

DEMCCO General Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2021

The Zoom meeting was called to order by President Linda Slater at 10:12 AM. Ms. Slater welcomed everyone and the new members.

It was moved/seconded (Scott) to approve the agenda with an amendment to add a discussion of the local recall efforts (MBullock).

The Minutes of the April 24, 2021, meeting was approved without objection.

Program: Panel: Sharing our Stories for AAPI Heritage Month (Chih-Wu Chang, moderator, Dr. Indroneal Banerjee, Joan Chong and Ara Lee)

- Joan Chong (Pacific Ridge School) and Ara Lee (San Marcos High School) hosted the march against Asian hate in Carlsbad to call attention to this issue. The march was well attended by people of all ethnicities.
- Dr. Indroneal Banerjee is President of the AAPI Democratic Club. He was born in the U.S. of parents who immigrated from India. He and his family are highly educated, and he experienced many instances of shaming because of his background. There is much diversity in the AAPI community (Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino) but they are united by anti-Asian racism. The AAPI population in California is about 18% and about 12% in San Diego. Studies show that there is little contact by both the Democratic and Republican parties with AAPI populations. The challenge for Democrats is to engage and develop “allyship.” Dr. Banerjee invited DEMCCO members to join with the AAPI Democratic Club in activities to engage with AAPI populations such as doing voter registration.
- Chih-Wu Chang came to the U.S. to attend school. His initial perception of America was fear because of what was happening around that time and things he heard. Ultimately, he is grateful for the help and opportunities he received from his professors and employers such as Pfizer. He changed his political affiliation from Republican to Democrat and set about to pay it forward to help high underserved communities and various other communities.

Elected Officials and Candidates Remarks

Spencer Katz for Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer:

- Infrastructure improvements such as the Del Mar bridge were approved
- A new County Office of Evaluations, Performance and Analytics has been developed to implement evidence-based policies and best practices
- COVID-19 vaccines are now available for people age 12 and older

Mayor Esther Sanchez:

- \$7.5 billion is available statewide to address homelessness. Oceanside is in the process of approving a housing development and shelter

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- Oceanside will receive \$32.3 million from the American Recovery Act and voters will be asked to participate in meetings to prioritize how this money will be spent
- In a lawsuit against the City of Oceanside by the developer of North River Farms, the judge ruled that voters don't have the right to do referenda on decisions on housing. This has very troubling implications statewide and must be appealed. Please let the Oceanside City Councilmembers know you want them to appeal the judge's decision.
- Mobile vaccination clinics are being held in Oceanside
- Mayor Sanchez's yes vote at the last City Council meeting on a resolution by Councilmember Rodriguez and Jensen to oppose H.R. 127, was done to prevent Rodriguez from continuing to push for public "airtime" to campaign against Congressman Mike Levin. Mayor Sanchez is a strong proponent of gun violence prevention and plans to make a citywide proclamation with support of Moms Demand Action opposing gun violence.

Ellen Montanari for Congressman Mike Levin

- Congressman Levin has joined with Congressman Jamie Raskins to hold a 6 week "Democracy Summer Program" for high school and college students. Please contact Ms. Montanari for further information.

Kathy Rallings, Carlsbad Unified School District Board Member

- The District will return to regular school sessions beginning in Fall 2021 with middle and high school students having 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. start times
- The District approved a resolution about storage of guns by a 4 to 1 vote

DEMCCO Goals for 2021

The following goals were developed the Executive Board and are presented to the membership for their approval.

Focus on supporting our elected officials and candidates:

1. Identify instances of hate levied against local Democratic elected leaders and provide the support needed.
2. Develop and implement a process to support the election of candidates including candidate recruitment and education, strategic selection of candidates, and to make elections favorable to Democratic candidates
3. Develop and build relationships with elected officials to maintain a positive relationship and work with them to insure accountability.

Focus on informing and taking action:

4. Inform members of important current issues that include calls to action and addresses policies needed to move toward a more equitable society.
5. Increase Political Action Committee (PAC) engagement by members.

Focus on outreach:

6. Conduct outreach to the public to increase voter participation in elections.
7. Support t young Democrats and their clubs.
8. Build camaraderie among members and our community around common interests and actions to benefit our community through in-person meetings and gatherings such as fundraisers.
9. Support a community organization to foster a strong, beneficial relation for persons in need.

The final goal is a ***focus on diversity, equality and inclusion*** and is a foundation of who we are as Democrats and it is our responsibility to make it a focus in all we do:

10. Find and implement ways to move toward diversity, equality and inclusion in DEMCCO and within our communities of Oceanside and Carlsbad.

The above goals were approved without objection.

Members were asked to volunteer to work on one or more goals by stating so in the chat. Members can also volunteer by emailing info@demcco.org

Local Recall Efforts

- Martha Alvarado, Vista Unified School District Board Member, will run for re-election in 2022. The recall effort against her appears to be lagging and Trustee Alvarado is focusing her attention on her re-election.
- The recall effort against Cori Schumacher, Carlsbad City Councilmember, has not been able to gather the required signatures.
- The recall effort against Kori Jensen, Republican Oceanside City Council Member is proceeding with a strong signature gathering campaign and the required number of signatures is expected to be obtained.

Announcements

- Hope Nelson reported that the Board of Supervisors upheld their decision to not pursue an appeal to the Citizens for a Friendly Airport lawsuit, decertified the EIR and sent the Master Plan back to staff for their proposal without stating a larger D-III should be planned.
- Diana Aguirre, Co-Chair for the SDCDP Community Service Committee, announced their first event: Clean-up and Hygiene Kits in Spring Valley, Sunday, June 27 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. DEMCCO members are encouraged to volunteer for this worthy effort.
- Mike Lewis recognized a local AAPI business member, Patrick Soon-Shiong, the current owner of the San Diego Union Tribune. He has managed to greatly improve the quality and perspective of our local newspaper.
- Tim Cooke encouraged members to do their research on SB 9 and SB 10, 2 bills currently being considered in Sacramento. These bills would have a significant radical change in our communities. He will present a resolution next month for DEMCCO's consideration.
- Diana Aguirre reported that Carlsbad and Oceanside are working on single-use plastics ban along with Brady Bradshaw from Oceana and Janis Jones from Surfrider Foundation.
- Kathy Rallings alerted members to a bill in Sacramento, AB 1139, by Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez. If passed, incentives for rooftop solar will disappear.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m. until June 26, 2021.