

August 2007
News Around The County

Democratic Dispatch

Next Meeting August 16, at the IBEW Hall in Martinez @ 7:30PM



**2006--2008
OFFICERS**
Nagaraja Rao Chair
(510) 235-1184;
Ranii@aol.com

Cecilla Valdez Vice Chair
Cecilia_Cecy_Valdez@comcast.net

Carlyn Obringer
Secretary
(925) 324-9595
carlyno@yahoo.com

George Van Hasselt
Treasurer
(925) 754-9514
gvanhasselt@sbcglobal.net

On The Inside

1. Chair's 'Message
2. DPCCC Minutes
3. DPCCC Exec Minutes
4. Agenda
5. Announcements
6. Committee Chairs
7. Democratic Clubs
8. Membership

EDITOR-PUBLISHER
Rich Verrilli
RLVee@aol.com
(925)228-2595

Our Condolences go to Terry Leach her family, and the friends of her father-Erwin Ritz deceased on July 24,2007. Erwin Ritz gave a significant part of his life to the advancement of those most needful of help in our society. One example of his endeavors would be his support and contributions to the Delancey Street Foundation. Another example would be perhaps Terry Leach herself, who contributes so much to

progressive endeavors and Democratic causes.

Chair's Message

As the 2008 presidential election approaches, the idea of determining the next U.S. President by transitioning from the Electoral College System to a National Popular Vote is resurfacing. In California, a Republican-backed ballot proposal was recently filed that would reform California's voting system by awarding the statewide winner only two of the state's 55 electoral votes. Initiative No. 07-0032, the Presidential Election Reform Act, would distribute the remaining votes to the winning candidate in each of the state's congressional districts, creating 53 races for one electoral vote per district. This ballot proposal has received little attention, however, despite its potential to tip the 2008 presidential election in favor of the Republican presidential nominee. Under the current system, left-leaning California awards all 55 of its electoral votes to the statewide winner in a presidential election, a Democrat the last four times. However, if the Presidential Election Reform Act qualifies as a 2008 statewide ballot measure and is passed by California voters, then a Republican presidential candidate would be guaranteed approximately 20 electoral votes in predominantly Republican-leaning congressional districts, a number equivalent to winning the state of Ohio. While nearly all other states in the Union would maintain the winner-takes-all status quo, California's votes would be divided between the Democratic and Republican candidates. Only Maine and Nebraska have made the switch to congressional-district allocation, but combined they have only five districts, which are so homogeneous that neither has ever split its electoral votes, as California would be doing. By naming Initiative No. 07-0032, the Presidential Election Reform

Act, supporters seek to take advantage of Americans' dislike of the Electoral College System and confusion as to why, in presidential elections, the American people are not voting directly for a candidate. Viewing the Electoral College as unfair and incongruous with expectations about democracy, many do not understand that electors are expected to cast their ballots for the candidate who wins the popular vote in their state. California Democrats must unite against this latest attempt to erode the foundations of America's democracy. Moving away from the Electoral College System may be a popular idea on the surface, but when given greater consideration, it's just plain foolish. As long as congressional districts remain gerrymandered, such a switch could alter the outcome of the 2008 Presidential Election, handing a rightful Democratic victory to the Republican nominee. For this reason, Democrats must band together to ensure that the Presidential Election Reform Act does not qualify for the ballot, for as the adage says, "As California goes, so goes the nation."

Nagaraja Rao, Chairman, DPCCC

Minutes of the DPCCC

7/19/07 MINUTES of the 10th meeting of the 2006-08 Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC), at IBEW Local 302, 1875 Arnold Drive, Martinez, CA.

- 1) CALL TO ORDER. 7:39pm, by Chair Nagaraja Rao.
- 2) SWEARING IN OF ELECTED MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES. Diddo Clark swore in and had the following representatives take an Oath of Office: (District 2) Evelyn Centeno, Christine Kiernan, (District 3) Pat Baran.
- 3) ROLL CALL. {Key: Voting Member (Alternate). [P] = present, [E] = excused, [A] = absent} District 1: Rick Alcares [P] (Hilary Crosby [E]), Cecilia Valdez [P] (no alternate),

- Nagaraja Rao [P] (Irma Anderson [A]), Harpreet Sandhu [A] (no alternate), William Walker [P] (Gabriel Baty [A]). District 2: Herman Blackmon [P] (no alternate), Diddo Clark [P] (no alternate), Rich Verrilli [P] (Evelyn Centeno [P]), Michael Menesini [P] (John Hall [P]). District 3: Richard Bates [A] (Neil Linden [A]), Steve Filson [P] (Pat Baran [P]), Ray Link [P] (Barney Rubin [P]), Mark Tornheim [P] (Penny Denenberg [A]), Frank Quattro [P] (Mat Atkins [A]), District 4: Chuck Carpenter [E] (Carol Toms [P]), Brian Lawrence [E] (Anne Batey [A]), Marie McDonald [P], (Erich Holtmann [A]), Carlyn Obringer [P] (Marcella Colarich [P]). District 5: Greg Enholm [P] (Anna-Marie Bustos [P]), Angel Luévano [P] (Elaine Van Hasselt [A]), Sharon Mossman [P] (Richard Mossman [P]), George Van Hasselt [P] (Jeanne Variz [A]). CD 7: Congressman George Miller [A] (Melanie Mintz [P]). CD 10: Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher [A] (Glen Fuller [A]). CD 11: Congressman Jerry McNerney [A] (Ellen Nelson [E]). SD 7: Senator Tom Torlakson [A] (Valerie Sloven [P]). SD 9: Senator Don Perata [A] (Neku Pogue [A]). AD 11: Assemblyman Mark DeSaulnier [A], Argentina Dávila-Luévano [E], AD 14: Assemblywoman Loni Hancock [A] (Tony Suh [P]). AD 15 nom: Terry Coleman [A] (Chris McGinnis [P]). CDP 3: Region 3 Director Owen Jackman [A] (no alternate). CDP 6: Region 6 Director Royce Kelley [E] (no alternate).
- 4) GUESTS.** Donald Goldmacher (Executive Board Delegate, AD-14), Rao Kaza (Associate Member, DPCCC), Charles T. Ramsey (School Board Member, West Contra Costa Unified School District), James H. Soper (Steering Committee Member, California Election Protection Network).
- 5) CLUB PRESIDENT'S REPORTS.** Ray Link (San Ramon Valley Democratic Club): July 4th parade successful; Tabling at Farmers Market in Danville; Encouraging membership to attend 76th Anniversary Barbeque, Richard Mossman (East County Democratic Club): Meetings to resume in August, held on second Monday of the month, Valerie Sloven (Lamorinda Democratic Club): July 4th parade successful, George Van Hasselt (East County Democrats for Action): Barbeque co-sponsored with LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) successful.
- 6) APPROVAL OF JUNE 2007 MINUTES.** M/S/U. (Errors noted include the following: a) Anna-Marie Bustos was excused from the June 21, 2007 meeting, not absent, Hilary Crosby proposed that the Treasurer should not serve as chair of the Audit/Compliance Sub-Committee as a friendly amendment, which was not accepted; The DPCCC resolved that the Treasurer not serve as a member of the Audit/Compliance Sub-Committee, not that the Treasurer shall not serve as the Chair of the Audit/Compliance Sub-Committee.)
- 7) FORMATION OF A SPEAKER'S BUREAU SUB-COMMITTEE.** M/S/U that the DPCCC approve the formation of a Speaker's Bureau Sub-Committee.
Motion made by: George Van Hasselt
Motion seconded by: Michael Menesini
Speaker's Bureau Sub-Committee members will include: John Hall, Sharon Mossman, Frank Quattro and William Walker.
- 8) PARLIAMENTARIAN.** Dispatch Editor Verrilli withdrew his name from the list of Parliamentarian candidates, and suggested that Ellen Nelson be appointed, as she has experience serving as a Parliamentarian;
Chair Rao appointed Ellen Nelson as Parliamentarian, and Richard Mossman as her alternate.
- 9) CHAIR'S COMMENTS.** Chair Rao praised the Central Labor Council and Pam Aguilar for doing a good job of publicizing the DPCCC's 76th anniversary barbeque; Chair Rao commended the Events Committee members for their diligent preparation for the barbeque, and requested that he be copied when information is e-mailed between members so that he can offer assistance; Thank you to those already keeping him in the loop.
- 10) EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT.** Vice Chair Valdez displayed table centerpieces and paper plates for the 76th anniversary barbeque, and distributed and talked through the timeline for and breakdown of event tasks; All checks are to be made payable to the DPCCC, and sent to: P.O. Box 1615, Martinez, CA 94553; Guest speakers and special guests to include: Former State Treasurer Phil Angelides, Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, Congressman Jerry McNerney, Congressman George Miller, Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, Former State Controller Steve Westly; Vice Chair Valdez encouraged all DPCCC members to lend a helping hand to ensure a successful event because this is an opportunity to be movers and shakers as a Central Committee.
- 11) MEASURE G.** Charles T. Ramsey, School Board Member from the West Contra Costa Unified School District, urged the DPCCC to endorse Measure G to signal to Democrats residing in West Contra Costa County that they should support the Measure.
- 12) BYLAWS SUSPENSION.** M/S/U that Section II (c) of the bylaws be suspended that requires the text of any issue to be voted on to be presented to members of the DPCCC at least seven days before a regular meeting.
- 13) DPCCC ENDORSEMENT OF MEASURE G.** M/S/U that the DPCCC endorse Measure G "To maintain reduced class sizes, purchase textbooks and teaching materials; enhance core subjects; attract and retain teachers; maintain library services, counselors, after-school programs and custodial services; and fund school safety programs, shall West

Contra Costa Unified School District be authorized to levy, for 8 years commencing upon the expiration date of the existing parcel tax, an annual tax of 11¢ per square foot of total building area or \$11.00 per vacant parcel, with an exemption for eligible senior citizens."

- 14) CDP EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT. Marie McDonald and Carlyn Obringer to present a report on the July 2007 CDP Executive Board meeting at the August 16, 2007 meeting of the DPCCC; Richard Mossman, shared some of his observations from the Executive Board meeting.
- 15) TREASURER'S REPORT. Treasurer Van Hasselt distributed a Treasurer's Report and announced that the balance in the DPCCC bank account is approximately \$7,675.35; Future Treasurer's Reports will detail reimbursements; A federal bank account was established to enable the DPCCC to contribute to both state and federal campaigns; Both a federal and a state bank account will be maintained; DPCCC Dues are due at the August 16, 2007 DPCCC meeting.
- 16) AUDIT/COMPLIANCE SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT. A cost benefit analysis is to be done to determine the feasibility of purchasing a copy of QuickBooks to enable double entry bookkeeping.
- 17) PAC REPORT. PAC President McDonald announced that 150 guests attended the July 11, 2007 Lt. Governor Garamendi event in Rossmoor; The event went well and \$500 was raised.
- 18) BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT. Established internal election procedures at last Bylaws Committee meeting; Internal election procedures to be submitted to the Executive Committee for recommendation of approval.
- 19) ISSUES COMMITTEE REPORT. Committee Chair Luévano announced that although five members attended the last meeting, the Committee still does not have a quorum; Issues Committee members must attend meetings so that the Committee can make progress; Issues discussed include Resolution Peace, Blackwater USA, immigration, voting machine integrity, split roll property tax initiative.
- 20) OFFICE MANAGER REPORT. Office Manager Nelson requested that a cell phone be purchased in place of the current DPCCC land line so that Office Manager duties could be easily transferred from one person to the next; Richard Mossman to assist Office Manager Nelson in performing the cost benefit analysis of purchasing a cell phone versus maintaining the current landline.
- 21) VOTER REGISTRATION AT WINDEMERE SHOPPING CENTER. Steve Filson announced that the Windemere Shopping Center will open in San Ramon on Saturday, August 25, 2007; The Shopping Center opening would be a good opportunity to register voters.
- 22) SENATOR TORLAKSON'S CHILI COOK OFF. Senator Torlakson's Chili Cook Off will be held on Sunday, September 16, 2007.
- 23) VICE PRESIDENT OF LULAC. Congratulations to Angel Luévano for his election as Vice President of LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens); Angel would like to thank all who attended the Angel Luévano for LULAC Vice President Fundraiser.
- 24) VOTING MACHINE INTEGRITY. Donald Goldmacher, Executive Board Delegate, AD-14, and James Soper, Steering Committee Member of the California Election Protection Network informed the DPCCC that Contra Costa County Registrar and California Association of Clerks and Election Officials President Stephen Weir has questioned the need for Secretary of State Debra Bowen's investigation of electronic voting machines in California.
- 25) SUPPORT OF SECRETARY OF STATE'S EFFORTS TO ENSURE

SECURE ELECTIONS. M/S/U that the DPCCC supports Secretary of State Debra Bowen in her efforts to carry out her constitutional responsibility to ensure secure elections in California; The Executive Committee of the DPCCC will present recommendations to the DPCCC main body at the August 16, 2007 meeting, as to how best to support the Secretary of State in her efforts.

ADJOURNMENT. 9:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carlyn Obringer,
Secretary

Executive Minutes

7/30/07 MINUTES of the 11th Executive Committee meeting of the 2006-08 Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC), at UFCW Local 1179, 4121 Alhambra Avenue, Martinez, CA.

IN ATTENDANCE: Chuck Carpenter, John Hall, Rao Kaza, Brian Lawrence, Melanie Mintz, Ellen Nelson, Carlyn Obringer, Frank Quattro, Nagaraja Rao, Cecilia Valdez, George Van Hasselt, Rich Verrilli.

MOMENT OF SILENCE. Chair Rao called for a moment of silence in memory of the brave firefighters, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Captain Matthew Burton and Fire Engineer Scott Desmond, who died in the line of duty on July 21st, 2007.

IN MEMORIAM. A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, August 3rd, 2007 at 2:00pm in memory of local Democratic activist Erwin Meyer.

ADVERTISING IN THE LABOR 2 LABOR DINNER PAMPHLET. M/S/U that the Executive Committee recommended that the DPCCC approve an advertisement in the annual Labor 2 Labor Dinner pamphlet, just as it has done in the past, at the cost of \$350 for a quarter page ad.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS' COMMENTS:

Events: Vice Chair Valdez distributed a draft of the agenda for the 76th

anniversary barbeque; Secretary Obringer wrote a sponsor letter which will be sent in the near future; A task list is to be e-mailed to all DPCCC members with an appeal for their participation; Barbeque expenses to total \$5,100 including: \$1,300 for Hap McGee Ranch Park rental, \$1,500 for table and chairs, \$800 for paper goods, flatware and serving items; Official photographer needed to take pictures at the barbeque; Greg Enholm recommended as a good videographer candidate; Entertainment under discussion.

Finance: A federal bank account was established to enable the DPCCC to contribute to both state and federal campaigns; A federal account will enable the DPCCC to mail slate mailers in support of state senatorial candidates; Official minutes recording the approval by the DPCCC of the federal bank account have been requested by the bank where the account was opened; Revenue from the 76th anniversary barbeque to go into the state account; Audit/ Compliance Sub-Committee member Hilary Crosby recommends putting as much money as possible into the federal account, because it is the more flexible of the two kinds of bank accounts.

Internet Outreach: Committee Chair Lawrence requested that Chair Rao provide an introductory letter to post on the homepage of contracostadems.org; Thank you to Secretary Obringer for providing content on voter registration for the Get Involved page of the website; Google Analytics is soon to be installed to measure the amount of traffic coming to the website.

Office Manager: Office Manager Nelson requested that a cell phone be purchased in place of the current DPCCC land line so that Office Manager duties could be easily transferred from one person to the next; According to Officer Manager Nelson's cost benefit analysis, maintaining a

cell phone would be less expensive than maintaining a landline.

VOTER REGISTRATION IN SAN PABLO. Vice Chair Valdez will be organizing voter registration efforts to take place in San Pablo every Saturday; Please contact her for more information.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

CONDOLENCES VIA THE DISPATCH. M/S/U that the Executive Committee recommended that the DPCCC send its condolences about the death of Democratic activist Erwin Meyer, through the Dispatch.

Motion Made by: Ellen Nelson
Motion Seconded by: George Van Hasselt

AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS FOR BARBEQUE EXPENSES. M/S/U that the Executive Committee recommended that the DPCCC authorize a total of \$6,500 for barbeque expenses.

Motion Made By: Chuck Carpenter
Motion Seconded By: Ellen Nelson

OPENING A FEDERAL BANK ACCOUNT: M/S/U that the Executive Committee recommended that the DPCCC open a federal bank account. Motion Made By: George Van Hasselt Motion Seconded By: Cecilia Valdez

SWITCHING FROM A LANDLINE TO A CELL PHONE. M/S/U that the Executive Committee recommended that the DPCCC stop the landline and switch to a cell phone, with all calls to the landline number forwarded to the cell phone for as long as possible, after which the new number would be published in the Dispatch, and that all cell phone bills are to be sent directly to the treasurer.

Motion Made By: Ellen Nelson
Motion Seconded By: Rich Verrilli

Respectfully submitted,
Carlyn Obringer,
Secretary

Agenda 06/21/2007

AGENDA August/2007

- 1 Call To Order
- 2 Roll Call
- 3 Recognize Guests
- 4 Club Presidents Report
- 5 Approval Of July , 2007 Minutes
- 6 Chair's Comments
- 7 Action On Executive Committee Report
- 8 Treasurer's Report
- 9 Committee Reports
- 10 Announcements
- 11 Old Business
- 12 New business
- 13 For the Good Of The Order
- 14 Adjourn

ANNOUNCEMENTS



76th Anniversary
Democrats
Barbecue and Party Celebration
11AM to 3PM
August 25th at the Hap Magee
Ranch Park
La Gonda Way in Danville
Featured Guests are

**Congressmen Jerry
McNerney
Congressman George Miller
Congresswomen
Ellen Tauscher
And
Lt. Governor John Garamendi**
Sponsored by the Democratic
Party of Contra Costa County
and the Contra Costa Central
Labor Council

www.contracostadems.org

Call (925) 295-2107
**Cecilla Valdez Committee
Chair**
Cecilia_Cecy_Valdez@comcast.net

Standing Committee Chairs

Finance Chair **George Van**

Hasselt (925) 628-6127

By Laws Chair **Evelyn**

Centeno (925) 957-1209

Voter Reg Chair **Gabriel Baty**

(510) 923-3666

Elections Chair **Chuck**

Carpenter (925) 323-7153

Issues Chair **Angel Luevano**

Clubs Chair **Frank Quattro**

(925) 352-9839

Media Communications Chair

Marilyn McNulty (925)

979-0244

Office manager **Ellen Nelson**

(925) 838-9741

Demo Dispatch **Rich Verrilli**

(925) 228-2595

C.C. Democratic Clubs

Diablo valley Democratic Club

President Sally Sweetser

(925) 335-2647 Meets 3d

Wednesday of the Month

Sally.sweetser@sbcglobal.net

Antioch Democratic Club

President Richard

Mossmann

925.754.6032 Please Contact

Rmossm@Pacbell.net

Rmossm@Pacbell.net

East County Democrats for
Action

President George Van

Hasselt

925. 754-9514 Please Contact

gvanhasselt@sbcglobal.net

El Cerrito Democratic Club

President Hilary Crosby

510.527.5963

hilary@ckcpa.biz

Lamorinda Democratic Club

President Terry Leach,

925.210.7337 Meets 3d Friday

of the Month

[mail@lamorindademoclub.co](mailto:mail@lamorindademoclub.com)

[m](mailto:mail@lamorindademoclub.com)

Latina/o Democratic Club

President Andres Soto

Meets First Wed.. each month

adcsothotmail.com

Richmond Democratic Club

President Ron Shoop

510.232.7255

Meets 2nd Thursday each month

ronshoop@comcast.net

Rossmoor Democrats

President Marilyn McNulty

925.979.0244 Meets 4th Thursday
each month.

[Http://ebaydemo.org/DOR.html](http://ebaydemo.org/DOR.html)

San Ramon Valley Democratic
Club

President Ray Link

925.820.5009

rjlink@comcast.net

Delta Democratic Club

President Ron Borland 925-625-

2170 borlandp@ecis.com

Tri Valley Democratic Club

President Ellis Goldberg

EllisG237@aol.com

Please Join The Democratic Party

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Phone (H) _____ Email _____
Occupation _____ Employer* _____

*Applicable election law requires committees to report the name, address, occupation and employer (if you are retired, please write in "Retired") of all contributors of \$100.00 or more in a calendar year.

**DPCCC Monthly
Meeting
3rd Thursday
7:30 P.M.
IBEW, Local 302, Hall
1875 Arnold Drive**

Martinez, CA 94553

All Democrats Welcome!
<http://ebaydemo.org>

No matter where you live in Contra Costa County, there is a Democratic club close by and every good Democrat should belong to at least one Democratic club.

Remember, even if you can't attend club meetings, belonging will help to keep you informed and connected to the Party.

The Democratic Party of Contra Costa County
P.O Box 1615
Martinez Ca. 94553