

**Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee**

**General Meeting Agenda**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8314272516>

Meeting ID: 831 427 2516

Passcode: 123

Dial-in, voice only: 1 669 900 6833

June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

**I. Call to Order –Chair Andrew Goldenkranz at 19:02**

- 1) Chair Goldenkranz dedicated the meeting to the late Mas Hashimoto and Edward Manning.

**II. Attendance and Welcome Visitors – Introductions.**

Chair Goldenkranz welcomed everyone and reminded everyone that visitors will be able to make public comments only at the appropriate time.

- 1) **Members:** Keith Gudger, Reed Geisreiter, Joe Hall, Edward Estrada, Nora Hochman, Tony Russomanno, Karen Darling, Rene Bloch, Adele Gardner, Cindy Jaconette, Pat Manning, Gigi Kelbert, Akin Babatola, Clayton Strawn, Stacey Falls, Joe Thompson, Diana Alfaro, Kyle Kelley, Cynthia Matthews, Jenni Veitch-Olson, Celeste Gutierrez, Gwen Chiaramonte, Lou Chiaramonte, Rae Spencer-Hill, Linda Kerner, Franco Picarella, Tim Willoughby, Leslie Steiner, Coco Raner-Walters, Carol Fuller.
- 2) **Visitors:** Alexander Pedersen, Judi Grunsta, Audrey Lariz, Lira Filippini, Chris Krohn, Ryan Jones.

**III. Agenda Changes – No Changes.**

**1) Discussion re Removing ODOF from the agenda.**

Nora Hochman requested that the vote on the “Our Downtown Our Future” endorsement be removed from the agenda. Hochman reasoned that 1) the endorsement is taking place unnecessarily early and should be postponed until August; 2) The person who requested that the vote be put on the agenda – Cynthia Matthews – should not be permitted to have a say in this matter because, although she is not an elected official, if she were, there would be a conflict of interest.

Chair Goldenkranz ruled the request out of order. 1) The Bylaws governing endorsement were followed. 2) It is not premature to take a position as to the ODOF matter; the signatures have been certified and it will be on the November ballot. 3) The Executive Board has the option to put such matters on the agenda and chose to do so; proper notice was given; both sides presented their positions and proponents of both sides are in attendance to make comments. Should the members not come to a decision in favor or against, the matter can be revisited.

**2) Discussion re Endorsing Gail Pellerin for AD28.**

Chair Goldenkranz explained that although he had originally understood that the endorsement of the top candidate of the June election would need to be ratified, that is not the case; she can file directly. Once Pellerin files for party endorsement, there is brief period during which that decision can be appealed, but failing that, she will become the endorsed candidate.

**IV. Approval of Minutes – Approved.**

M/S/P Adelle Gardner/Diana Alfaro

Celeste Guitierrez abstained, as she was not present at the last meeting, and thus cannot speak to the veracity of the minutes.

**V. Old Business.**

Chair Goldenkrantz gave a land acknowledgment.

**VI. New Business**

**1) Save the Date, August 27<sup>th</sup> BBQ.**

Akin Babatola indicated that a flyer will go out this week and requests sponsors and help from the clubs. The venue has been reserved and payment will be made shortly. Carol Fuller has provided a check for the deposit to Babatola, and the deposit will be made within 30 days.

**2) Our Downtown Our Future (“ODOF”) Endorsement Vote.**

**Discussion:**

- i. **Who Can Participate in Discussion.** Chair Goldenkrantz reminded attendees that this is time for only members to discuss, but indicates that guests are welcome to comment in the chat.
- ii. **Frustration at lack of vote.** Glen Schaller and Franco Picarella expressed frustration that they cannot vote as club representatives.
- iii. **Clarification of endorsement language.** Clayton Strawn requested explanation of “no endorsement position.” Tony Russomanno explained that, per Robert’s Rules, no position (i.e. – abstaining) is the same as not voting. Vice-Chair Cynthia Matthews requested clarification of the language of the motion, stating that her request had been that the group oppose the ODOF proposal. Chair Goldenkrantz clarified that “The motion on the table is to support ODOF. Yes will support, no will oppose.” He explained that it was written this way to avoid “Yes means no/yes means against” confusion.
- iv. **Request for Recusal of Vice-Chair.** Nora Hochman stated that Cynthia Matthews should recuse herself because she owns real property in the downtown area. The Chair says he is not prepared to rule on that subject, because he is not clear on what boundaries would constitute a conflict of interest. For the time being he trusts the Vice-Chair will act ethically.
- v. **Discussion on the merits (pros vs. cons).**

**Endorsement – ODOF is Opposed. 13/16 = 81.25% against.**

**Votes in favor: (3)** Nora Hochman; Stacey Falls; Gwen Chiaramonte.

**Votes against: (13)** Keith Gudger; Joe Hall; Karen Darling; Andrew Goldenkrantz; Adele Gardner; Gigi Kelbert; Diana Alfaro; Cynthia Matthews; Jenni Veitch-Olson; Celeste Guitierrez; Linda Kerner; Coco Raner-Walter; Carol Fuller.

**Abstention/No Votes: (6)** Tony Russomanno; Rene Bloch; Akin Babatola; Clayton Strawn; Rae Spencer-Hill; Leslie Steiner.

**3) Treasury approvals: PDI bill and printing bill (Keith).**

Two payments need to be approved for which federal funds can be used: \$1800 to Community Printers and \$310 to PDI. M/S/P Keith Gudger/Joe Hall

**VII. DCC Reports – Please keep all reports to 2-minutes.**

**1) Chair – Andrew Goldenkranz.**

- i. In reference to the June election results, Chair Goldenkrantz expressed enthusiasm for the increase in female representation at the state level, and stated that a discussion of transitioning from Congressmember Anna Eshoo to Congressmember Jimmy Panetta's districts will take place at an upcoming meeting.
- 2) Vice Chair – Cynthia Mathews.**
  - i. Encouraged the group to consider adding Juneteenth to the group's event calendar next year.
- 3) Treasurer – Keith Gudger.**
  - i. All members and alternates have paid their dues.
  - ii. For a full report, see the report posted to group io.
- 4) Secretary – Glenn Glazer.**
  - i. No report (absent)
- 5) Ways and Means – Akin Babatola.**
  - i. In regard to the fundraiser BBQ, Akin recognizes that he needs to discuss funds needed with Treasures Gudger, but would like to do that at the next meeting.
- 6) Public Relations – Gigi Kelbert and Tony Russomanno.**
  - i. Gigi Kelbert indicated that web traffic to the DCC's site increased over 300% prior to the June election. She further indicated that the website does not run ads or charge anything to cover that cost.
  - ii. Tony Russomanno indicated that the group got a lot of attention when the cease and desist letter to Jimmy Dutra was picked up by the press.
  - iii. Regarding the Bylaws, Russomanno indicated that some changes were needed to the Bylaws that needed to be done in a certain timeframe, but the group can still continue to work on further updates. Russomanno recognized the interest expressed in differentiating a "no endorsement" from opposition. (i.e. – in favor, against, or no position). Chair Goldenkrantz and Russomanno also recognized that there has been frustration expressed by some of the clubs that do not have a voting voice in the group.
- 7) Events – Coco Raner-Walter and Diana Alfaro.**
  - i. Sunday July 3rd, 2 p.m. Scotts Valley Independence Day Parade. Meet at Scotts Valley Drive and Carbonera Way.
  - ii. Monday, July 4th, 9:30 a.m. Aptos Independence Day Parade. Leaves from Wells Fargo parking lot. Congressmember Panetta will accompany the Santa Cruz Dems.
  - iii. Monday, July 4th, 2:00 p.m. Watsonville Independence Day Parade.
- 8) E-Board – Pat Manning, Glenn Glazer. (Glenn absent).**
  - i. Pat Manning referenced the upcoming July E-Board meeting in Los Angeles, which will include canvassing for Jay Chen and Katie Porter, phone banking for Rudy Salas, and cleaning up the riverbed of the Los Angeles River. Diana Alfaro indicated that she will not be attending in Manning's place. Anyone interested in going should contact Pat Manning directly. Due to his testing positive for COVID, Glenn may not go, either.
- 9) Legislative – Kyle Kelley.**
  - i. Wrote a letter to Senator John Laird to urge support of SB940 regarding Healthcare Workforce Development.
- 10) Voter Reg/Engagement – Keith Gudger and Rene Bloch.**
  - i. Taking a little break – No report.
  - ii. Chair Goldenkranz adds that we all need to think about how to get out the vote for November. Turnout in the June election was just over 40% in Santa Cruz.

**VIII. Chartered Club Reports- Please keep all reports to 2-minutes**

**1) College Democrats at UCSC – Pablo Velasquez**

- i. No report.

**2) Democratic Club of North Santa Cruz County– Linda Kerner**

- i. North County Democrats did not have a June meeting but the club's annual Garden Party fundraiser was scheduled for Saturday, June 18th. Due to Covid, it was necessary to cancel the fundraiser and the event has been rescheduled for Saturday, July 16th from 11:00 to 1:00. Coco Raner-Walter will be presented with the John and Deloris Crosson Democratic Ideals Award for her leadership and commitment to making a difference for SLV/SV community members and beyond. To RSVP, visit <http://www.svslvdemocrats.org>.
- ii. The club will be participating in the Scotts Valley Sunday, July 3rd parade. Check in time for participants is 2:00 pm. at the corner of Scotts Valley Drive and Carbonero Way. Parade time is 3:00 pm. Please consider joining in the fun!

**3) Democratic Women’s Club – Cindy Jaconette**

- i. June 23rd there will be a fundraiser for Gail Pellerin.
- ii. June 25th the club will vote on the ODOF proposal via a hybrid meeting.
- iii. Carol Fuller also indicated that Diana Alfaro put together a great presentation for affordable housing month, which can be viewed on the club’s YouTube page at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZmnkPiarKI>

**4) MCDC – Barry Scott**

- i. There was no meeting in June; there will be a meeting soon.

**5) PVCCDC – Ray Cancino / Ryan Jones**

- i. Ryan Jones says stay tuned for upcoming events and club merch (being sold at cost). There will be changes on the City Council to get involved with, among other things.
- ii. Executive board gave a report out on finances following our May event.
- iii. Members heard a report out & held a discussion on commuter rail following the successful defeat of Measure D.
- iv. Members held an initial discussion on the upcoming endorsement process for open seats on the Watsonville City Council, Pajaro Valley Unified School District, and the PV Hospital District. Per PVCCDC bylaws, this discussion item allows us to bring an endorsement forum and vote forward on these seats.

**6) People’s Democratic Club – Franco Picarella**

- i. There will be an upcoming event at which potential mayoral candidate Fred Keeley will speak.

**IX. Allied Group Reports - Please keep all reports to 2-minutes**

**1) Region 7 – Omar Torres**

- i. No report (absent)

**2) CDP Rural Caucus – Glenn Glazer**

- i. No report (absent)

**3) Labor – Glen Schaller.**

- i. Schaller indicated that labor is already gearing up for the November election. Labor supported candidates did well in June. There will be races for supervisor, re the Watsonville Hospital, and Sherriff. We need to get out the vote.

**4) Swing Left – Rene Bloch.**

- i. Swing Left will be going to Nevada to do voter outreach from July 23-25. It will be about 3 hours of voter outreach each day.

**X. Public Comment and Announcements.**

- i. **Audrey Lariz for Dawn Addis** thanked the group for its support. She also asked that anyone interested in staffing booths for future events contact Audrey at [audrey@dawnaddis.org](mailto:audrey@dawnaddis.org) or (805)704-2489.
- ii. **Fred Keeley** thanked the group for its help opposing Measure D – Greenway Initiative. He indicated that the unambiguous response will be helpful in the continued efforts to push for rail services, which is a clear race and class issue.
- iii. **Felipe Hernandez** thanked the group for its support.
- iv. **Alexander Pedersen** introduced himself to the group and shows an interest in getting involved in local politics. Chair Goldenkranz welcomes him.
- v. **Leslie Steiner** asked what efforts are being made to support candidates Stacey Abrams in Georgia and John Fetterman in Pennsylvania.
- vi. **Diana Alfaro** thanked Fred Keeley and Don Lane for their help in securing funding for affordable housing and shows enthusiasm for the fact that all projects that have received funding are now under construction, and some have been paired up with health services.
- vii. **Barry Scott** said that now that we have successfully opposed Measure D (Greenway), the pressure needs to be kept up to push for rail services. The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Commission will be on August 4.
- viii. **Lou Chiaramonte** said to expect the Environmental Impact Report re the proposed quarry at Juristac to come out in early July. Stay tuned.
- ix. **Coco Raner-Walter** opined that the Pride Parade was a success; lots of people showed up despite the rainy weather. **Leslie Steiner** concurred but indicates that next year the group should have a voter registration booth on Cooper Street; we should not miss that opportunity to register voters.

**XI. Adjournment – at 20:44.**

**Next E-board Meeting: July 13th, 2022, 6:30pm**  
**Next General Meeting: July 27th, 2022, 7:00p.m.**