



El Cerrito Democratic Club

Newsletter – June 2020

Contents:

1. Agenda for June 23, 2020 Meeting
 2. June Speaker Biography
 3. Mr. George Floyd Resolution
 4. Membership
 5. May Meeting Minutes
 6. Upcoming Flip the North Carolina State House Fundraising Event
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Meeting Location: Telephone:

+16699006833,,84303785299# US (San Jose)

+14086380968,,84303785299# US (San Jose)

Online @ Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84303785299?pwd=bUFyY3VHVXFYTEZaR3YvSIN4dUpQQT09>

Meeting ID: 843 0378 5299

Password: 111652

ECDC

P.O. Box 192

El Cerrito, CA 94530

1. Meeting Agenda June 23, 2020 @ 6:30PM via Zoom.

Board Members:

Janet Abelson, President

Peter Chau, Immediate Past President (on leave)

Champagne Brown, Executive Vice President

Madeline Kronenberg, Vice President-Media

Glen Nethercut, Vice President-Records

Kathy Fleming, Vice President Treasurer

Margaret Kavanaugh-Lynch, Vice President-Programs

Greg Lyman, Vice President-Membership

Carolyn Wysinger, Vice President- Publications (Newsletters)

6:30 Call to Order

6:31 Approve May 26, 2020 Minutes

6:35 Treasurer's Report

6:38 Membership Report

6:41 Report from Club Representative to Central Committee

6:48 Other Officer Reports

6:55 Consideration of Supprt of ECDC Resolution in the Aftermath of the Death of Mr. George Floyd
Draft prepared by ECDC Treasurer Kathy Fleming (Item #3)

7:05 Program

Speaker Carolyn Wysinger, President of San Francisco Pride

7:50 Schedule of Upcoming Events

July 28 Endorsement of November Ballot Measures (Townhall style with moderator and speakers for and against and followed by online endorsement vote)

August 25 ECDC Endorsement of Candidates on November 2020 Ballot

7:52 Announcements and Good of the Order

8:00 Adjourn

2. June Speaker Biography

Carolyn Wysinger has worked fiercely in the LGBTQ community in a plethora of capacities. As a blogger, she has written timely and insightful articles for blogs such as Autostraddle, Everyday Feminism, Black Girl Dangerous and Media Diversified. As an author, Carolyn published her first book, Knockturnal Emissions, which has been listed on LGBTQ essential reading lists at several universities. She has also had stories published in Sinister Wisdom Literary Journal as well as anthologies Near Kin and Louisiana in Words. As a Masculine of Center model, Carolyn has modeled for Saint Harridan, Dapper Boi and Kirrin Finch. She has walked the runway for Queer Fashion Week and is featured in Meg Allen's photo book, "BUTCH."

Carolyn has worked with various organizations to create queer spaces. She has served on the steering committee for Black Lesbians United and the board for the NIA Gathering for Same Gender Loving Women of African Descent. She currently sits on the board for the BUTCHVoices National Conference. In the area of politics, she is the former commissioner of Human Rights & Relations for the City of Richmond. She is a former Executive Board Member of the Long Beach Lambda Democratic Club, where she worked on the campaign to elect Long Beach's first out Mayor Robert Garcia. She currently sits on the Executive Board of the Lambda Democratic Club of Contra Costa County, the El Cerrito Democratic Club and is one of the founding members of the Black Dems of Contra Costa County.

3. El Cerrito Democratic Club Draft Resolution in the Aftermath of the Death of Mr. George Floyd

El Cerrito Democratic Club Draft Resolution in the Aftermath of the Death of Mr. George Floyd

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2020, George Floyd, an African American man, died at the hands of four Minneapolis, Minnesota police officers; and

WHEREAS, according to reports, one of these officers knelt on Mr. Floyd's neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds while Mr. Floyd was handcuffed, lying face down on the street and begging to breathe while three other police officers appeared to either assist or look on; and

WHEREAS, this apparently unprovoked and intentional act of violence represents a blatant disregard for the dignity and sanctity of human life; and

WHEREAS, this act of intolerable violence and other similar acts that have occurred across this country are unpardonable and must serve as a call to action to every human being that recognizes life as both a gift and a human right; and

WHEREAS, despite representing only 13% of the population, African Americans are two-and-a-half times as likely as white Americans to be killed by the police¹;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the El Cerrito Democratic Club, as follows, that:

- We join with America in sharing its disbelief, sorrow, shame and anger;
- We condemn the actions of the police officers involved and other instances of police brutality and excessive force, particularly as inflicted disproportionately on communities of color;
- We support Black Lives Matter and peaceful unification throughout this country opposing this and similar deplorable acts of violence against persons of color and those of different ethnicity, religions, beliefs or expressions, both now and in perpetuity;
- We support redress of policing tactics to ensure safety of all members of our collective community;
- Furthermore, El Cerrito Democratic Club calls upon our community to join with us in committing to introspective evaluation of ourselves as citizens and as brothers and sisters regarding this event and to commit to the continuing efforts to realize equity and justice for all.

June 23, 2020

¹ Mohammed Haddad, "Mapping US police killings of Black Americans," *Al Jazeera*, May 31, 2020, <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/interactive/2020/05/mapping-police-killings-black-americans-200531105741757.html>

4. Membership recruitment for Endorsements!

ECDC membership runs from January 1st to December 31st of each calendar year. 2019 members who did not renew by June 1st are now considered new members and must wait 45 days to participate in endorsement votes. It is too late to join to vote in the July 28 ballot endorsement votes. To participate in the August endorsement votes, **you must join before July 16**. Membership is \$20 for one person at an address, \$30 for two at the same address, and \$5 for students. If you do not remember if you have renewed for 2020, please mail membership.ecdc@gmail.com. Renew 1) online at www.ecdclub.org, or 2) mailing a check (made out to El Cerrito Democratic Club) to ECDC, P.O. Box 192, El Cerrito, CA 94530. If you mail in your dues payment, please provide us with your name(s), address and, especially email addresses for every member!

5. May 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Board members attending: President Janet Abelson, Executive VP Champagne Brown, VP Treasurer Kathy Fleming, VP Programs Margaret Kavanaugh-Lynch, VP Media (Website) Madeline Kronenberg, VP Membership Greg Lyman, VP Records (Secretary) Glen Nethercut, VP Publications (Newsletters) Carolyn Wysinger

1. Call to Order

The meeting was conducted online via Zoom. President Janet Abelson began the meeting at 6.30pm with 28 people attending.

2. Minutes

A motion to approve minutes of the April 28, 2020 meeting was seconded, and unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Kathy Fleming reported a bank balance of \$10,728.15.

4. Membership

Vice President Membership Greg Lyman reported paid memberships holding steady at 100. The 50 lapsed memberships will revert to new member status if not renewed by June 1, and thereafter must wait 45 days from the day they rejoin before being able to participate in Club endorsements.

5. Report from Club Representative to the DPCCC

Executive VP Champagne Brown volunteered to serve as Club Representative to the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC). A motion to approve Champagne by acclamation was unanimously approved. Janet said she would ask Hari Lamba if he intends to continue as DPCCC alternate.

6. Program – Contra Costa County's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

John Gioia, District 1 Supervisor for Contra Costa County, noted that the County was one of six in the Bay Area that instituted shelter in place on March 16, the first in the nation. Since then, 31,000 Contra Costans have been tested for COVID-19. Early testing produced a 14.3 percent positive rate, dropping more recently to 2.5% as testing has become more widely available. El Cerrito has among the lowest positive rates in the county, with San Pablo and Richmond higher,

and Orinda the highest following an outbreak in a facility there for senior citizens. The county provides health care for 200,000 of the county's 1.2 million residents, John said, adding that Contra Costa's COVID-19 cases do not show any disparity by race.

John said the county's ordinance prohibiting evictions from housing was extended to July 15, with a grace period through November 15 to repay back rent. Five hundred hotel rooms have been contracted to provide housing for the homeless. Prior to the pandemic, the county had 1,100 hospital beds; that number has increased to 2,200, including a 250 bed facility at the Craneway in Richmond.

Health orders are reviewed every two weeks, based upon these indicators:

1. Total number of cases is flat or decreasing, and the number of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 is flat or decreasing.
2. Sufficient hospital capacity to meet the needs of residents: Currently hospitals are operating at less than 50 percent of capacity, with COVID-19 cases accounting for 5 percent of this.
3. Sufficient testing conducted each day: County is half way to this goal of 2,400 tests/day, which translates to 200 tests per 100,000 residents. All tests conducted by all health providers are being counted, John said.
4. Sufficient case investigation, contact testing, and isolation/quarantine capacity: Currently staffed at 75 employees, and growing.
5. At least a 30-day supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) available for all healthcare providers: Two hospitals report meeting this threshold.

The pandemic has had a huge financial impact on the county, using \$100 million in surplus funds, which, it is hoped, will be reimbursed by the Federal government. County healthcare services are funded through utilization, and costs have remained constant while revenues have decreased with non-essential medical appointments cancelled. Greater funding for healthcare is vital, John said, and noted Contra Costa is the only Bay Area county without a county-wide sales tax for this purpose. Such a tax would raise \$90 million annually, and could be approved by a simple majority vote.

The county has offered no directives to residents regarding how far from home they may travel during this time. "Be reasonable," he suggested.

One positive outcome of shelter in place is the dramatic increase in Bay Area air quality. John said this shows how important it is to continue to promote clean air policies.

If previous pandemics are a guide, John noted we may face a surge of cases in the fall.

In closing, John wondered if this crisis will further divide Americans, or bring us closer together.

7. Next meeting June 23

8. Adjourn

The Club adjourned at 7.30pm.

6. Upcoming Flip the North Carolina State House Fundraising Event



**SATURDAY, JUNE 27,
NOON PDT / 3 PM EDT**

•Virtual Fundraiser•

**CONGRESSWOMAN
BARBARA LEE (CA-13)
AND
DR. KIMBERLY
HARDY, DEMOCRATIC
CANDIDATE NC HD43**

Moderated by Kendra R.
Johnson, Executive
Director at Equality NC*

*Title and organization listed for
identification purposes

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**DONATION: \$35+
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TO GIVE GENEROUSLY!**

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