

**Minutes – Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Working Meeting  
February 22, 2016**

Marie Callender's, 751 East El Camino Real, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

**Minutes of the Meeting (John Comiskey in the chair)**

1. **MSP: to adopt the agenda and approve the minutes**
  
2. **Treasurer's Report** Karen stated that the State Account holds \$2873 and the Federal Account \$2988
  
3. **New Business**
  - a. **JJ Dinner ad** –John thought it raised to profile of the club. Money goes to United Democratic Coalition which uses the money for precinct work, phone-banking, election headquarters, etc. Lucas asked if the club thought the expenditure worthwhile. **Action: John to submit the bill for direct payment by the Club to avoid any election funding problems. . MSP: for John to be able to book up to a full page ad at \$400 less the expected early order discount of 10%.**
  
  - b. **Annual Meeting/picnic date set for June 25<sup>th</sup>** at 11.00 . **Action: Ben agreed to contact Sunnyvale Parks and Recreation and book the park, hopefully picnic grounds #2 which is shadier.**
  
  - c. **Convention presence (San Jose Convention Center) February 26-28, 2016.)**
    - i. John reported that the county party will have a major event from 9 pm -12 Friday, 2/26/16, at the Tech Center. Open bar, open to non delegates as well. We are not contributing to this effort. Members were encouraged to attend.
    - ii. There will be no specific DDCSV event.
    - iii. John announced that only 80 seats for the Red to Blue DFA dinner on Friday night at Original Joe's. **Reservations required if you want to attend.**— space is limited Reservations on Thursday, February 25 at 2:00 pm. It is unlikely there will be space available for walk-ins at the event.. When: Friday, February 26, 2016 6:00; . Socializing 6:30 dinner  
**Original Joe's**  
301 South First Street  
San Jose, CA 95113  
Cost: \$45/person (buffet includes salad, entrees, soft drinks, tea and coffee); no-host bar **Note: The banquet room is on the second floor; there is no elevator (restaurant choices were limited)** Speaker: Miles Kurland, DFA Web Development Director and former Chair of Sonoma DFA  
**Make your reservations before Thursday, February 25, at**

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2:00 pm:

<https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/cadfadinner>

Contact: Ashleigh Evans at [asevans2002@aol.com](mailto:asevans2002@aol.com)

- iv. **Action Requested:** Nancy Neff has asked for help with the **Voters Right to Know Table** on 2/26 and 2/27 at the CA Democratic Convention in San Jose. **Action: please** let Nancy Neff at [nancy@neffs.net](mailto:nancy@neffs.net) know your availability (Friday afternoon and evening; Saturday morning, afternoon and evening). You do not need any delegate credentials to do this. **Nancy writes:**

The Voters Right Campaign is using Google doc for signups to help at the convention:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yS7kzJN-OS2k\\_OTF\\_8C2nNCPW5sEyb1vigyTtamn67U/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yS7kzJN-OS2k_OTF_8C2nNCPW5sEyb1vigyTtamn67U/edit?usp=sharing)

If someone would like to help us plan for this weekend, the Doodle poll for choosing Tues. or Wed. for a conference call is:

<https://doodle.com/poll/97f9yekytbhxbv8w>

- d. **Wildflower Walk** Carolyn and Don have again graciously agreed to organize a wildflower walk. Timing will depend on rain/wild flower availability, etc. **March 20<sup>th</sup> a tentative date.** Watch your emails for the announcement. Don suggested we should have more fund-raisers. Katie said that they won't do the home farm tour this year (every other year). Karen pointed out the importance of the monthly donations which give stability to the Club financially. We do not charge for the picnic: it is not a fund-raiser. Thida suggested that at events, we could have a charge for non members (say \$5) which could be used as part of their membership fee (encouraging them to join). Cited the PDC luncheon charged \$5 for non members which could be applied to their membership at their annual meeting.
- e. **Opportunity to Work Initiative** Lucas introduced David Urhausen, from the South Bay Labor Council who presented an innovative initiative being circulated for the San Jose City Council. This initiative arises because there are approximately 64k hourly part-time workers in San Jose. Many hold multiple jobs at long distances. This initiative would apply if an employer (or its parent) employs 35 people or more. If passed, the part-time employee would be offered the right to any extra hours up to 40 hours a week in total hours to be worked, **before** a temporary or other part-time worker could be hired. Supporters of the initiative include: SJ Councilman Ash Kaira (so far the only council member to support), Working Partnership, Our Lady of Guadeloupe and

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other organizations. 18,500 signatures needed. The campaign wants to turn in 36,000 signatures Actual language of the initiative can be found at: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/documentcenter/view/54088>

**Action requested** was for volunteers to help collect signatures by no later than 4/25. Their goal is to have the initiative on the November ballot. Don said this was an exciting idea. Important to raise these issues. The group saw this as a model ordinance. Jackie said the materials she had read were impressive. San Francisco has a similar ordinance which only applies to retail workers. This is much broader. Karen asked if the goal were to get current workers to full-time. David Urhausen concurred. Thida wondered about business reaction. Chamber of Commerce has yet to weigh in. Discussion included that part-time workers getting up to 40 hours if this scheme worked still wouldn't get the same rights as the full-time workers. Katie cited an algorithm at SJSU where if you work more than x hours over 3 years, then you are entitled to health benefits. **Goal is to keep people in 1 job as opposed to multiple jobs to make ends meet.** Gerry wondered if it is possible to get this passed. Don whether there were regulations to implement this. The whole initiative is only 4 pages long. There are some paid signature gathers who get paid \$15 per hour. **MSP: To support the SJ Initiative**

- f. **DDCSV Program Director** – Marcene has asked for someone else to take over the Program Director's role on the Committee., effective 1 April. She was thanked for her varied and stimulating events, including the one this month, led by Katie Dunlop which focused on the Lakoff book, Little Blue Book, which had elicited an interesting and thoughtful discussion. The job entails seeking from other members suggestions of programs and asking these folks to participate. She has already done March and April (Working Partnership's director, Derecka Mehrens, will be our speaker at Marcene's home on 3/14/2016 and April 11<sup>th</sup> at Alice Smith's home will be a discussion of healthcare and its impact on Business. *Fix It*, a short documentary will be shown. **Action Requested: please notify John Comiskey if you are willing and interested in serving as the program director.** Not onerous and fun.

**g. Club endorsement committee recommendation & schedule:**

John presented the agreed list of State and key senatorial races, including :

**No action: President in the primary.**

**Endorse: 5 US Senatorial Races:**  
California: **Kamela Harris**

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Illinois: **Tammy Duckworth**

Nevada: **Catherine Cortez Masto** (unopposed in the Democratic Party.)  
running for Harry Reid's seat which he is vacating

New Hampshire: **Maggie Hassan**, former Governor running against a tea  
party woman incumbent who is against abortion and shares other core  
conservative values

Wisconsin: **Russ Feingold**

**Skipped Maryland: too many candidates in the race.**

**MSP: to accept the recommendations of the endorsement  
committee. (unanimous)**

**Further MSP: to endorse any nominee for President passed at the  
National Convention. (unanimous)**

**March 11<sup>th</sup>** is the beginning of the club's endorsement committee meetings for specific races not already determined. Unless otherwise determined, to be at John's house. **Process:** If there is only one person running and not endorsed before by us, we ask them to come. Evan Low was not endorsed by us last time but may seek our support this time. Mark Stone has already asked to get our endorsement. Stephanie was concerned about endorsements. She gave an example of the endorsement process in SCC Democratic Party where only 2 Palo Alto residents were there and the voters were ignorant about the candidate and the local issues. Stephanie and the other were the only ones who voted no. She asked how to get feedback to the endorsement committee: Thida thought one might ask a leading question such as high speed rail position which shows what they think on a controversial issue. There are 29 candidates for the local and assembly districts which are contested. Alice asked whether we could realistically follow through with our commitment to support our endorsed candidates. Gerry pointed out that the woman candidate for the Water District we endorsed chaired the last meeting he attended and she was very effective. The endorsement meeting is closed. Information supplied is for information only.

**Actions.**

- 1. Notify John Comiskey about questions you want answered by specific candidates.**
- 2. Send note out to the entire membership with the candidates to be interviewed and seek questions.** **Mary** (attached to minutes is the list of candidates to be interviewed by the committee.)
- 3. The endorsement committee is:** John Comiskey, Lucas Ramirez, Karen Porter, Stephanie Grossman, Barbara Comiskey, Emily

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Gatfield

- h. **Club Goals for 2016 – the goals** were reviewed by John. Discussion was followed by a vote: where each participant was given 3 votes: weighed 5, 3 and 1.
  - 1: Candidates and Campaigns: 38
  - 2: Good Government: 28
  - 3: Social Justice: 26
  - 4: Environment: 16
  - 5: Education: 7
  - 6: Health and Support eh Club and Party tied at 3 each.

4. **Old Business/ Task Force Reports**

- a. **Good Government** Katie discussed AB700 - if it passes, applies to the November election.
- d. **Social/ Justice** Alice described the Block Grant maneuver by Governor Brown to eviscerate Early Childhood education but every speaker at Friday's hearing on the budget rejected the Governor's approach
- h. **Membership** John reported that Erik would be sending membership updates to be attached to the minutes.

5 **Announcements**

**February 25: Otto Lee Event in support of Michael Eggman, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> 5.30 pm** Details at <https://act.myngp.com/Forms/-61641920388005888?midqs=-5201657569612922880>

**Mary Gill is organizing a fund-raiser for Mike Eggman on the 17<sup>th</sup> April at Stephanie Grossman's home. If you wish to be a host or help, contact Mary.**

The meeting adjourned at 8.55.