El Cerrito Democratic Club
February 2024 Newsletter

Contents:

ECDC
PO Box 192
El Cerrito CA 94530   Newsletter Editor: William Ktsanes

1. El Cerrito Democratic Club General Information

The El Cerrito Democratic Club ("ECDC") provides a forum for area residents to discuss and take action on issues and campaigns of local, national, and international importance. Our General Membership Meetings are open to all and held on the <u>fourth Tuesday of each month</u> except October and December, when we typically have our annual dinner and holiday party.

Our monthly General Membership Meetings are generally in a hybrid format accessible both in person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments (10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remotely via Zoom (http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting).

For those of us who've been able to come to Hana Gardens, it's been wonderful to be in community and gather in person. Whether you join us in person or by Zoom, I encourage you to come a few minutes early to mix-and-mingle with fellow ECDC members.

The El Cerrito Democratic Club and its activities are supported by volunteers and the annual dues of its members. Please see the "Membership Renewal Reminder and Instructions" section towards the end of this newsletter for directions on how to join the ECDC or renew your membership.

El Cerrito Democratic Club executive board officer elections occur annually each January. Special thanks to our 2024 volunteer officers:

El Cerrito Democratic Club Officers (2024)

- President – Champagne Brown
- Past President – Greg Lyman
- Executive Vice President – Carolyn Wysinger
- VP Media – Madeline Kronenberg

- VP Membership – Neil Tsutsui
- VP Programs – Ruthie Abelson Olivas
- VP Publications – William Ktsanes
- VP Records – Leslie Reckler
- VP Treasurer – Ed Crowley

The specific duties of officer positions are described in section "VII. Officers" of the Bylaws posted on the ECDC website at https://ecdclub.org/club-documents/.

If you're interested in participating more actively in the ECDC, please consider volunteering with the Club and joining the Executive Board.

Help is always greatly appreciated!

- William Ktsanes, VP Publications

2. Information and New Zoom Link for the General Membership Meeting on <u>Tuesday, February 27<u>th</u></u>

Our General Membership Meetings are generally in a hybrid format, accessible both in person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments (10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and via Zoom (http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting).

For monthly calendar invites and reminders for ECDC's General Membership Meetings, you are invited to download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZUpcOCvqDkpEtH10GiVZ7NcegZqDI_tJeMI/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGpqjwjHdKXsxGCRpwcBo_CXe3wpnpej7d1zU_CChZpNS31M-V4I5ZWL8z6

To join the monthly ECDC General Membership Meetings via Zoom, use <u>either</u> of these <u>new</u> links:

Abbreviated: http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting

Full: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81479762385?pwd=RkVZNkZmT0RVQTF6UEVJdFBCQ041dz09

Zoom Meeting ID: 814 7976 2385; Zoom Passcode: c5fQKR

Dial In by Phone: +1 669 900 6833 <u>or</u> +1 408 638 0968
Meeting ID: 814 7976 2385; Phone Passcode: 920761

Please note that the Passcode is different if you dial in by phone rather than join the meeting through the Zoom link.

<u>January Meeting Agenda (Tentative)</u>s

6:20 pm – Assemble and Mingle
6:30 pm – Call to Order
6:31 pm – Approve of January 2024 Agenda **(Action Item)**
6:33 pm – Approve of Minutes: January 2024 General Membership Meeting **(Action Item)**
6:35 pm – Officer Reports: Membership (Neil Tsutsui), Finance (Ed Crowley), Website (Madeline Kronenberg), Publications (William Ktsanes) and Records (Lesie Reckler)
6:40 pm – Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) Report
6:45 pm – Program: Selection of ECDC Monthly Programs for 2024 **(Action Item)**
            See "4. February Program: Selection of Program Topics for 2024 ECDC Monthly General Membership Meetings" on pages 8-9 of this newsletter.
7:20 pm – ECDC 2024 Philanthropy **(Action Item)**
            See "5. Who Should ECDC Donate To?" on page 9 of this newsletter.

7:40 pm – Announcements (please limit to 2 minutes)

7:50 pm – Good of the Order

7:55 pm – Adjourn

* Please send calendar events to the Executive Board in advance for possible discussion at the General Membership Meeting and publication in the newsletter.

- Champagne Brown, ECDC President

3. Minutes from the January 23rd ECDC General Membership Meeting

El Cerrito Democratic Club
General Membership Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2023
(in person at Hana Gardens, 10860 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito; and via Zoom)

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Call to Order
President Brown called the meeting to order at 6.35 p.m.

Approval of January 2024 Agenda (Action Item)
On the motion of Tsutsui and the second of Kronenberg, the agenda was approved as presented with no nays nor abstentions.

Approval of Minutes: November 2023 General Membership Meeting (Action Item)
On the motion of Merrill and the second of Crowley, the minutes were approved as presented with no nays nor abstentions.

Officer Reports: Membership, Publications, Media, and Records
● **Membership** 83 members. A little low, but expect more memberships as endorsement forums are held.
● **Media** There were some unauthorized and heated posts on Facebook that were removed and the offendinging person was banned.

Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) Report
● **Nye District 1** Election season is coming and the clubs will be doing endorsements. Figuring out with other clubs how to work together. Deciding dates for endorsements. Trying to work together to avoid tiring candidates out.

Program: Annual Business Meeting

Year Budget - Ed Crowley, Treasurer (Action Item)
Bullet Points on 2023
- Ended the year with a $9500 balance
- Spent $664 of reserves against a budget of $8600.
- DId not spend on room rental because it was prepaid in 2022. For 2024, the room rental will book into the current year.
- Annual Dinner lost about $1,000 but had fewer attendees, and maybe ticket prices could have gone up.
- Political contributions were not spent.
- Operating expenses only spent for office supplies and membership
- Communications and PO box underspent
- Budgeted $13,000 and spent $5100.
- Income: $4800 in revenue. Dues were OK, but the dinner revenue was about $1,000 under for above reasons.

Year End Financials Fiscal Year 2023

Appendix B: ECDC Income Statement - Final YE2023

El Cerrito Democratic Club Income Statement
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Revenue	Actual		Budget		Difference
Member Dues Revenue		2,596.00		2,400.00	196.00
Newsletter Revenue		159.00		100.00	59.00
Annual Dinner Revenue		1,240.00		2,200.00	(960.00)
Meeting Pizza Revenue		-		-	-
Contribution Revenue		462.00		100.00	362.00
Total Revenue		**4,457.00**		**4,800.00**	**(343.00)**

Expenses	Actual		Budget		Difference
Meeting Expense - Room Rental	253.00		1,400.00		(1,147.00)
Meeting Expense - Voting Service	-		-		-
Meeting Expense - Speaker Honoriaria	-		100.00		(100.00)
Meeting Expense - Equipment	-		225.00		(225.00)
Total Meeting Expense		253.00		1,725.00	(1,472.00)
Annual Dinner Expense - Room Rental	102.72		140.00		(37.28)
Annual Dinner Expense - Food & Drink	1,997.61		2,000.00		(2.39)
Annual Dinner Expense - Supplies	10.98		50.00		(39.02)
Annual Dinner Expense - Printing	10.98		50.00		(39.02)
Financial Expense - Annual Dinner PayPal Fees	48.28		-		48.28
Financial Expense - Square Fees	-		-		-
Total Annual Dinner Expense		2,170.57		2,240.00	(69.43)
Campaign Expense - Printing	-		-		-
Campaign Expense - Political Contributions	-		1,200.00		(1,200.00)
Total Campaign Expense		-		1,200.00	(1,200.00)
General Expense - Office Supplies	12.00		50.00		(38.00)
General Expense - Insurance	-		550.00		(550.00)
General Expense - Affiliations and Memberships	40.00		40.00		-
Total Operating Expense		52.00		640.00	(588.00)
Communications Expense - Website & E-mail	240.00		840.00		(600.00)
Communication Expense - Online Membership Web Service	-		350.00		(350.00)
Communication Expense - Newsletter Printing	-		200.00		(200.00)
Communication Expense - Newsletter Postage	-		120.00		(120.00)
Communication Expense - Post Office Box	230.00		235.00		(5.00)
Total Communication Expense		470.00		1,745.00	(1,275.00)
Membership Outreach Expense	65.00		-		65.00
Printing Expense - Recruitment	-		-		-
Total Recruitment Expense		65.00		-	65.00
Charitable Contributions - General	2,000.00		3,000.00		(1,000.00)
Charitable Contributions - George Floyd	-		750.00		(750.00)
Charitable Contributions - Future Leaders	-		2,000.00		(2,000.00)
Total Charitable Contributions Expense		2,000.00		5,750.00	(3,750.00)
Financial Expense - Mechanics Bank Fees	-		-		-
Financial Expense - Dues PayPal Fees	111.24		150.00		(38.76)
Total Financial Expense		111.24		150.00	(38.76)
Total Expenses		5,121.81		13,450.00	(8,328.19)
Net Income (Loss)		**($664.81)**		**($8,650.00)**	**7,985.19**

2024 Income and Expenses

Appendix A: ECDC Proposed 2024 Budget

	Budget
Cash - Checking	0.00
Cash - PayPal	0.00
Receivable - Meeting Room Deposit	0.00
Liabilities	0.00
Capital Account	0.00
Member Dues Revenue	2,600.00
Newsletter Revenue	150.00
Annual Dinner Revenue	1,440.00
Meeting Pizza Revenue	0.00
Contribution Revenue	200.00
Meeting Expense - Room Rental	2,250.00
Meeting Expense - Voting Service	40.00
Meeting Expense - Speaker Honoriaria	100.00
Meeting Expense - Equipment	500.00
Annual Dinner Expense - Room Rental	140.00
Annual Dinner Expense - Food & Drink	2,000.00
Annual Dinner Expense - Supplies	50.00
Annual Dinner Expense - Printing	50.00
Campaign Expense - Printing	1,300.00
Campaign Expense - Political Contributions	700.00
General Expense - Office Supplies	50.00
General Expense - Insurance	600.00
General Expense - Affiliations and Memberships	0.00
Communications Expense - Website & E-mail	840.00
Communication Expense - Online Membership Web Service	0.00
Communication Expense - Newsletter Printing	200.00
Communication Expense - Newsletter Postage	120.00
Communication Expense - Post Office Box	250.00
Membership Outreach Expense	75.00
Printing Expense - Recruitment	100.00
Charitable Contributions - General	2,000.00
Charitable Contributions - Racial Equity	1,000.00
Charitable Contributions - Future Leaders	1,000.00
Charitable Contributions - Environmental Causes	1,000.00
Financial Expense - Mechanics Bank Fees	0.00
Financial Expense - Dues PayPal Fees	150.00
Financial Expense - Annual Dinner PayPal Fees	0.00

Budget

On the motion of Lyman and the second of Brown:

Adopt the 2024 budget included in "Exhibit A" minus -$300 from the Board's Discretionary Portion, excluding reductions to the Charitable Donation lines totaling $5,000. The charitable donations are to be decided at the February, 2024 General Association meeting.
Unanimously approved with no nays nor abstentions.

2024 ECDC Program (Discussion/Suggestions) Six topics to be chosen for the year.

- Recruit More Members
- Topics Important to El Cerrito/Local Issues
- What's on Deck for El Cerrito
- Climate Action
- Very specific climate topics building sustainable and healthy cities, what it means to have a green infrastructure, climate justice and decarbonization, clean and just transportation, consolidating transportation organizations, climate and homefullness, public health and climate how they affect one another, economy and the climate, water, climate equity, climate and our local leadership (governance).
- Ballot Measures (Slated for July)
- Capitalism and Socialism
- Homelessness and how it relates to El Cerrito
- Local Electeds
- Privatization of Medicare

If you think of any more topics, please feel free to email them in.

2024 Officer Elections - Greg Lyman, Immediate Past President (Action Item)

On the motion of Sudduth and the second of Lyman the following slate of officers was unanimously approved with no nays nor abstentions

- President – Champagne Brown
- Past President – Greg Lyman
- Executive Vice President –Carolyn Wysinger
- VP Media – Madeline Kronenberg
- VP Membership – Neil Tsutsui
- VP Programs – Ruthie Abelson Olivas
- VP Publications – William Ktsanes
- VP Records – Leslie Reckler
- VP Treasurer – Ed Crowley

Announcements

- Carolyn Wysinger will be on the ballot for DPCCC in March 2024 for District 1.
- Champagne Brown is running for Central Committee
- Cesar Zepeda is hosting a fundraiser at 5:00 pm on Thursday at Hotel Mac. Give what you can.
- Cheryl Sudduth pointed out that there are a number of good candidates that were endorsed that can use your assistance.
- Other Announcements:
    - Chanel Preston BOS replacing Federal Glover.
    - Monica Wilson Endorsed by CADEM for Assembly and DPCCC AD 15.
    - Jeff Koertzen Training if you want to run for the DNC. This weekend.
    - Willie Mims Awarded Adult Humanitarian of the Year Award. See Board of Supervisors meeting for the video.
    - Jesse Arreguin Fundraiser at Los Moles 5:30-7:30 pm, Wednesday, January 24.
    - Champagne recommends the club chooses April to decide whom to support for the State Senate.

Adjourn

On the motion of Brown and the second of Sudduth, the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

– Leslie Reckler, VP Records

4. February Program: Selection of Program Topics for 2024 ECDC Monthly General Membership Meetings

Last month, El Cerrito Democratic Club members participated in a lively discussion about potential program topics they'd like featured in this year's "4th Tuesday" General Membership Meetings. During the upcoming February meeting, members will be asked to select up to six (6) topics to be included for discussion in our 2024 monthly membership meetings.

The following are a list of suggested topics members will be able to choose from:

- Membership Recruitment
- Issues specific to El Cerrito
- What's on deck for El Cerrito
- Climate Action
    - The Economics of Climate (in)Justice
    - Climate Equity and Water Access in CA
    - Building Just Communities: Environmental Justice and Homefulness
    - Climate Equity and Public Health in CA

- Capitalism and Socialism
- El Cerrito homelessness
- Presentations from local elected officials
- Privatization of Medicare

The following topics have already been selected for ECDC's 2024 monthly programs:

Tuesday, March 26th: CA Senate District 7 Endorsement; ECDC will revisit the possible endorsement of the top 2 democratic candidates from the 2024 Primary Election.

Tuesday, July 23rd: November Ballot Measures

- SCA 2 (Allen) Public housing projects. (Res. Ch. 182, 2022) (PDF)
- ACA 5 (Low) Marriage equality. (Res. Ch. 125, 2023) (PDF)
- ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry) Local government financing: affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval. (Res. Ch. 173, 2023) (PDF)
- ACA 13 (Ward) Voting thresholds. (Res. Ch. 176, 2023) (PDF)

Saturday, August 17th: General Election Endorsements

Saturday, October 12th: 72nd ECDC Annual Dinner

December 6th: ECDC Holiday Party

- Champagne Brown, ECDC President

5. Who Should ECDC Donate To?

This year, we have again approved funds to donate to worthy causes. At our February membership meeting, we will be taking nominations for potential recipient organizations in the general topic areas of 1) Racial and social justice, 2) Environment and climate change, and 3) Youth organizations. Please think about the wonderful organizations that you know and love, and nominate them for support from the ECDC. Nominating members will then write up a short description for the March newsletter and we will later vote on the final awardees.

- Neil Tsutsui, VP Membership

6. Future Events – *Mark Your Calendar!*

El Cerrito Democratic Club General Membership Meetings and Events

ECDC February General Membership Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, February 27th
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments (10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link
NEW LINK: http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting

ECDC March General Membership Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, March 26th
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link
http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting

ECDC April General Membership Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, April 23rd
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link
http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting

ECDC May General Membership Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, May 28th
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link
http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting

ECDC June General Membership Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, June 25th
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link
http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting

ECDC July General Membership Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, July 23rd
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link
http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting

ECDC Candidates Forum – Time and Location TBD, Saturday, August 17th

ECDC August General Membership Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, August 27th
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link
http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting

ECDC Annual Dinner – Time and Location TBD, Saturday, October 12th

ECDC Holiday Party – Time and Location TBD, Friday, December 6th

Other Community Events

2024 California Presidential Primary – Tuesday, March 5, 2024

- William Ktsanes, VP Publications

Membership Renewal Reminder and Instructions

REMINDER! – ECDC memberships expired on September 30, 2023. If you have not already renewed for 2024, **now is the time to renew!**

You can do so online at: https://ecdclub.org/join/

Or by mailing a check to: ECDC Membership
PO Box 192
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Dues are $5 for students, $20 for individual members, and $30 for two adults at the same address. The newsletter comes with membership and is delivered electronically by email. The added cost for a printed, hard-copy, postal mailed newsletter is $18 (in addition to dues). Please make checks payable to "El Cerrito Democratic Club" and provide an email address for all individual members.

If you have questions, please email Neil Tsutsui at membership.ecdc@gmail.com.

Thank you!

- Neil Tsutsui, VP Membership

7.   Call for Newsletter Submissions

The El Cerrito Democratic Club Newsletter is published eleven months a year (each month with the exception of a combined December-January issue) and in advance of the General Membership meetings. ECDC members, friends and supporters are invited to submit articles and announcements regarding local issues and events of interest. Submissions should be emailed to William Ktsanes at wktsanes@gmail.com for review and editing.

- William Ktsanes, VP Publications

8.   Link to the ECDC Website and Bylaws

Periodically the Club updates our Bylaws. The bylaws were changed in October 2018 to meet DPCCC requirements; revisions were proposed and adopted during the January 2021, August 2022 and March 2023 ECDC meetings. The ECDC Bylaws are posted on the ECDC website at https://ecdclub.org/club-documents/.