

Glenn's CDP Endorsing Convention Report, Fall of 2019

Thursday, November 14th

I work as usual during the day and then Allie and I drive to SJC to catch my flight to LGB. I get there early enough to have dinner and Flames is close by my gate. After a bit of a wait in line, I get seated by a huge monitor that unlike the others, is playing one of those product advertising channels instead of the football game. No, they can't change the channel, someone paid for that to be that way. Ugh. My waiter finally arrives and I order the fish and chips. Sorry, we're out. Okay salmon. I'd like a cup of coffee. Sorry, we're out. I was strongly tempted to break into the Monty Python Cheese Shop routine.

Anyway, I finally get some food, get to my gate and fly south. As is usual with these one hour flights, we practically have to chug our drinks in order for the flight crew to collect them before descent starts. One of the things I really like about LGB, is that it is totally old school. The entire passenger area - gates, baggage, restaurants - is all one floor. You even board the planes from the tarmac, no jetways. A fun consequence of this and SWA's no seat reservation policy is that they can load and unload the front and the back of the plane at the same time. I get a Lyft to the hotel, check in and find out that I have somehow scored a room on the concierge level. This is cool because it means free breakfasts in the morning. I also find out that there is a beautiful view of Long Beach Harbor from my room.



Friday, November 15th

Get up and get some breakfast, which turns out to be quite nice for free. Lox, bagels, eggs, bacon and coffee. A good start to the day.

1030 hours rolls around and I head to the meeting room for the Ad Hoc Committee on ADEM Elections meeting. I've given testimony before on how hard the convener's job is, what a long day it is and that some sort of Scantron or other electronic vote counting would help speed things along while providing a paper backup. The usual counter-argument is that Scantron counters cost money and we'd need a lot of them. So, this time out, I presented testimony to counter that cost argument (That's me in the white shirt at the presenter's table). First, California



has 80 Assembly Districts divided into 20 Regions. So, if we were to spread out the ADEM elections a bit to be over four days (two weekends), we'd only need 20 machines instead of 80 (plus a few for the ADs that are so large that they need two voting sites). But an even further cost reduction would be to explore free or inexpensive Scantron grading or reading software for smart phones. I did a bit of research and found dozens of such apps for Android, I'm sure there are many for iPhone as well. I also volunteered to lead an effort to test such software for use by ADEM conveners.

After the committee meeting, there was a break for lunch and then off to the Rules Committee at 1400 hours. As usual, there is lots on the agenda and the meeting runs very long. An amendment I suggested and one that Lowell Young suggested gets merged into one as they are basically the same idea, to allow the Resolutions Committee to consider urgent or emergency resolutions even when, for example at Endorsing Conventions, resolutions are not taken up. Much more interesting are the challenges to an action by the Sacramento Democratic Central Committee. Apparently, one of their electeds endorsed a Republican and so they booted him from the DCC. There is no precedence for this with respect to electeds, but there are a number of precedents with respect to ADEMs and appointed delegates. I and others pointed out that the DCCs derive their authority from the California Election Code, not the CDP By-Laws. Therefore, if we were to take action on this, we'd be enforcing the election code which is not something we have authority to do as we are not a branch of the California



Department of Justice. That would be a very bad road to go down. Eventually, the Rules Committee agreed and discarded all of the challenges for lack of jurisdiction. While I understand that the whole point of a political party is to elect members of the party to office and that once elected, they should have a representative voice in the party, I don't believe that makes them invulnerable and that there are some extremes (like endorsing the opposing party candidates) which should take priority over the right of representation. It also makes things more fair in that the same rules apply to everyone. It may also lead to even greater autonomy of DCCs from the party, we shall see how that develops.

Around 1630 hours, I bailed out of Rules to go to the Environmental Caucus since there was a panel on PG&E. I thought it was okay, but not nearly hard-hitting enough. The panelists mostly talked about solutions to where we are now without discussing how we got here and why PG&E can't be allowed to continue. I decided, however, to observe some decorum and not get in line just to ask pointed questions. Instead, I stood with some

friends on the side of the hall, holding a Bernie sign through the entire meeting since, as we know, Bernie is the only candidate to completely support the Green New Deal and that's of utmost importance to everyone in the environmental movement.

At the Environmental Caucus, I recruited Mark Van Landuyt (seen in the picture above to my left, holding the NNU Bernie sign) to help me with "a bit of A/V assistance" at the Rural Caucus which was up next at 1900 hours.

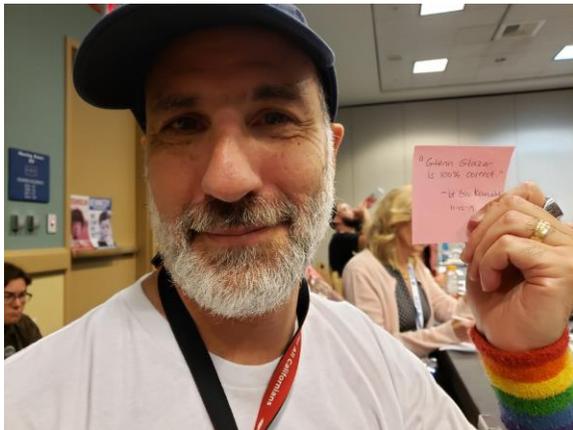


I had scouted the room the Rural Caucus would be in the day before, tested out some of the room features and talked to a couple of hotel techs about what I wanted to do. The meeting starts and there are a few items ahead of me. As usual, I refuse to speak the "under God" portion of the pledge. I'm not so much nervous about my upcoming speech as I am impatient, but I listen attentively to the officer reports and other agenda items. I move that the consent agenda be passed, it is seconded and passes unanimously.

Finally, my turn comes up and as I reach the podium, Mark kills the lights in the room, plunging us into total darkness. I whip out a flashlight and say, "You never know when PG&E will turn off our power, best to be prepared." and then read the speech by flashlight. This small bit of theatrics was very well received and I got a number of very positive comments about it and the speech itself. I won't recap the entire speech here (contact me and I will send you a copy), but it had three main parts. The first was a review of the horrifying history of PG&E, from 1952 and the poisoning of Hinkley, California to the present day. I cover the arson, the negligence, the manslaughter and the fraud, including the hundreds of thousands of acres burned, the tens of thousands of structures destroyed, the hundreds of criminal counts they've been convicted of and the hundreds of people who have died from their malfeasance. The second part of the speech examined where we are now and how PG&E's negligence got us there. Why, while PG&E may claim in a twisted logic sort of way that PSPSs are "necessary" that's only true because of their prior lack of maintenance and modernization of their infrastructure. Lastly, I covered various solutions that have been proposed, including investor buyout, microgrids, the San Jose co-opt idea and a state takeover to make them a POI, as well as why that last solution is by far and away the best one.



Even after having plead my case for an extra five minutes (for a total of ten, thanks Joy!)



and even with redacting and removing a bunch of the speech and even with reading it at a super high speed, I still ran a bit overtime and *really* rushed through the last page or so. Still, I think I got the point across because after I sat down, Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis went up to the podium and the first thing she said was, “Glenn Glazer is 100% correct.” I was both stunned and elated and pretty much floated off the ground for the rest of the night. There were a number of reports after this, but the one I most remember was from Senator

Mike McGuire (SD-02). The guy is just an awesome, dynamic speaker and really knows how to motivate an audience. He also gets us: he feels the threat of PG&E, of wildfires, of weak or unavailable networks even to the point of people not getting reverse 911 calls to evacuate in time. I don’t generally endorse outside my districts, but I strongly endorse Mike.

Somewhere along the way, my friend Michele Walford texts out that she has a friend, Kelly King, who needs a room. I have a spare bed and so I suggest we meet at the end of the Rural Caucus. I ask a few questions to make sure we are on the same page (no room charges, that sort of thing) and then walk over to the hotel. I point out the concierge room where breakfast is served and give her my spare key. She gets unpacked and I head out.

I’m pretty tired, so I decide to skip the offsite parties, including the Feel The Bern cocktail party. I’m getting to the point where I find nightclub environments mildly to acutely unpleasant, with the flashing lights and loud music. For those that like that scene, enjoy, but I’m going to pass. Instead, there is a party in a couple of the function space rooms in the Hyatt where I am staying. I buy a drink and schmooze with friends, this is more my speed. Most of the conversations are around PG&E and the grid and wildfire situations. I do note Senator McGuire serving a plate of cookies around, which certainly puts a new spin on “public service”.

Saturday, November 16th

I’ve signed up for an 0800 shift at the Bernie Booth in the Exhibit Hall, so I get up early, have breakfast (same as yesterday) and head over there. I spend most of the morning there, talking to delegates and offering Bernie merch with recommended donations. There were lots of good conversations and Berners really seemed to be out in force much more strongly than for the other candidates. We were also open earlier and stayed longer than the others.



I was having such a good time that I missed Saturday General Session, so I have no idea what went on there. As a note for those that know me from my former life, this is almost exactly like running a fan table at an SF convention, except that the emphasis is more on persuasion than on membership sales.

Hearing about the speech I was going to give to the Rural Caucus, Igor Trebub was kind enough to invite me to the CYD Rural and Environmental Caucus Joint Meeting at 1230 hours on Sunday. This was kind of like the Environmental Caucus panel the day before, except more of us were more in favor of state takeover and more angry with PG&E. Someone asked what people can do about this and I



suggested that everyone continually ping their electeds about this, not just once. I felt that the only way real change is going to happen is if we all make it politically untenable for it to not happen. At the podium is Igor and to my left is Berkeley City Councilmember Kate Harrison and next to her is Spencer Dayton and another of the CYD officers. To my right is Mill Valley City Councilmember Max Perrey and to my far right (I didn't catch her name) is a woman from Food and Water Watch who was circulating a petition to make PG&E a POI. Great work there.



suggested that everyone continually ping their electeds about this, not just once. I felt that the only way real change is going to happen is if we all make it politically untenable for it to not happen. At the podium is Igor and to my left is Berkeley City Councilmember Kate Harrison and next to her is Spencer Dayton and another of the CYD officers. To my right is Mill Valley City Councilmember Max Perrey and to my far right (I didn't catch her name) is a woman from Food and Water Watch who was circulating a petition to make PG&E a POI. Great work there.



After the CYD caucus, I got the great news that CYD had officially endorsed Bernie. This is a great week for that, following the endorsements of NNU and UTLA. I wandered out into the convention lobby and joined the group of us who were marching and chanting for Bernie on our way into the forum. The spirit and voice was high and again, none of the candidates had anything like our numbers and our pride. We marched back

downstairs, through the exhibit hall and the long walk to the arena where the forum would be. I particularly liked the effect that happened as we chanted in this empty, dim hallway between the exhibit hall and the arena as the echoes and acoustics were tremendous. We get to the lobby outside of the arena entrance and put on some more theatre for the media and delegates present. Those of us with tickets (all delegates plus some observers) went in.



I spent a good deal of time looking for a seat and through several Facebook chats, found a group in the first row of the upper tier. These turned out to be great seats and we pulled more Berners in to fill the row and hand out signs. I sat between my friends Fayaz Nawabi and Jaci Lyn and had a great time



snarking and otherwise commenting on the responses of the other candidates. Of the ones besides Bernie, I thought Julián Castro did the best job and Univision's audience was certainly a home field advantage for him. Tom Steyer got last place in my ratings. All of the candidates got asked a "question from the audience" meaning pre-chosen people from the seating onstage. Almost all of these were from kids and many of them had to do with school shootings.

Starting with Kamala Harris, who is by no means my favored candidate, when asked this question, you could see the sorrow in her eyes and she moved to console the young woman before answering softly and compassionately. Steyer, on the other hand, on getting question about climate change raised the mic to his mouth and practically charged the poor kid, his voice angry and lecturing. Way to intimidate the next generation, Tom!

The hall was completely packed and again, Berners had the numbers and the spirit. So much so, that when Bernie entered the hall, there was a huge chant of his name that went up along with signs everywhere. And yes, that's a Bernie sign in Chinese along with the English and Spanish ones. We were the only volunteer base that went on for so long that the moderator couldn't get the first question out (<https://tinyurl.com/tv6vd9>) and we wouldn't shut up until Bernie smiled, stood up and waved at us. That's how the team really

shows up and does its job. Bernie also had a job to do and I honestly believe he had the best response of all the candidates with a single word. When asked, was it a mistake to deport three million people under the Obama Administration, he



replied with a single word: Yes. No mincing words, no covering tracks. He manned up and accepted that we, as a nation, had done a wrong thing. The crowd went wild. He also gave a very straight up answer about Bolivia: “When the military intervenes, in my view, that’s a coup.” That was his last question and the hall fired up for him again, you can hear the crowd chanting his name during the outro of the video.

Following the forum, I dropped my stuff off in my room and headed down to Hamburger Mary’s, which is a bar on Pine Street where the DNC delegation was holding a reception for Eboard members to curry our votes. I spoke to several, including some I’ve already endorsed and had good chats with Melahat Rafiei and Sandra Lowe, adding them to my list of endorsements (Andrew Lachman, Derek Devermont, Garry Shay, Laurence Zakson, Michael Kapp, RL Miller, Susie Shannon) though that’s still way short of the ten men and ten women we will elect, so I am still investigating candidates. I visit the room parties in various function spaces, the Bernie reception and a few others, but many of them are just too loud for me, including the Bernie one after the speeches were done. Rock on folks, I’ll go find the bar and quiet conversation, which indeed I did, having a pleasant reunion and conversation with Delaine Eastin.

Sunday, November 17th

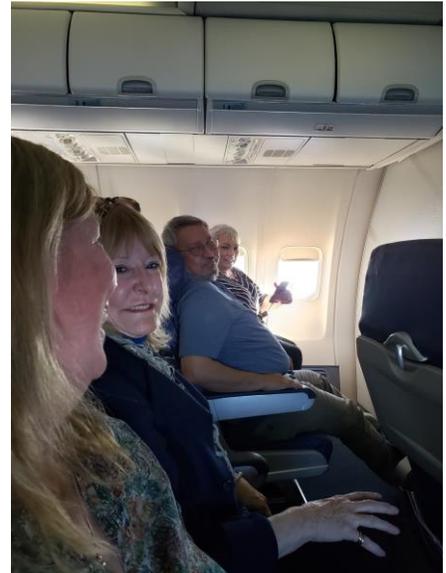
The day starts somewhat poorly as I get a message from my cousin Lauren saying he can’t make lunch because he has too many repairs to make (he does emergency glass repair – a great irony is that the one person I am related to who is actually a glazer by profession is a cousin on my mom’s side...). So I head off to General Session and manage to get an earlier SWA flight home and call Allie to pick me up earlier. During General Session, I get a text message from Sam Metz, a reporter from *The Desert Sun* saying that he wants to



interview me about PG&E. Great, I say and I duck out for that. I do wind up missing the rest of General Session, but this is more important to me than standard committee reports and floor fights over platform language. We find a quiet spot and he asks me a bunch of questions, most of which were around the politics of using PG&E as a wedge issue to flip red districts and why this is so much more important to rural Californians than urban

ones. It was very casual for a media interview, just notes and a tape recorder, no cameras. I did snap a shot of us for posterity. The article is here: <https://tinyurl.com/usoh8vc> .

From there, I wander back to the hotel, saying goodbye to friends along the way, pick up my bags from the concierge and call for a car. I very unsurprisingly run into a bunch of delegates in the airport and of course on the flight. I have a conversation with Rocky Fernandez and another delegate while having some soup and then head to the gate. After boarding, my entire row was delegates: myself, Adele Gardner, Kate Minott, Jose Lopez and Gina Gates.



We chug another beverage on a fifty minute flight, land, debark and wander out to the street. I offer to take Adele and Kate back, since it really isn't much farther than our house from San Jose, but they seem to have already called for a car. We part, Allie and I drive home and I pretty much crash.

Photo Credits (me unless otherwise noted):

Page 1, ADEM: Larry Gross

Page 2: Amar Shergill

Page 3, signing: Elaine Hagen; me speaking: Coco Raner-Walter

Page 4, me with Eleni note: Hilary Hodge; Bernie Booth: unknown

Page 5, CYD panel shots: unknown

Pages 5-6: Bernie Team marching: Ben Hauck

Page 7, Univision Youtube Screenshot: Univision