

Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting

September 25, 2017

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

Next working meetings: October 23, November 27

Next DFA-link meetings: October 9, November 13

Holiday potluck and brainstorming of 2018 goals: December 11

Introductions: Ben Stetson called the meeting to order at exactly 7:00 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself and made a statement about recent political involvement.

Adoption of agenda: Ralph Wheeler moved that we adopt the agenda as amended, Ben Shapero seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

Approval of minutes: Jackie Wheeler moved that we approve the August minutes, Marcene Van Dierendonck seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Karen Porter reported we have \$1647 in the state account and \$2838 in the federal account for a total of \$4485. She noted that Gerry Hunt needed to be reimbursed \$55.14 for a purchase of dinner for the Santa Clara County Central Committee meeting since the amount had exceeded the amount allotted. Ralph moved that we reimburse Gerry, Marcene seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

September DFA-Link meeting: Ben explained that our September 11 meeting was going to be a joint meeting with the Bayshore Progressive Democrats featuring Dotty Nygard, running for Congress in CD 10, at a site they had reserved. However, Dotty is a nurse and was needed in Houston to help victims of the hurricane there so was not available. The other group ended up getting two substitute speakers but too late for us to get the information out to our members, so Ben had sent out a cancellation notice. Chris Roat, who had not seen the cancellation notice, attended and reported that it was a good event with two informative speakers (one being Steve Chessin).

DISCLOSE Act: Nancy Neff gave an update on AB 249, the DISCLOSE Act. She reported that it passed both houses of the legislature because of its broad grassroots support (volunteers calling, e-mailing, getting petitions signed, going to Sacramento, etc.). Kevin De León, after coming on board because of pressure from the public, worked diligently with labor and other stakeholders to get the bill passed. It passed with bipartisan support: 55-9 in the Assembly and 29-9 in the Senate. The governor has until October 15 to sign or veto it. Nancy had also brought a chart showing the differences between AB 249, a former version (AB 700), and current law; she pointed out that the Clean Money Campaign got 75% of what was hoped for so it was a strong bill. Nancy

encouraged us to write letters to the editor in support, call the governor, leave comments on the governor's website, sign every e-mail petition that comes our way, and use CallFire to generate calls from around the state. Ben Stetson gave a description of the CallFire system and how easy it is to use. Nancy noted that call lists will be up tomorrow. Nancy also remarked that about 80 supporters were up in Sacramento Thursday at a meeting of the Fair Political Practices Commission, who remained neutral although its staff had recommended opposing, a major victory. Next there will be a grassroots summit to plan for the future of the California Clean Money Campaign with a fundraiser to follow. Nancy received a round of applause and congratulations on her hard work.

All Clubs meeting September 25 (fundraising ideas): Ben reported that there was a meeting to generate fundraising ideas for the county party the same night we were meeting, 9/25. Gerry Hunt was there as our representative. Ralph noted that getting a popular speaker is crucial (such as Barbara Lee, who helped increase attendance at a recent fundraiser for Jerry McNerney). Ben Stetson asked anyone who had ideas for county party fundraising to send them to Gerry Hunt.

Memorial for Don Mayall October 8: Ben Stetson passed around copies of an e-mail from Carolyn Curtis about the memorial for Don on October 8 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Foothill Park. If you plan to attend, you need to RSVP by September 30 on the following site: <https://www.donaldmayallmemorial.com/memorial-service>

If the people at the Foothill Park gate do not have your name on the list, you will not be allowed in. The park is west of 280 on Page Mill Road; car pooling is recommended. Mary noted that the food committee includes Karen Porter, Jennifer Sheppard, Marcene Van Dierendonck, Jackie Wheeler, Ben Stetson, Elizabeth Beheler, and Alice Smith. (Let Mary Gill know if you would like to be included.) Ben remarked that Don was a founding member of the club and our treasurer for many years. Karen has set up a site to make contributions to the Dean club in honor of Don:

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/deanclub-mayall>

Thank you to Farideh Dormishian: Ben Stetson expressed the club's appreciation to Farideh, who has arranged venues and lined up speakers for several of our past and future DFA-link meetings, but who now has to resign due to more work responsibilities. She received a hearty round of applause from all those present. Ben noted how much energy she has and how efficient and attentive to detail she has been. She was congratulated on an excellent job.

Delta tunnels meeting 9/26 at 6:00 p.m.: Mary reminded those present that the Santa Clara Valley Water District will have a voice in whether the Delta tunnels are approved and that a decision will be made soon. There is a meeting Tuesday, September 26, at 6:00 p.m. at the board headquarters where we are encouraged to make public comments: 5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose 95118. The district's rate payers will pay even more now that the Westlands district has voted against the project. She encouraged everyone to e-mail the board and express opposition. See information and sample letter at:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/tell-water-district-no-tunnels>

“What happened this morning” or “43 e-mails”: Ben reported on the 43 e-mails he got the morning of our meeting (9/25). He had sent out the agenda on Thursday; on 9/25 he was waiting to see if Don Rocha was going to be attending or not (which turned out not to be the case). Meanwhile, Ben received an e-mail about Michele Dauber, who had wanted to speak to us about the Recall Persky campaign but had told someone she had been discouraged from doing so. Ben contacted John (in Germany), who replied that he had indeed invited Ms. Dauber to speak in support of recalling Judge Persky. There would be no vote at the 9/25 meeting, simply a short presentation from Professor Dauber and a chance to sign her petition. Since this is a very controversial issue, a barrage of e-mails ensued, some from people who wanted to hear from Professor Dauber and others who either wanted the club not to get involved in the issue or wanted to give the people who were against the recall a chance to speak also. Karen called Professor Dauber, who was not available anyway. It was decided that Karen would invite her to our October DFA-link meeting, and others would make sure that a speaker who opposed the recall would also be invited. Each will get 10 minutes. Alice Smith volunteered to speak against the recall.

OLD BUSINESS

Good government: Covered earlier.

Political outreach: No report.

Environment: Covered earlier.

Social justice: No report.

Economic justice: No report.

Health care: No report.

Club building: No report.

Education: No report.

Club membership: Membership chair Ben Shapero reported that we have 194 members (including 26 “paid plus members” who have paid for more than one year and 122 who are now in arrears), 707 Facebook members, and 312 Yahoo members. So far in 2017 we have 25 new members and 89 new Facebook members. Ralph emphasized the fact that we now have over 700 Facebook members. Ben encouraged people to add their families to their memberships.

Announcements

❖ Alice announced that the ACLU and People Power will have an event on September 28 at Kepler's Books in Menlo Park at 7:30 on the relevance of lessons learned from Fred Korematsu (who refused to go to an internment camp during World War II) and other Japanese Americans of the era. Stan Yogi and Laura Atkins with Farah Brevli from the ACLU of Northern California will discuss racism and civil liberties today in this context. RSVP (and find out more) at https://go.peoplepower.org/event/action_attend/10167

❖ Alice also announced a "Let People Vote" launch event on Sunday, October 1, 3:30 at the Embarcadero Room of the Rinconada Library, 1213 Newell Road, Palo Alto 94301. The National Voter Corps and ACLU are working on this campaign, fighting voter suppression and expanding access to the ballot. There are other such meetings all around the nation, a 50-state initiative, including some in other Bay Area cities. Alice is the lead of the National Voter Corps. RSVP (and learn more) at: https://go.peoplepower.org/event/voting_rights_attend/9983

Adjournment: At 8:05 p.m. Jackie moved that we adjourn, Ben Shapero seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill