

Sonoma Valley Democrats Virtual General Meeting Minutes
6:30pm, May 20, 2024

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 by Beth Hadley, Pres. of the Board. Board members present: Bob Baeyen, Carol Taylor, Bob Baeyan, Tom Martin

- a. Beth thanked all the members who have paid their 2024 dues
- b. The Spring Social & Fundraiser for the Gerald Hill Memorial Scholarships raised about \$1000. Beth thanked folks for coming out for a great event.
- c. The Sonoma Valley High School Social Science Department has selected 2 students for the Gerald Hill Memorial Scholarship of \$1000 each. The Senior Awards Ceremony will be Wed., May 22nd in Pfeiffer Gym beginning at 6:00 PM.
- d. Congressman Mike Thompson is having a Sonoma Valley Dinner Sat., June 8, 4-6pm at the Sangiacomo Vineyards. Tickets: mikethompsonforcongress.com
- e. Beth congratulated Sonoma City Council member Sandra Lowe on her re-election to the DNC on the CADEM Executive Board.
- f. Sonoma Valley Postcard Action. To volunteer, email bethh@sonic.net

2. Bob Baeyan, Treasurer gave the financial report: After two scholarships of \$1000 each are awarded, the SV Dems will have \$2,010 in the operating budget and \$451 in Savings.

3. Sherry Smith, an advocate for patients at the Sonoma Developmental Center who were involuntarily sterilized there, spoke on the status of a new law to provide reparations. Only 3 SDC patients received reparations. Currently a memorial plaque and bench were placed at the SDC, but did not state the names or the number (from 1909 until 1970, thousands were involuntarily sterilized in prisons, mental health and developmental centers throughout the United States.) No one was notified and they hope for artist memorials in the future.

4. Martin Bennett asked for volunteers to join the upcoming election canvassing with UNITE HERE NOW. They will be canvassing in Reno, Nevada as part of the Get Out the Vote effort in swing states from mid-August through September. There is a Constitutional Amendment on the state ballot in Nevada to protect abortion rights and in many states, margins were tight in the last election. (Biden and Harris had wins with 1%-3% margins in some states.) Canvassing turns out more voters among young people, immigrants, and Latinos who may not vote in September. Volunteers will be supported by SEED THE VOTE, young organizers with resources who will train and support volunteers as well as help with expenses if needed. Phone banking & texting opportunities are also available. They will travel Friday evening and canvass all day Saturday and part of Sunday morning. Email Beth Hadley at bethh@sonic.net with your time frame if interested. You can also check out seedthevote.org for more information.

5. Proposed Middle East Cease Fire Resolution discussion: Discussion rules decided by the board were the following:

Speakers will identify themselves by name. They will have two minutes to speak and will be taken in the order that we see their hands raised. Each person will have one turn to speak and may be called on again only after all have been called on. Only club members may vote.

Maria Barakat of Sonoma County for Palestine and Sonoma Valley Cease Fire spoke briefly about their members' concerns. In the proposed resolution on the agenda, she stated that Netanyahu must be named as the proponent of genocide. She also asked that the resolution include expediting aid delivery. She stated that their members, including Jewish and Muslim members along with Rabbi Steve Finley, have had input and she asked for a vote on the resolution.

Proposed Resolution to Cease Hostilities in the Middle East

*WHEREAS, we support the right of all people in the Middle East to live in peace and harmony, and
WHEREAS, Hamas initiated the violence experienced by all parties since October 7, 2023, and
WHEREAS, the Israeli Defense Forces and Hamas have continued a war in which civilians in between are the victims in great numbers, and
WHEREAS, recent casualties number approximately 34,262 killed, 70% of whom are women and children, and 72,889 were injured as of March 2024, and
WHEREAS, in March 2024 the IDF casualties are 247 killed and 1,475 injured,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sonoma Valley Democratic Club calls on President Joseph Biden to take major steps to immediately bring about the cessation of hostilities between Israel and all opponents including the discontinuance of arms shipments to the belligerents, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call for the immediate release of all hostages, and call upon the International Criminal Court of Justice in The Hague to investigate the warring parties for war crimes.*

Note: The above resolution was approved by the Sonoma Valley Democrats Board for release to all elected officials including President Biden after a vote of SV Democrats members present.

Members contributed the following statements to change, clarify or add to the resolution:

- 1) Hostilities should be changed to "genocide."
- 2) A Palestinian state to be created and restitution made.
- 3) Netanyahu be named instead of "Israeli Defense Forces" for waging a war on civilians
- 4) That Israel expedite aid delivery immediately and continually
- 5) That Biden and the US Military end all offensive military aid to Israel.
- 6) The SV Democrats should lobby for a Cease Fire Resolution.
- 7) The statistics regarding fatalities must be updated and accurate.

Due to the urgency and necessity for correct wording and a complete resolution before a vote by members present, it was decided to create a committee to review the resolution before a vote. Maria Barakat, Mike, Sabina, and Beth, volunteered for the ad hoc committee.

Cheryl Hegert will check the bylaws to determine the next voting procedure. Maria Barakat announced that there will be a Peace Vigil this Friday evening on the Sonoma Plaza at

Tom Conlon (and Sierra Club) asked constituents to contact Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry and Senator Mike McGuire to support the following bills that are coming up for votes:

ACA 16 (Bryan) Constitutional Amendment to a right to clean air, water and healthy environment

AB 2716 (Bryan) low producing well charges

AB 1866 (Hart) orphaned and abandoned wells

AB 3233 (Addis) support local govt control of oil/gas drilling

AB 3155 (Friedman) illness presumptions within 3200 feet of oil/gas wells

Contact tconclon@geopraxis.com for more information.

Next meetings:

Virtual Board meeting – Monday, June 3, 9:30 AM

June 27 Debate Watch Party 5pm TBA

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Submitted by Linda Hale, Acting Secretary May 21, 2024