

DEMCCO General Meeting

June 24, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by First Vice President Bob Spencer and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: It was moved/seconded (Krahel/Hagaman) to approve the agenda. An amendment was moved/seconded (Costellano/Schaffer) to add consideration of the recent California Democratic Party chair election and to request an audit. The amendment failed and the original motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: It was moved/seconded (Dalpe/Rencsak) to approve the Minutes of the May 27, 2017 meeting as written. The motion passed.

“Electeds” Report and Announcements:

- Linda Slater described an “Action Alert” asking all people concerned about the current U.S. Senate bill to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to call Senators Feinstein’s and Harris’ offices to ask them to use procedural methods to prevent the bill from coming to a vote. Additional information is available.
- Ruben Major announced an organizational meeting for his campaign to unseat Pat Bates as State Senator for the 36th State Senate District (North San Diego and South Orange Counties).
- Mike Levin, candidate for U.S. Representative for the 49th Congressional District, described his recent visit to SONGS and that he is more concerned now than before the visit about the possible catastrophe that could result from the storage of nuclear waste on site.
- Dave Myers, Democratic candidate for San Diego County Sheriff, said he started as a police officer in Carlsbad and now has 34 years of experience as a police officer and sheriff’s deputy. He is concerned that we should not criminalize mental illness and long-term drug dependence. These should be treated by treatment centers, not jails. He suggested that we should change how we review the success of law enforcement and not base it only on arrest records. He needs help with his campaign—please sign up by emailing info@davemyersforsheriff.com.
- Esther Sanchez, Oceanside City Councilwoman, said that signatures are needed on a petition to the Oceanside Unified School District over the selection of the districting map. Issues over bargaining have developed between SEIU and the County of San Diego.

SONGS Nuclear Waste (Ray Lutz, Citizens’ Oversight Projects)

Citizens’ Oversight Projects is a 501.c3 nonprofit founded in 2006. It became interested in the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) when it was shut down on January 12, 2012 because of a small leak that was about ready to burst. Two main concerns about the

shutdown of SONGS are who will pay the cost of shut down and decommissioning, and where the nuclear waste will be stored.

It was discovered by the FBI that Michael Peevey, former President of the California Public Utilities Commission and Stephen Pickett, former Executive President of External Relations at Southern California Edison (SCE), met in Warsaw, Poland, and made an agreement for the ratepayers to pay the costs of shut down and decommissioning. A lawsuit was filed and this is currently in mediation talks.

Currently, the nuclear waste from SONGS is stored in canisters in pools 40 feet deep with refrigeration to cool it. In 1997, the law required a permanent storage site for nuclear waste. It was determined to be Yucca Mountain, Nevada, but problems arose and Yucca Mountain will probably never open. In October 2015, the California Coastal Commission held an unannounced meeting and granted SCE a 20-year permit to store the nuclear waste on the SONGS site. Citizens' Oversight Projects filed a lawsuit to prevent long-term storage on the beach at San Onofre. The goal was to store the waste in pools on site for 5 years then move it to an alternate site(s). In November 2016, the lawsuit moved forward and SCE began talks with the Citizens' Oversight Projects. The next hearing is July 14, 2017 where a settlement is expected.

Citizens' Oversight Projects believes that storing waste 100 feet from the ocean at San Onofre is not feasible under any circumstances and has investigated other options. Alternative sites identified include Palo Verde near Phoenix, Fischel between I-40 and I-10 in California, another location on Camp Pendleton, Waste Control Specialists in Andrews County, Texas, and the Holtex site.

Nuclear power should be phased out. It costs more than coal and gas to produce. The fuel is running out making it non-sustainable and nuclear power plants emit a large amount of heat.

Questions and Answers:

- Nuclear waste can be transferred from plant to storage if there is no change in title.
- Other countries such as Germany, Finland and Australia are replacing nuclear plants with renewable energy facilities.
- The alternate Camp Pendleton site is 3 miles inland from the coast. There are earthquake faults nearby and it's on a military site but the waste can be moved more easily.
- When SONGS was running, the fuel was cooled by sea water but this is now illegal requiring use of large refrigeration units.
- The electrical grid at SONGS will remain as it is a major switching area. Renewables can be used on the grid.
- 1 in a million chance does not mean that a catastrophe will not happen. 7 Fukushima level catastrophes will occur over the next 100 years if they occur at the same pace as we have already experienced. We need to replace nuclear power plants as soon as possible.
- Transporting the nuclear waste by rail would require refurbishing the tracks.

- We need to make SCE our next target as they can choose to change the storage site.

“Electeds” Report (continued)

Chuck Lowery, Deputy Mayor and Oceanside City Councilmember, announced that Mayor Wood is now out of the hospital and will continue a leave of absence until August 9, 2017. Oceanside is kicking off a program of free food for children under age 18 sponsored by cities, counties and schools. Text 877877FOOD to find the locations. 90 people attended the first meeting of the ad hoc committee on medical marijuana. Farmers want to legally grow marijuana. Everyone was invited to the Oceanside Independence Parade on July 1.

Treasurer’s Report (Mary Meyers):

We have raised 60% of what we planned to make while expenditures are at 43% of expected for the year. We have \$1348 now and plan to make \$4,000 from our annual fundraiser for the money we will be giving to help candidates with their campaigns. Currently, there is \$10,072 in the bank.

Fundraising Report (Barbara Mead)

Our bus trip to Harrah’s Casino did not get the required number of people needed so it was canceled. We are looking at the fall for our annual fundraiser. We hope to have many members and friends participate to make it a success.

Political Action Committee (PAC) Report (Pat McFarlane)

PAC meetings continue to be productive. Michael Vu, San Diego County Registrar of Voters, spoke at our meeting this morning and answered many questions. Information on Community Choice Energy (CCE) is available, see Carol Hilton. We hold monthly meetings on the first Monday of the month (July 10 due to the July 4 holiday) at the Brown Cup Café and Lounge (401 N. Coast Hwy, Oceanside) at 4:30 p.m. All DEMCCO people are welcome to attend.

Independence Day Parade, July 1 (Bob Spencer)

DEMCCO is participating in the Oceanside Independence Parade on July 1, 2017. Ken Clarence will be donating his convertible. Volunteers are needed to walk the parade. A shout out was given to any Democratic candidates or representative of candidates to walk under the DEMCCO banner.

Consideration of Resolution supporting California AB 805 (Mike Bullock)

AB 805 (San Diego County only) will improve the performance of SANDAG and change the way of voting. Currently, each city has one vote resulting in only 6 out of 21 members being Democrats. This bill will change the vote by population with larger cities having more votes than smaller cities. It was moved/seconded (M.Bullock/Barroso) to approve the resolution as written. The motion passed.

Announcements:

- The NAACP is providing 400 backpacks filled with school supplies for needy children returning to school. Please buy school supplies and donate them at the next DEMCCO meeting on July 22. Donations are tax deductible.
- “Ineligible Votes Swung Democratic Party Chair Election to Bauman.” There were 300 questionable ballots in the May 20 contest for state Democratic Party chair. 47 proxy votes were ineligible and were credited to Bauman. 134 ballots showed a mismatch between the signatures on the ballot and the sign-in rosters at the convention credentialing tables. Some of the ineligible votes counted for Bauman involve serious violation of Party procedures. If only 63 of these votes had been eliminated, the outcome of the election would have been reversed. The California Democratic Party owes its leaders, members statewide and its future a thorough, impartial and independent review.
- North County Film Club is showing its last film of the season, Frank vs. God, a comedy, at the Mission Marketplace Theater at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, June 25, 2017.
- Randy Norris’ thoughts about Trump and Russia are that financial assets are being hidden. His advice is to **follow the money!**
- Bill Gore, current San Diego County Sheriff, made a television advertisement for Issa last year. He also supports for-profit prisons which is a vile and immoral industry. Vote for Dave Myers! We must elect Democrats for justice in our county.
- On Tuesday, June 27, the San Diego City Council will vote on supporting AB 805. Send emails to the Oceanside (3rd largest city in the county) and Carlsbad city councils asking for their support.

50/50 Drawing:

Thomas Krouse won \$56. Sheila Kadah won Al Franken’s new book, Al Franken, Giant of the Senate.

Adjournment:

It was moved/seconded (Norris/Rencsak) to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Next meeting: July 22, 2017

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Slater, Secretary

Approved 7/22/17