



## **Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting**

February 27, 2017

Marie Callender's Restaurant, 751 E. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale

**Next working meetings:** March 27, April 24, May 22

**Next DFA-link meetings:** March 13, April 10, May 8

**June picnic and annual meeting and election of officers:** June 24 (Saturday), 11:00 a.m. Ponderosa Park Picnic Area 2, 811 Henderson Avenue, Sunnyvale 94086

**Introductions:** John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself and made a statement about recent political involvement.

**Adoption of agenda:** After one addition was made to the agenda, Carolyn Curtis moved that we adopt the agenda as amended, Ben Stetson seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

**Approval of minutes:** Amy Wright moved that we approve the January minutes, Carolyn seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

**Treasurer's report:** Karen Porter was attending a symposium but reported by e-mail that we have \$2923 in the bank: \$1449 in the state and \$1474 in the federal account.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Two-year budget:** John passed around the budget plan that Karen had submitted. Since Karen was unable to attend, discussion of the budget was postponed to next month's meeting.

**Letter to State Water Board:** Joel Masser had written a letter to the state water board urging them to set the flow of the San Joaquin River and its tributaries between February and June at 60 percent. This will help maintain clean, safe water for people and wildlife. John had made the letter available to the group on line and it was available at the meeting; the deadline for comments is March 17. Mary moved that we permit the steering committee to finalize the letter so that it may be sent before the deadline, Carolyn seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

**Wildflower walk:** Carolyn proposed a fundraiser for the club in April, a guided wildflower walk that she and Don Mayall will lead. It will probably be April 15, 23, or

the last weekend of the month at one of three local reserves, depending on the spring flower season, which should be amazing this year with all the rainfall. Mary noted that both Don and Carolyn are both past presidents of the California Native Plant Society and that the walks are a wonderful tradition not to be missed, worth way more than the requested contribution. More information will follow.

**2016 accomplishments:** Carolyn had prepared a list of our accomplishments for 2016 and had made it available on line. Some highlights: 650 hours for our endorsed candidates, 900 hours for the Clean Money campaign, about 100 hours of voter reg, 400 hours at the DVC, 9 state and 5 national delegates, at least \$30,000 collected at our fundraisers for candidates, etc. Previous lists from past years are posted on our website, and this one will be there also. The group thanked Carolyn for her work on the document.

**ACLU resistance training:** Carolyn reported that the ACLU is holding a nationwide Resistance Training on March 11 at 8 p.m. The goal will be to oppose the Muslim ban, defend sanctuary cities, maintain Planned Parenthood funding, and generally resist the new immigration policies of the Trump Administration.

**JJ Dinner ad:** John asked for approval for \$360 to book a full-page ad in the program for the JJ Dinner (Santa Clara County Democratic Party dinner) on May 12. John will be at the county meeting this Thursday, and if we make our commitment early the ad will be more likely to get a good position in the program. Gerry Hunt moved that we approve the \$360 for the ad, Carolyn seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. John will make the commitment, and Karen will send a check.

**June picnic and annual meeting and election of officers:** John suggested June 24 for our annual meeting; the group concurred. Ben Stetson will contact Sunnyvale Parks and Recreation to book the venue, hopefully picnic grounds #2, which is shadier. Gerry moved that we approve \$75 for Ben to make the reservation if a credit card is required, Carolyn seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Trifold:** John noted that we are running out of copies of our trifold (description of our club and membership information), so it is time for a replacement. Fortunately, Carolyn was able to find the PDF and also a Word file that can be edited to update it. We spent \$300 in 2014 for 500 brochures done by a union printer.

**SB 562, Californians for a Healthy California:** Gerry reported that Senators Ricardo Lara and Toni Atkins have introduced SB 562, which would create a single-payer health-care system throughout the state. Lara, the main author, is chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and has been successful with other bills, such as SB 4 (Health4AllKids). This is a macro or “spot” bill that will be developed carefully over time. A detailed cost study will be done that will involve the Franchise Tax Board. Gerry noted that insurance companies spend 30 percent of their budget on overhead, as opposed to only 3 percent for Medicare. There will be a rally on May 19 in Sacramento (at the beginning of the state Democratic convention) in support of the bill.

## OLD BUSINESS\*

**Good government:** Nancy Neff reported on a new bill to require initiative petitions to disclose their top three funders: SB 651, the Petition Disclosure Act, by Senator Ben Allen, sponsored by the California Clean Money Campaign. This bill will require only a majority vote. She asked for the Dean Club's formal endorsement of AB 14, the DISCLOSE Act, which we have been working on for some time. Carolyn moved that we endorse, Ben Stetson seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension. Nancy announced that there will be a California Clean Money Campaign grassroots summit on March 25 at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Palo Alto from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Senators Jerry Hill and Assembly members Kevin Mullin and Marc Berman will speak, and there will be afternoon workshops focusing on specific strategies/tasks. Breakfast items, lunch, and snacks will be provided. RSVP at [www.yesfairelections.org/events](http://www.yesfairelections.org/events). Also, CCMC members will be traveling to the nearby district of Republican state senator Anthony Cannella (Modesto, Hollister, Salinas) to gather signatures on postcards to be sent to him to urge him to support AB 14. Please contact Nancy if you can help: [nrneff@sonic.net](mailto:nrneff@sonic.net). In addition, there will be SwingLeft house parties this weekend to get an early start on turning Congressional districts from red to blue; in our case, the closest such district is CD 10 (Modesto/Turlock/Tracy). Go to [www.swingleft.org/host](http://www.swingleft.org/host), click on Action Items at the top, and put in your zip code to see events near your house (or look at the indications on the map). Nancy encouraged people to take petitions for AB 14 to these meetings.

**Political outreach:** Marcene Van Dierendonck reported on an event she attended convened by Vicki Veenker at Ralph and Jackie Wheeler's home. The following links allow you to access important information disseminated there: (1) immigrant rights; (2) an invitation to meet Kimberly Ellis, running for state party chair, on March 8; (3) selected resources and groups to carry on the resistance; (4) a list of upcoming events.

<http://ddcsv.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/ImmigrantRights-No-Matter-Who-Is-Pres-2016-11-10-11.pdf>

<http://ddcsv.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/MeetKimberlyMarch8flyer.pdf>

<http://ddcsv.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/SELECTEDRESOURCES2242017pdf.pdf>

<http://ddcsv.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/UPCOMINGEVENTSpdf.pdf>

Marcene also suggested that we wear our DFA buttons at rallies or events to increase our visibility; she passed out buttons for those who did not already have them. Jackie Wheeler noted that the Anna Eshoo summit on Sunday to oppose President Trump's policies is now at capacity (500); there may be a second event.

**Environment:** Don announced a talk by Peter Drekmeier on the Bay Delta Water Quality

Control Plan on Thursday at the Microsoft Auditorium in Mountain View at 7:30. Free to Acterra members and \$10 for nonmembers.

**Social justice:** No report.

**Economic justice:** No report.

**Health care:** Covered earlier.

**Club building:** John noted that with a new party chair at the county and state levels (as well as national), there will be some changes in club building. He will be at an all clubs meeting this week; one idea proposed so far has been for the county party to contact all newly registered Dems and encourage them to sign up for club membership. A discussion of how to post on our Yahoo group and Facebook page followed. In response to a question, John noted that if you sign up on the Yahoo group for the digest, you do not get attachments.

**Education:** No report

**Club membership:** The new membership chair Ben Shapero reported that we have 180 members (including 27 “paid plus members” who have paid for more than one year and 101 who are in arrears), 646 Facebook members, and 312 Yahoo members. So far in 2017 we have 11 new members and 38 new Facebook members.

### **Announcements**

❖ Carolyn had donated the book *The New Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* to be raffled off with the proceeds to go to the Dean Club; Ben Shapero was the winner and will send a check to Karen.

**Adjournment:** At 8:45 p.m. Don moved that we adjourn, Jackie seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill

\*Task forces are still being formed; those people who allocated 5 votes to a goal at the January meeting are listed below, but some will serve on more than one committee and others will come on board. People who volunteered to make monthly reports for their task forces at the February meeting: Nancy Neff (good government), Marcene Van Dierendonck (political outreach), Gerry Hunt (health care), John Comiskey (club building). Some task forces will have alternates.

Good government: Nancy Neff, Ben Stetson, Emily Ramos, Jackie Wheeler, Lucas Ramirez, Marcene Van Dierendonck, Mary Gill

Political outreach: Ben Shapero, Amy Wright, Barbara Comiskey, Elizabeth Beheler, Carolyn Curtis

Environment: Joel Masser, Don Mayall, Glen Shaffer

Social justice: Paul Crider, Larry Klein

Economic justice: Johannes Muenzel, Vincent Casalaina

Health care: Gerry Hunt, Karen Porter, Stephanie Grossman

Club building: John Comiskey

Education: TBD

