



Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley



Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting

October 26, 2015

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

Next working meeting: November 23

Next DFA-link meeting: November 9

Annual brainstorming and potluck dinner: December 14 at the home of Ralph and Jackie Wheeler

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 several small changes were made to the agenda, Alice Smith moved that we adopt the agenda as amended, Lucas Ramirez seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

Approval of minutes: Karen Porter moved that we approve the September minutes, Ben Stetson seconded it, and the motion passed with one abstention.

Treasurer's report: Karen reported that we have \$3540 in our state account and \$2677 in our federal account, for a total of \$6217.

NEW BUSINESS

Central Committee representative: John noted that since Swanee Edwards was elected to the Central Committee, someone else can assume her position as Dean Club representative. The chair can appoint representatives with steering committee approval. Since Gerry Hunt has been attending regularly for many years, John suggested Gerry Hunt. It was moved and seconded that Gerry be appointed, and the motion passed with no dissension.

Dinner for Central Committee: John reported that next month it falls to the Dean Club to provide dinner for the Central Committee meeting. After some discussion about the type of food to provide, it was decided to leave the choice up to Gerry Hunt; Gerry will buy the meal and take it to the meeting. It was moved and seconded to allow Gerry to spend up to \$250; the motion passed with one abstention.

Endorsement delegates to CDP, CDC: John noted that our club size gives us a right to three delegates to the CDP in AD 24 and one in AD 28. We are allowed 11 CDC delegates. He had made a list of club members in AD 24 and 28 who are also in CD 17. This list was circulated around to all present. Ben moved that we allow John to use this list to contact people to get the appropriate number of delegates for both the CDP and CDC. Lucas seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension. John will make the contacts.

Club endorsement inventory, call for committee, Bera: John had made a list of candidates currently running in Democratic races from national to local, as far as is known at this point. He went over the club's endorsement policies and timeline. Anyone who is interested in serving on the endorsement committee was invited to send John an e-mail. Our by-laws state that there must be at least three club members on the committee, and it's better to have at least five. A large part of the work would occur in March. Joel Masser suggested that the endorsement questionnaire be reviewed/updated and that we allow for the membership to make suggestions about specific endorsements. John agreed and added that the SCCDP platform should be sent out to all the candidates so that they are aware of the county Democratic party positions. There will be a meeting with Congressman Ami Bera on November 22 at 3:00 p.m. at Greg Lowe's home in Atherton. This will not be a fundraiser; Dr. Bera requested this meeting to explain his rationale for certain key votes that progressives have criticized. We will be endorsing in the Congressional races soon.

Convention presence, proposal: John reminded the group that he'd asked for ideas for ways in which the eighteen local Dem clubs could participate together in the state convention, which will be held in February in San Jose. An option that is less expensive than a booth or hospitality suite would be a welcome event for attendees at a restaurant. John had explored the UFCW Hall on Market Street, but it will probably not be remodeled in time. Alex Wara, president of the Silicon Valley Young Democrats, suggested a restaurant called the Mosaic, which would be available if there is a guaranteed amount of money to be spent on food and drink. Each club would have to contribute between \$100-200. John has gone to various club meetings to present the idea and ask for support. He encouraged us to suggest venues and ideas and possible speakers. Popcorn and ice cream were suggested. Patrick Ahrens pointed out that many electeds will have their own events, and suggested a joint event with the Central Committee. Gerry will contact Steve Preminger to find out what plans the Central Committee has made, if any.

Clean Money Campaign event November 15: Nancy Neff reported on a CCMC Action Fund benefit to be held in Portola Valley on November 15 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Former Congressman Pete McCloskey will speak, as will Senator Jerry Hill and former Assemblywoman Sally Lieber. The topic is dark money and how the California Clean Money Campaign is addressing it. To RSVP, go to <http://www.yesfairelections.org/pete>. Nancy noted that negotiations are still going on to establish follow-the-money language on AB 700, the DISCLOSE Act. She also mentioned the Voters Right to Know initiative, which contains the provisions of AB 700 along with other regulations (see <http://www.votersrighttoknow.org>). CCMC may be working on this initiative in conjunction with the group that filed the Voters Right to Know proposition. Gerry suggested contacting Ben Field and will send Nancy contact information for him.

SMCDFA meeting on the Paris Climate Change Conference November 4: Stanford scientists Chris Field and Katharine Mach will speak on the topic "Can the 2015 Paris UN Conference on Climate Change Save the Planet?" at the San Mateo County DFA meeting on November 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Woodside Methodist Church, corner of Woodside Road and Alameda de las Pulgas. Alice moved that we cosponsor the event, Ben seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

OLD BUSINESS

Task force reports

Good government: Nancy reported that AB 990 was passed by the legislature and signed by the governor. It will provide better disclosure on political mailers; specifically, there will be a requirement for a prominent box near the recipient's name giving the source of the funding for the mailer in a specified readable type size (so that it's easy to tell whether an independent group or a candidate paid for the ad). Gerry reported on a forum with five legal experts, "Corporate Constitutional Rights—Eliminate Them?" to be held on October 27 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the West Valley branch, San Jose Public Library, Community room, 1243 San Tomas Aquino Road near Saratoga. RSVP to billbarrett04@gmail.com.

Economic justice: Lucas announced that there will be a meeting of the Mountain View City Council on raising the minimum wage on October 27 at 6:30 p.m., with a rally beforehand starting at 5:30. Alice will work on a letter in support of grass-roots minimum wage efforts in cities of Santa Clara County.

Environment: Joel reported that the task force members met last week and discussed various issues, including the transport of nuclear waste, which is extremely hazardous, and the Delta tunnels project. Mary will send out an e-mail on sv4dean again about how to comment on the tunnels project by the October 30 deadline.

Social and criminal justice: No report.

Club building: No report.

Candidates/campaigns: Covered earlier (endorsement inventory)

Outreach: Covered earlier (club presence at the state party convention)

Club membership: Erik Fong has been working on contacting people whose memberships are in arrears. He reported that we have 160 members (including 31 "paid plus members" who have paid for more than one year), 461 Facebook members, and 203 Yahoo members. So far in 2015 we have 41 new members and 73 new Facebook members. He has a plan to institute recurring membership. Karen will send him the information about contributions on ActBlue since Erik does not yet have access and Ralph Wheeler is away.

Announcements

❖ The next DFA link meeting will be November 9 at the home of Barbara and John Comiskey, 4810 Kingvale Dr., San Jose 95124. Senator Jim Beall will speak.

❖ Marcene Van Dierendonck announced that our club will receive \$300 in bounty for voter registration efforts. She thanked Diane Rolfe for her work in making sure this happens. The group thanked Marcene and also Jennifer Sheppard for a stellar job on voter reg.

❖ Ben reported that according to Craig Dunkerley, 40 percent of the money collected by the End Citizens United group goes to administrative costs; it is difficult or impossible to unsubscribe. Ben will suggest to Craig that he contact someone such as Derek Cressman of Common Cause (past candidate for Secretary of State) to see if something can be done about this group.

Adjournment: At 9:01 p.m. Ben moved that we adjourn, Alice seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill