

Sonoma Valley Democrats Virtual General Meeting Minutes
6:30pm, March 25, 2024

1. **6:34 via Zoom – Beth Hadley** welcomed board members Tom Martin, Bob Baeyen, Carol Taylor, Joanne Brown and Supervisor-elect Rebecca Hermosillo to the meeting.
 - a. Beth extended a thank you to our members who have paid their 2024 dues! (\$20 for calendar year) go to svdems.org to pay online or send to P.O, Box 1311, Sonoma, 95476.
 - b. **April 28 - Spring Social & fundraiser** for *Gerald Hill Memorial Scholarships*, 3-5pm, watch for details, need volunteers, bethh@sonic.net
 - c. **Sonoma Valley Postcard Action** is getting out the vote! If interested, email bethh@sonic.net
2. **Bob Baeyan, Treasurer** - stated that as of March 5th: Checking: \$3154 Savings: \$451 Savings represents scholarship funds available for next year. Last year the SV Dems awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to 2 SVHS students chosen by their Social Studies teachers. Beth is hoping to match those amounts this year.
3. **Central Committee** - Beth congratulated the newly elected Central Committee members: *Carol Taylor, Larry Leonard, Mike Smith, Bill Schaubert, and Maria Peluso*. Their elections will be certified on 3/29. Democratic and Republican Central Committees are chosen every 4 years during presidential elections. Beth Hadley was appointed by Cecilia Aguiar-Curry to our district's Central Committee and considers it an honor. Each of our elected members present stated some of their goals: *Carol Taylor* wants to create more transparency about the Committee and let folks know that resources are available for addressing issues and making resolutions. *Bill Schaubert* wrote in that he is chair of the Sonoma County Finance Committee, keeps an open office, and manages the Victory Fund. *Larry Leonard* mentioned that he will continue training folks to do canvassing throughout the next presidential election. Beth also announced that *Val Hinshaw*, who manages the Sonoma County Democrats HQ and Office in Santa Rosa and is an amazing resource and organizer, needs volunteers for the upcoming election! Visit <https://sonomademocrats.org/volunteer/> They are hoping to fund a year-round office in the future.
4. **Norman Gilroy** of Mobilize Sonoma gave an update on SMART's plan to restore the storage tankers that were removed in November 2021 due to their revenue loss. The hearing has been postponed at least until April 17th. Check updates on MobilizeSonoma.com or send *letters & comments* to: Eric Lucan, Board Chair, SMART eric@ericlucan.com, Eddy Cumins, General Manager SMART ecumins@sonomamarintrain.org. Norman also gave an update on the "completeness" of the SDC developers application. Permit Sonoma and County agencies have determined that the application is not in compliance and is not complete. Time has been given for the developer and County to review areas not in compliance. Water usage and impacts to Arnold Drive were mentioned as issues. After that they will have 60 days to review for compliance. The EIR lawsuit is in progress. Briefs have been filed and the plaintiffs and the County are responding to issues. There will be a hearing at the end of April. Questions were asked about the Builder's Remedy which was allowed to be added to the application at the last moment by the State. This is a way for

developers to move forward with plans even without a complete EIR in order to streamline the building of affordable housing. It is not certain that the developer or the proposal qualifies for the Builder's Remedy. It was mentioned by attendee Nancy Kirwan that "shovels in dirt" cannot happen until an EIR is complete and certified. For more information or to send comments go to: wil.lyons@sonoma-county.org, and <https://share.sonoma-county.org/link/Yjw-DOvzcZY/>

5. At 7:00 PM Beth welcomed Supervisor-elect **Rebecca Hermosillo** with congratulations for being the first Latino supervisor elected to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. She is a life-long Boyes Springs resident and was Representative Mike Thompson's staff member for 12 years. She will represent us and the First District for the next four years. She will be sworn in on January 1, 2025, winning more than 79% of the vote. She mentioned some of the issues she will be addressing: the Springs Specific Plan, Tolay Creek Bridge restoration (\$1 million to repair,), minimum wage issues, and cannabis. She addressed questions about the possibility of installing the technology to watch Board meetings via Zoom at the recently opened Regional County Service Center in the Springs area of Sonoma. She fielded questions about the SDC, affordable housing, and the possible use of the buildings on the SDC campus. Folks questioned the possibility of eminent domain being used to build affordable housing in the Springs and the annexation of Boyes Springs to the city of Sonoma. Rebecca stated that the State of California imposes the housing requirements, that we are in a high risk fire area, and that all decisions need to be equitable for all parties and safe for the community. Folks wanted to know what other counties are doing to meet state requirements and address these issues (water, traffic, and safety.) She announced that Susan Gorin is proposing a Comprehensive Evacuation Plan from Melita south. Supervisor-elect Hermosillo will be establishing an information access page on Jan. 1, 2025 for constituents.
6. **Announcements** - Gil Dong added that the Springs MAC has 2 vacancies on their board. They advise the County on issues such as emergency preparedness, affordable housing, bike safety & racks, evacuation and water issues. Contact Supervisor Gorin's office since MAC board members must be appointed by their Supervisors and they must live in the Springs area.
7. **The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.**
8. **Next meetings** – Virtual Board meeting – Mon. April 1, 9:30 AM, April 28 - Spring Social! Details TBA