

Democrats of the Morongo Basin
 General Meeting Minutes
 10:00 a.m., February 11, 2023
 Online using Zoom &
 Bruce's/Jorge's Place, CMC Campus



Today's Meeting Agenda and Minutes of the January General Meeting were distributed to the membership before the meeting.

Club President Jo Ann Bollen called the meeting to order at 10:00.

<u>Board members present:</u>	<u>Club members present (in person)</u>	<u>Club members present (Zoom)</u>
Jo Ann Bollen	Matthew Mark Campos	Stacy Doolittle
Deborah Dunaway	Rich Mettling	Ellen Welch
Paula Durrant (Zoom)	Gary Neff	
Misty Evans	Debra Gail Savitt	<u>Guest</u>
Dianne Markle-Greenhouse (Zoom)	Rob Tisdell-Braun	Derek Marshall
Carrie Williams	Johnny Tolbert	

The Club recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Johnny Tolbert moved and Rich Mettling seconded approval of the Agenda as presented. *Unanimous.*

Johnny Tolbert moved and Liz Neff seconded approval of the January meeting minutes. *Unanimous.*

Liz Neff reported that the club has \$1,403.18 plus the petty cash. The check to Mara's Wish still has not cleared, and we also have a \$50 check outstanding to the San Bernardino County Democratic Central Committee for our charter.

Correspondence: None.

2022 CD23 Democratic candidate, Derek Marshall, gave a brief recap of the MBCA Housing Solutions for the Morongo Basin Annual Meeting held January 21 in Yucca Valley. He spoke about the Inland Equity Community Land Trust, which has a project in the works for Adelanto in the Victor Valley that will use rammed earth (a sustainable material that provides excellent insulation) and provide a rent-to-own opportunity for low-income people at risk of homelessness. Derek also mentioned that he will be officially kicking off his 2024 Congressional campaign on April 16.

Committee Reports:

Environmental Policy: Rooftop solar new rates: info here: <https://solarrights.org/faqnem3/> Paula Durrant mentioned that the gas bills are also extremely high. She will draft a letter to Gov. Newsom about the CPUC's failure to regulate rates. Misty Evans said that the CPUC should be held accountable. Rich Mettling stated that co-op power companies (e.g., Ventura County Clean Power Alliance) are the only way the people can keep control, instead of corporations that exist only to make profits for their shareholders.

Rates for water in Joshua Tree are also going up; Club member Stacy Doolittle is on the JBWD and kindly offered to speak about the proposed rate hike. Reasons include the need to continue upgrading infrastructure (they have 310 miles of pipe in 96 square miles serving ~5,600 customers), and upcoming state requirements to limit the amount of Chromium 6 in drinking water, which will most likely require establishing a treatment plant. So the Board will be asking for the maximum increase they can, but will only increase rates as needed over time to meet these needs, including hiring a staff member to coordinate the pipe replacement work, which will end up cheaper than hiring consultants. Debra Savitt is on the Public Advocacy Committee of the Hi-Desert Water District.

ADEM elections: Jo Ann Bollen and Misty Evans were elected as delegates to the California Democratic Party conventions for AD47 and AD34, respectively. Well done!

Other Items

- Jo Ann spoke about the Disinformation & Dog Whistles presentation from Indivisible. Link to follow via email.
- We again encouraged members to write letters to the editor.
- Jay Obernolte will be at the YV Seniors' Center February 25; Jo Ann will be passing out flyers in the parking lot outlining some of his more egregious votes.
- Deborah will be completing the County Rechartering paperwork for the Club by February 28.
- Jo Ann requested volunteers to help contact businesses about being on the facebook Blue Biz page. Carrie Williams offered to make some calls.

Announcements:

1. February 26, 2023: Social Supper at Las Palmas Yucca Valley, 4-7 pm
2. Next Board Meeting: March 6 2:30 pm, email DemocratsMB@gmail.com for zoom link
3. Next General Meeting: March 11, 10:00 am, Zoom and in person
4. Field Team 6 Virtual Voter Registration Summit all day March 16 (<https://www.mobilize.us/ft6/event/548372/>), with a local Happy Hour (<https://www.mobilize.us/ft6/event/551852/>).
5. Jo Ann wants to try to interest more young people in politics/why voting matters using TikTok. Looking for help finding some young people to help produce and star!

Gary Neff moved and Johnny Tolbert seconded adjournment at 11:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Dunaway
March 9, 2023