



Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting

April 23, 2018

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

Next working meetings: May 28, July 23, August 27, September 24, October 22, November 26

Next DFA-link meetings: May 14, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12

June picnic and annual meeting and election of officers: June 30 (Saturday), 11:00 a.m. Ponderosa Park Picnic Area 2, 811 Henderson Avenue, Sunnyvale 94086

Introductions: John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself and described a recent political activity.

Adoption of agenda: Emilie Gatfield moved that we adopt the agenda as amended, Gerry Hunt seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

Approval of minutes: Ralph Wheeler moved that we approve the March minutes, Ben Stetson seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

Treasurer's report: Karen Porter reported that we have \$5070 in the treasury: \$1480 in the state and \$3590 in the federal account.

NEW BUSINESS

Call for nominating committee: John asked that people contact him if they are interested in serving on the nominating committee for next year's officers. Amy Wright is already on board.

Goals committee: John asked for people to come forward from the task forces to be responsible for the monthly reports; more than one point person for task forces that received the most votes would be ideal.

Statewide endorsements: John reported on the endorsement committee's progress. They described the two Democrats who are running for state treasurer. After some discussion, Marcene Van Dierendonck moved that we endorse Fiona Ma for this position, Gerry Hunt seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. After a description of the two candidates running for state superintendent of public instruction, Emilie moved that we endorse Tony Thurmond, Lucas Ramirez seconded the motion, and it also passed

unanimously. Emilie moved that we endorse Malia Cohen for Board of Equalization District 2, and Gerry Hunt seconded it. There was some discussion about the two Democrats running, after which this motion also passed with no dissension. Gerry then made a motion to support Dave Jones for attorney general, but in this case it was decided to give people time to learn more about the candidates (the Sierra Club had just endorsed Xavier Becerra). Gerry then agreed to wait on this endorsement and asked that the matter be referred to the endorsement committee. With 15 yes votes and 1 no votes, the matter was referred to committee.

Asian Law Alliance presentation: John noted that in February we had heard from Steve Chessin on behalf of Measure A in Santa Clara, which was placed on the ballot by the city council after a lawsuit was filed against the city for the lack of ethnic diversity in government. Instead of a city-wide vote, Measure A would create two districts with three members each; these and other city officials would be elected by rank-choice voting. Since the measure had been opposed by the Asian Law Alliance, it was decided to allow them to speak before the club voted. Speaking against the measure were Alex Mabanta of the Asian Law Alliance and also former Assembly member Paul Fong. Both said that they are not at all against rank-choice voting. However, they both oppose having only the two districts as configured. They claim that this measure would dilute the votes of people of color and not result in more minority members of government in the city because of the way the various ethnic groups are clustered. They argued that there should be six districts to give minorities a better chance at representation and cited numerous organizations who support their position, including a San Jose Mercury editorial: <https://www.mercurynews.com/2017/12/16/editorial-santa-claras-idea-of-district-elections-is-a-joke>. After a response from Steve Chessin, various questions and discussion, Emilie moved that we oppose Measure A, Marcene seconded the motion, and it passed with 10 yes votes, 2 no votes, and 1 abstention.

Budget update and fundraising: Karen reported that we are somewhat behind in our financial contributions. She proposed some ideas for fundraising: (1) a silent auction at the June election and picnic, which has been a successful strategy for other groups, and (2) including the Dean Club in estate planning, which Karen herself is doing and can help us with. Carolyn had already put on the agenda a request to make the link to Don Mayall's memorial fund active. Mary Gill noted in connection to the latter that she was going to ask us to have an on-line Don Mayall memorial wildflower walk fundraiser, in tribute to Don's wonderful leadership with these events over the years. Marcene suggested creating and selling new club T-shirts. Emilie proposed lunches with various people who are experts on specific topics. Emilie and Karen volunteered to be on the fundraising committee and will welcome help from other club members.

Blue Wave Writers for Michael Eggman May 3: Mary reported that the next meeting of the Blue Wave Writers will be on Thursday, May 3, from 1:30 to 4:00 at the Democratic Volunteer Center, 960 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. We'll be writing person-to-person postcards in support of Michael Eggman in CD 10, where there are two Republicans and 5 Democrats running (along with Dotty Nygard, a Democrat who withdrew but who is still on the ballot). Michael is the frontrunner, but the large number

of candidates makes for very serious competition, and Michael needs our support. Cards, stamps, and addresses to Democrats in Michael's district will be provided, as will refreshments. If you are interested in writing these cards on your own, please contact Mary.

T J Cox event on Sunday, April 29 with Zoe Lofgren: Mary passed around flyers about an event on April 29: 1:30 "meet and greet" and 3:00 p.m. wine and cheese fundraiser for T J Cox at the Democratic Volunteer Center, 960 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. Zoe Lofgren will attend the wine and cheese event. T. J. Cox is running against David Valadao in CA-21. \$25 minimum. To RSVP, go to <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/tj42918>

San Francisco Open-Source Paper Ballot project: Nancy Neff passed around information about the SF Open-Source Paper Ballot project, which would create a voting system that is transparent and open to public inspection (not using secret proprietary software), secure, and that provides paper ballots. This could be used by any county and would save vast sums of money in the long run and also protect our election system. The California Clean Money Campaign is supporting the effort to provide matching funds for developing the system. Nancy also described a campaign kickoff for the project on May 6 from 2:00 to 4:30 at the Women's Building Auditorium, 3543 18th Street, #8, San Francisco 94110. Speakers will include Assembly member David Chiu and Senator Scott Wiener (the authors of the matching funds proposal), Trent Lange of CCMC, and Christine Pelosi. Lucas moved that we endorse the project and cosponsor the kickoff, Carolyn seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. RSVP for the kickoff at YesFairElections.org.

Link to contribution for Don Mayall Memorial Fund: Carolyn asked that we provide a link on the club website to this fund, and John answered that he would do this. Carolyn will write something to accompany the link.

Mountain View Measure V: Lucas reported on the rent stabilization measure passed in Mountain View in 2016, which the Dean Club endorsed and which some of our members worked hard on. Although the city council has not been supportive, it is still a robust program. This year the California Apartment Association and Silicon Valley Association of Realtors are among the groups working to put a measure on the ballot that would substantially weaken Measure V by changing the vacancy rate that would trigger a suspension of the bill to only 3 percent. Emilie moved that we pass a resolution opposing signature gathering for the new measure, Chris Roat seconded the motion, and it passed with 15 yes votes and 1 abstention.

DVC contribution: Ralph discussed the savings the Dean Club has made on rental fees for our link meetings by using the Democratic Volunteer Center. He said the DVC is helping candidates get elected here and in other states as well and proposed that we make another financial contribution to the DVC. The club donated \$1000 recently. However, we were beginning to run very short on time, so the idea was postponed for future consideration.

OLD BUSINESS/TASK FORCE REPORTS

Candidates and initiatives: Mary had passed around an updated list of ten California Congressional districts that are now held by Republicans but that might provide pick-up opportunities for Democrats. There was no time for discussion. Also, she passed around a flier for a fundraiser and Q and A for **Andrew Janz on May 24 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** at the Democratic Volunteer Center, 960 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. \$25 minimum. To RSVP, go to <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/janzsouthbay#>

Social justice: No report.

Good government: Nancy asked people to contact her if they would like to go to Sacramento on Wednesday for the Assembly budget committee hearing on Kevin Mullin's new bill, AB 2188, the Social Media Disclosure Act, which CCMC is supporting.

There were no further task force reports for lack of time.

Political outreach: No report.

Club building:

Health care:

Economic justice:

Environment:

Education: No report.

Club membership: Ben Shapero reported that we have 245 members (including 34 "paid plus members" who have paid for more than one year and 128 who are currently in arrears), 719 Facebook members, and 312 Yahoo members. There are 4 new "paid plus" members and 10 new Facebook members so far this year.

Announcement

❖ Chris Roat announced that Bob Marshalla from Citizens Climate Lobby will be the speaker at the next DFA Link program Monday, May 14, at the Democratic Volunteer Center, 960 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. Potluck at 6:30 and meeting at 7:00. Also, he asked that people contact him if they have ideas for future speakers.

Adjournment: At 9:05 p.m. Emilie moved that we adjourn, Ben Shapero seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill