

SVD General Meeting Minutes: Nov 25, 2024 Board: Hadley, McDevitt, Taylor, Baeyans. Zoom: 40

1. **Upcoming events:** *Holiday Party, Thursday, Dec 12, 6-8 PM Pueblo Serena Club House, Potluck, volunteers for set up/clean up, to volunteer: <mailto:contact@svdems.org>. Women's March, Sat., Jan 18, Sonoma Plaza, time TBD, Earth Day: April 27, Sonoma Plaza*

2. **Financial Report:** Checking: \$2426 Saving: \$1171. Membership 2025: \$30. Please go to <https://www.svdems.org/memberships/>

3. **Election Results Response:** Dr. McDevitt urged contact with the American Medical Association and CA legislators to protest nomination of Robert Kennedy Jr. and Dr Oz (<mailto:MOsupport@ama-assn.org>). Although Trump thrives on disruption we need to be positive. Major concern: environment. Sierra Club considering action against drilling. Start plan to take back the House in 2026. Democrats did not turn out in adequate numbers to win. Dems have to return to "party of the working class". Grateful to Harris, look forward to action. Concern that NLRB will be eliminated by Trump. We need an analysis of the election. In future need to focus on economics and class issues. Bernie Sanders had no trouble being reelected in Vermont. Beth will plan further discussion of these issues. She complimented Mary Flett's work: voter registration in local Nursing Homes. Mary noted that not all immigrants are Latino.

4a. **Vickie Handron, Sonoma Immigration Services.** Past immigration policies are vulnerable. In Sonoma it is estimated 2000 people are undocumented. Families have members with mixed immigration status. Getting a green card can take up to 6 years. Immigrant must be a resident for 5 years before applying for citizenship. 1990 law: Multiple entries without a visa were barred from getting legal status. Applying for asylum status can take many years. With this status immigrant can work. Expectations: Deportation will increase via ICE raids. Previous deportations focused on violent criminals. Now will question everyone in the house. Will also focus on those who have overstayed their visa. Application for visa will take longer: 12 to 18 months during last Trump term. Application for Green cards has gotten much longer. Expect increased denials that will be reported to ICE. Using FEAR as a tactic to encourage self-deportation. Most important factor for families with possible deportation is to have a plan for their American children. CA laws prohibit local law officers from co-operation with ICE. Sonoma Sheriff Eddie Engram is not following these laws.

4b. **Claudia Robbins North Bay Rapid Response Steering Committee.** Holding "Know your Rights" bilingual meetings. Will let Beth know when meeting is scheduled in Sonoma. Have produced a Yellow card with a "Hotline" number to call (707-800-4544) if you see ICE activity. The back of the card has Immigrant Rights. Noted that ICE agents wear black jackets with "Police" in white on the back. Volunteers are needed for the Hotline (bilingual- 3 hour shifts) as well as "Legal Observers"- hope to have training(2 hours) here in Sonoma soon. <mailto:contact@svdems.org> for volunteer info. Immigrants need to know they have the right to remain silent and ask for a lawyer and not to sign anything. Most court proceedings are now done over Zoom. Most important need is to support the families with whatever they need. Need Advocacy: local state and federal. Indivisible keeping track of pertinent laws: Recently passed HR 9495 could consider a non-profit a "terrorist supporting organization." CA State: Governor has called a special session of the legislature on Dec. 2 to consider state response to immigrant deportations. Sonoma Board of Supervisors: Will be voting to identify money to support immigrant families. ACTIONS: Vickie will send sample letter to send to pressure Sonoma Sheriff to follow CA law. I-9 audit: Employer is required to produce Forms I-9 on all current and terminated employees as well as all relevant documentation within 3 business days. Employers can limit ICE access to non-public areas, and check that warrants are valid. Raid: Most disruptive. Often once picked up the immigrant cannot be located for 48 hours. Important issue: to document who is responsible for the children. Detention camps are planned for Texas. ITLC in San Francisco has a Family Preparation package with caregiver affidavit. Letters to CA legislators: McGuire, Aquiar-Curry, Cabaldon, Connolly recommended. Beth will follow up with Claudia and Vicki about actions individuals and our club can pursue and send info to our email list.

Minutes: Dr. Mary McDevitt

