



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

May 22, 2017

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

**June potluck 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

**Next working meetings:** July 24, August 28, September 25, October 23

**Next DFA-link meetings:** June 5, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9

**Introductions:** John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself and made a statement about recent political involvement.

**Adoption of agenda:** Barbara Comiskey moved that we adopt the agenda, Ben Stetson seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

**Approval of minutes:** Joel Masser moved that we approve the April minutes, Karen Porter seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

**Treasurer's report:** Karen reported that we have \$1589 in the state and \$2008 in the federal account for a total of \$3597. Marcene Van Dierendonck asked whether the bounty money for voter registration had come in yet, and Karen replied that it had not. Marcene suggested that Karen contact Diane Rolfe about getting our share of the money, which should be about \$600.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Dean Club trifold and business cards:** John passed out the new trifold and business cards from Aabco, the printer. The group was very pleased with the results.

**Unity (All Clubs) Picnic sponsorship:** John described the Unity Picnic (formerly called the All Clubs Picnic), an event for all county Dem clubs who choose to participate. For one fee paid by the club (last year \$150), any club member can go to the picnic and enjoy lunch (usually barbecued hamburgers, chips, drinks, cookies), hear from county officials or candidates for office, etc. John himself joined the Dean Club at one of these picnics, and we usually get several new members there. We do not yet know the date, but it will be after our June 24 event. Mary Gill moved that we approve the fee so that Karen can submit the payment when it is requested. Ben seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

**Democratic Party Unity Dinner (formerly JJ Dinner) recap:** John gave a recap of the county Democratic party dinner/fundraiser on May 12 at the Fairmont. About 500 people attended. The Dean Club had two tables in the front row with Vicki Veenker, Joe Simitian, and Mary Hughes. There was a panel discussion with Congress members Zoe Lofgren, Jimmy Panetta, and Ro Khanna, moderated by Cindy Chavez. Hope Kahan received the Madge Overhouse Award, and Steve Preminger, the Rod Diridon Award.

**DFA dinner at CDP convention:** John reported that Jim Dean and the national DFA communication director (Mari Schimmer) spoke at the DFA dinner at the state Democratic Party convention last Friday at Lucca Restaurant near the convention center. Vince Casalaina organized the event. DFA is making an effort to attract younger voters.

**Event with Congressman Jerry McNerney:** Mary reported that there will be an event for Jerry McNerney at Stephanie Grossman's home, tentatively scheduled for July 30 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Alice Smith, John, and Mary (among others) will work with Stephanie. John described Jerry and told some of the history of Dean Club involvement in his past campaigns. Jerry was endorsed by the Dean Club last month.

**Event with Congressman Ami Bera, May 30:** Mary passed around fliers for an event with Congressman Ami Bera, also endorsed by the Dean Club last month, to be held at the home of Karen Grove in Menlo Park on Tuesday, May 30. Dean Club members Alice Smith, Barbara and John Comiskey, Carolyn Curtis, Karen Porter, Karen Grove, and Marcene Van Dierendonck are on the planning committee, as is Mary. Ami won by only 2 percent in a very tough district last year and is a number one target of Republicans nationwide. Minimum donation: \$100. To RSVP, go to <https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/05.30>. Address will be provided upon request.

**Event with Senator Russ Feingold, recap:** Mary reported that the May 21 fundraiser for the California Clean Money Campaign featuring Russ Feingold at Alice Smith's home was attended by 150 people and raised about \$40,000. Ben Stetson and Marcene commented on Senator Feingold's talk, which was well received. Joe Simitian was the master of ceremonies. Ro Khanna and Trent Lange spoke as well.

**Dean Club Annual Picnic/Elections:** Mary passed around a sign-up sheet for things we will need to have on hand at our June 24 event; most members present signed up to provide something besides a potluck dish. Joel reported on his progress sending out invitations to elected officials and others. He will send John a list of RSVPs or regrets soon.

**June dinner for County Central Committee:** Gerry Hunt will be in charge of our contribution to this; the dinner is on June 1, and money has already been approved.

**Data retention and flow:** John had created a chart showing how membership information can be shared among various club officers: new members' information goes to the treasurer (Karen) and the membership director (Ben Shapero) and from there to the

corresponding secretary (Joel) and the recording secretary (Mary) and to a Google drive. The corresponding secretary would maintain the list that includes outreach for events, a broader list that is not limited to members. John has been serving as program director for the last few months, but we hope to get the job filled soon. It was suggested that Google sheets be used.

**Call for nominees, OFFLINE, to the nominating committee:** Gerry Hunt and Elizabeth Beheler have a slate of candidates for the steering committee elections on June 24. Anyone else who wants to run or nominate someone else to run should send the names to Gerry at [gwhunt97@comcast.net](mailto:gwhunt97@comcast.net).

## OLD BUSINESS

**Good government:** Mary reported that AB 14, the California DISCLOSE Act, will be heard in the Assembly Elections Committee on June 14 at 9:00 a.m. Car pools will be organized for a lobby day in Sacramento. The bill's author, Jimmy Gomez, is expected to be elected to Congress soon, in which case he wants to get the bill passed by the time he would have to leave, end of July. You can register to attend the lobby day at <http://www.yesfairelections.org/events/ab14-asm-elections.php>. Clean Money Campaign members are continuing to gather petition signatures; Ben Stetson reported that he was gathering signatures at the Democratic convention last weekend and the efforts there were very successful. Please contact Nancy Neff for more information: [nrneff@sonic.net](mailto:nrneff@sonic.net).

**Political outreach:** Covered earlier.

**Environment:** Joel reported that the San Jose City Council passed community choice energy, so that residents can choose to have more of their power coming from renewable energy sources (or to keep with the same mix). In the long run this should lead to lower rates.

**Social justice:** No report.

**Economic justice:** John reported that San Jose recently passed a Just Cause eviction law, which took effect immediately. At the state party convention, a resolution on Just Cause was proposed, and club member Steve Chessin added rent stabilization to it, so the resolution passed with both.

**Health care:** John reported that in general there was great support for single-payer health care and SB 562, the Healthy California Act, at the party convention. Many state legislators are waiting to see how the financials would work before committing their votes, however.

**Club building:** John reported on his recent talk at the Orchard City Indivisible meeting, "What is the Democratic Party and how can we work together?" He got a certain amount of criticism of the Democratic Party, but persevered and invited them to join a local club

and to visit the headquarters on Moorpark in San Jose. He noted that trainings for precinct captains for the 1064 county precincts will be starting soon.

**Education:** No report.

**Club membership:** Membership chair Ben Shapero reported that we have 187 members (including 10 “paid plus members” who have paid for more than one year and 110 who are now in arrears), 666 Facebook members, and 312 Yahoo members. So far in 2017 we have 15 new members and 58 new Facebook members. Carolyn Curtis volunteered to help Ben contact the people who are in arrears.

### **Announcements**

❖ John announced that Celeste Nicole Walker from Orchard City Indivisible will speak at our next DFA-link meeting, June 5. Venue to be determined.

❖ Thida Cornes urged people to submit public comments opposing the disbanding of the Moffett Field Restoration Advisory Board until a new successor panel can be formed. The RAB has been monitoring the cleanup of toxic waste at Moffett Field. You can e-mail James B. Sullivan, BRAC Environmental Coordinator, at [james.b.sullivan2@navy.mil](mailto:james.b.sullivan2@navy.mil). Background information and how to submit comments by regular mail are in a recent *Mountain View Voice* article: <https://www.mv-voice.com/news/2017/05/12/navy-seeks-to-disband-moffett-field-rab>

**Adjournment:** At 9:00 p.m. Mary moved that we adjourn, Karen seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill