the Clear Lake Senior Center on May 5 from 3pm – 6pm
- **Club Charter Renewal** – Becky Curry moved we approve \$25 fee to renew, Deb Baumann second -- **APPROVED**

### **Announcements**

- Carlos Negrete: Next meeting will be Thursday, April 5, at 6:30pm at Kelseyville Sr Center.
- Mike Thompson lasagna feed on April 7 from 5:30-7:30 at Boatique Winery
- Ron Green: Saturdays & Mondays at 10am on KPFZ, his Philadelphia Lawyer show will interview local candidates. Feb 10- Susan Krones, Feb 17 – Shandra Harris, Feb 24 – Don Anderson, March 3 – Andre Ross.
- Ron Green: on March 10 there is KPFZ fundraiser at Soper Reese, on April 28 is the KPFZ 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary featuring Without a Net at the Yacht Club in Lakeport, on May 5<sup>th</sup> another 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event featuring A Clean Sweep

### **Adjourned at 7:49pm**

*Minutes recorded by secretary Baumann*