

CALIFORNIA DNC PRESS DEMOCRAT

NOVEMBER 2019

PAGE 1

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS OF THE DNC PRESS DEMOCRAT:

THE NOVEMBER 2019 ISSUE IS BEING PUBLISHED AS AN EDUCATIONAL PIECE, AND IS NOT A SLATE. WE HAVE ASKED ALL OF THE 20 MEMBERS WHO WERE ELECTED TO THE DNC BY THE CDP EXECUTIVE BOARD IN 2016 TO SUBMIT A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THEMSELVES, ALONG WITH A PICTURE. PARTICIPATION IN THIS ISSUE DOES NOT CONNOTE ENDORSEMENT OF THE ENTIRE DELEGATION. THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE SUPPORTED MEMBERS OF YOUR DNC TEAM, AND PROVIDED US WITH MUCH-NEEDED FEEDBACK ALONG THE WAY.



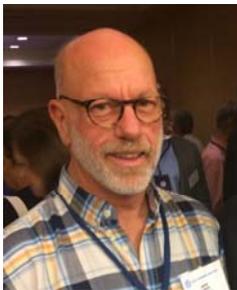
STEVEN K. ALARI

Thank you for the opportunity to represent California on the Democratic National Committee. As a DNC member, I'm a member of the DNC Hispanic Caucus (Past Chair), Asian Pacific Islander Caucus, Native American Caucus, DNC Labor, Rural and Senior Council's. Your DNC members have been working to address policy issues that are important to Californians and the rest of our country. We have also stood up for the education, environment, voting rights and working families. We encourage you to consider running to be a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee. The process is on the CDP website. If you have any questions or suggestions, please ask us, here in Long Beach! We look forward to speaking with you!



BECCA DOTEN

Hello! My name is Becca Doten and I am proud to serve as an elected member of the DNC. My participation in the California Democratic Party goes back to 2003. I am the Treasurer of the CDP Women's Caucus and previously served as the Political Director for the California Young Democrats. As a DNC member, I have always voted in support of our progressive California values. I supported Keith Ellison for Chair, and voted to support a DNC Climate Debate and a resolution calling on the DNC to stop taking corporate PAC money. I am a proud alumna of EmergeCA and co-founder of Women Get it Done – LA. I can't wait to work with you to elect progressive Democrats at all levels of government!



JESS DURFEE

In addition to serving as an elected California DNC member, I am on the DNC executive committee and chair the Western Region of the DNC - covering the 13 Western States and Pacific Island Territories. In that capacity, in July of 2018 and August of 2019, I facilitated trainings for western states Democratic party leaders. This year's training was in Arizona, a key pick-up state for Democrats in the 2020 election. On the ground in California my focus has been on bringing an understanding of what the DNC is and does by traveling to various clubs, regions and committees doing presentations about the DNC and it's connections to the CDP, county committees and Democratic clubs.



MARY ELLEN EARLY

Longtime DNC member Mary Ellen Early is best known as the founding editor of the Press Democrat, published every time the CDP meets, and available online at www.cadem.org/ourparty/dnc. A member of DNC Women's Caucus and Ethnic Council (representing Irish Americans in the western states), Mary Ellen also participated in elevating the DNC Native American Council to caucus status. In California, Mary Ellen's activities include co-chairing the Los Angeles Democratic Party's Community Outreach Committee, speaking to groups all over the southland, mentoring candidates and others in navigating the Democratic Party, and as President of Action Democrats of the SFV, raising money for both Democratic candidates and the LACDP for use in targeted races.



ALICE HUFFMAN

"Now more than ever, it is important for us to advance civic engagement, if we're going to defeat Trump in 2020. Intergenerationally, we will need our numbers, we will need our strength! We older folks must lock arms with our youth, so they understand the power of their voice. More importantly, the power of their vote. A priority at the CA- Hawaii State Conference is our youth councils. Starting at 14 we develop our future leaders of color, and keep them until 25. Our fight persists, we are engaged from the crib to the grave." - NAACP State Conference President Alice Huffman



ALEITA HUGUENIN

I believe that every member of our DNC works to be helpful and accessible to our CDP members. It is important that we communicate with each other. If you have ideas — let us know. If you need help or have problems, give us a call. Together we can help each other and be aware of activities across the state.



MICHAEL KAPP

Michael Kapp is the youngest elected DNC Member from California in a generation. Michael was proud to serve as a national campaign whip for Keith Ellison for DNC Chair and on the DNC's Transition Advisory Committee. Michael was a national leader to pass superdelegate reform and in organizing around a climate debate. Currently, Michael fights for transparency and accountability at the DNC as Chair of the DNC's Youth Council and as a DNC Credentials Committee member. Michael keeps every California Democrat informed about what is happening at the DNC by emailing "re-Kapps" of every DNC meeting, including sharing how every DNC Member has voted on crucial issues. More information can be found at www.michaelkapp.com



ANDREW LACHMAN

Building on the lessons of 2016 and successes of 2018, we are preparing for 2020. I have proudly represented your California values at the DNC, I have tried to be communicative and responsive via email and to your inquiries, and volunteered to help elect our 7 new House Democrats. We cosponsored the DNC resolution demanding a substantive, comparative debate on climate change policy, supported superdelegate reform and efforts to stop the DNC from taking fossil fuel money. As DNC Small Business Chair, we are organizing battleground state and rural efforts as well as webinars on how Democrats fight for small business opportunities while the GOP only cares about big business. Thank you for the opportunity to serve into 2020 and beyond.



CONGRESSWOMAN BARBARA LEE

Tackling poverty and growing income inequality must be a top priority for our party and nation. That is why, along with Senator Bernie Sanders, I introduced the Inclusive Prosperity Act (H.R. 2923). The bill would impose a small financial transaction tax of 0.5% on the trading of equities, 0.1% tax on the trading of bonds and 0.05% on the trading of derivatives and other financial instruments. It would raise \$220 billion per year or well over \$2 trillion over 10 years. The revenue could be used to fund priorities like: Medicare for All; Debt-Free College; and meeting critical human needs, such as housing and education. It's past time for the wealthy and corporations to pay their fair share.



HON. OTTO LEE

Elected to the DNC in 2016 and currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the AAPI Caucus, Otto has a distinguished history with the Party. In 2004 Otto co-founded Silicon Valley for Kerry while councilmember for his hometown of Sunnyvale. He earned the NAACP Legislator of the Year Award in 2011, and in 2012, he ensured Devin Nunes would not run unopposed. Immigrant, veteran and father - Otto fights tirelessly for our families, the rights of the most vulnerable in our community and the environment, earning him the moniker "Green Mayor of Sunnyvale." Otto is a lifelong public servant, served 28-years in the U.S Navy Reserves, and Bronze Star recipient for his role in bringing troops home from Iraq . otto@ottolee.org

SANDRA M LOWE

Sandra Lowe was elected in 2016 as an "Organizer for Change." A career teacher, she rose from the ranks to Governmental Relations management at the California Teachers Association. In 2017 she served as the Senior Strategist for the California Democratic Party. In January she was hired to build coalitions for Schools and Community First measure. In July of this year Joe Sanberg hired her to head the Working Hero Action committee. As Executive Director of Working Hero she focuses on progressive policies and candidate elections to #EndPoverty. Sandra was elected twice to the Board of Trustees of the Sonoma Valley Unified School district. She graduated with honors from U.C Berkeley and holds teaching credentials in Mathematics and Social Science.



BOB MULHOLLAND

I was born 3.1 miles from Independence Hall. I was drafted into the Army from Philly. I was assigned to be a guard (Ft. Jackson Stockade), but months later I volunteered for the Paratroopers and Vietnam. Got both and in the 101st Airborne got wounded. A combination of Philly and Vietnam drove me to politics. I worked for Tom Hayden and Jane Fonda for 16 years, then 19 years for CDP as Campaign Advisor and Spokesperson. My Rule - if you see a Republican attacking Democrats, then you "say something." Lundgren, Wilson, Simon, Herschensohn, Schwarzenegger and many others knew me as Bob, the Attack Dog. Again, I will be in New Hampshire to do media interviews against Trump.



CHRISTINE PELOSI

Summer 2019 was a busy one with weeks of marathon organizing for the DNC Resolutions Committee meeting and Floor Debate in August to push a Climate Debate at the DNC. Although we did not prevail, I was proud to help mobilize the effort and work with like-minded colleagues to elevate the climate crisis and the urgent need to act with conservation, good paying union jobs, and justice for indigenous and industrial communities. We will keep up the fight for a progressive, climate forward 2020 Democratic Platform. Great thanks to all who welcomed me to Orange County, Lincoln, Sacramento, Lassen, Fresno, and San Francisco, CA for trainings and organizing for our shared values. I am honored to be of service and hope to connect with you all at Women's Caucus Saturday morning or at this weekend's Convention events.



SPEAKER EMERITUS JOHN A. PÉREZ

John A. Pérez is a lifelong Democrat and has worked to improve the quality of life of all from his days as an activist student at Berkeley, labor union leader and Speaker of the Assembly. He is running for re-election to the DNC to boost grassroots activism, protect democratic majorities and build partnerships between activists and elected officials. John served as Speaker of the California State Assembly, where he helped pass some of the most influential legislation in our state's history impacting education, healthcare and veterans. John made history by being the first openly LGBT leader of a State Legislative chamber in California. John currently is the Chair of the University of California (UC) Board of Regents.



MELAHAT RAFIEI

Melahat Rafiei is the first Iranian-American to serve on the DNC. She came as a refugee, fell in love with politics, and now is the founder and principal of two companies, one a campaign consulting operation. Melahat is a familiar face in the halls of government as well. She is a strong voice for equal rights for ALL Americans, progressive issues and making sure the ladder she is climbing stays in place for all those who come after her. From climate change to family leave policies to better, stronger ties with our allies, Melahat is always looking ahead, to see what will create the best future for her six year old son, and all children.



SUSIE A. SHANNON

Susie Shannon, a champion for homeless and low income communities, founded the DNC Poverty Council after her 2016 election to the DNC. It is the first of its kind in DNC history, helping to give a voice and empower the 40.6 million people living at or below the poverty level. Despite many obstacles, Susie persevered in not only having the Council recognized by the DNC, but ensuring it met at every DNC meeting. Susie authored resolutions recognizing climate change as an emergency, decrying systematic abuse of our immigrant community by the Trump administration, prioritizing rural community needs for resources in organizing around elections, ensuring election protection safeguards and measures leading into the 2020 election and recognizing the Range of Light National Monument.





GARRY S. SHAY

Primary involvement within the Party has been to ensure grass-roots participation through Rules and Bylaws, working toward the fullest practical participation possible. Serves on DNC Executive Committee; Lead Chair CDP Rules Committee; keeps CDP Bylaws in compliance with National Rules; expanded Delegate Selection Rules to include Youth, Senior, LGBT, and Persons with Disabilities; supported reduction in Super-Delegate influence; fought for Climate Change Debate; supported prohibition on taking money from fossil fuel and tobacco PACs; supports expansion of number of DNC elected members to increase diversity; pledged to follow direction of CDP Executive Board. Serves as Parliamentarian for LACDP and LA Stonewall Democratic Club; member California Dental Hygiene Board. Served as Chair, LACDP and as Member of the DNC Rules Committee.



KEITH UMEMOTO

Thanks for making a difference. I'm Keith Kazuo Umemoto, a Democrat influenced by Kaz, my dad, who was incarcerated during WWII, fought in the 442nd, then couldn't buy a house anywhere. So, he/we got involved politically: against war; for civil rights, fair housing, education, health, and labor. Fast forward, Kaz passed while on the DNC. I, being a CA YD President, social worker, and union member, now continue my dad's legacy, initiating change through grassroots, re-established the AAPI Caucus, actively supported the establishment of LGBTQ and Native American Caucuses and Labor and Poverty Councils, and voting consistently with CA Dems positions. As a current officer of the AAPI and Western Caucuses, I serve to achieve our Party's goals.



CONGRESSWOMAN MAXINE WATERS

Despite the unusual challenges facing our country, House Democrats have passed vital legislation, such as my bill, H.R. 1500, *the Consumers First Act*, and other measures that would protect voting rights, raise the federal minimum wage, protect Americans with preexisting conditions, provide background checks for gun sales, protect the DREAMers, end LGBTQ discrimination, and protect the environment. However, homelessness remains the number one issue in our state. To that end, I have passed out of my Committee a comprehensive bill, H.R. 1856, *the Ending Homelessness Act*, which provides \$13.2 billion to end homelessness in America. I am optimistic that my bill will pass the House and Senate, and in the final analysis, this dishonorable president will have no choice but to sign it into law.



LAURENCE S. ZAKSON

Is a member of the Democratic National Committee since 2009, currently serving as Secretary of the DNC's LGBT Caucus, and is a true leader of the Democratic Party. As a union-side attorney, Laurence represents unions in the entertainment, construction, transportation, and warehousing industries, as well as the public sector; he also represents a variety of multi-employer trust funds, union-affiliated charities and scholarship funds. Laurence has been active in the Democratic Party, the labor movement and the LGBT rights movement for decades, and he brings his passions for these causes to all of his political, community and work-related undertakings.

FROM THE EDITORS:

The California DNC Press Democrat is published by members of the California DNC Delegation, and is not funded by the California Democratic Party. Opinions expressed by the authors of this newsletter's articles are not necessarily those of the California Delegation, the DNC or the California Democratic Party.

Sincerely,

- Mary Ellen Early
- Otto Lee
- Garry S. Shay

Thank you to our sponsors:

Steven K. Alari, Becca Doten, Maria Elena Durazo, Jess Durfee, Mary Ellen Early, Alice Huffman, Aleita Huguenin, Michael Kapp, Andrew Lachman, Hon. Barbara Lee, Otto Lee, Sandra M. Lowe, Bob Mulholland, Christine Pelosi, John A. Pérez, Melahat Rafiei, Alex Rooker, Susie Shannon, Garry S. Shay, Keith Umemoto, Hon. Maxine Waters, Roz Wyman, Laurence Zakson

Printing:
Independent Printers

Proofreading:
Burt B. Belant

Want an electronic copy of this newsletter? Visit the CADEM web site under Our Party/DNC Members to view it in living color!