



Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting

May 28, 2018

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

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

Next DFA-link meetings: June 11, 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 7:05 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself and described a recent political activity.

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

Approval of minutes: Emilie Gatfield moved that we approve the April minutes, Amy Wright seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

Treasurer's report: Karen Porter reported by e-mail that we have \$5380 in the treasury: \$1562 in the state and \$3818 in the federal account. She asked that people send her ideas for donations for the silent auction to be held at the club picnic and election. [Typical items are objects that can be displayed such as books or artwork or themed gift baskets containing various kinds of soaps or coffees, etc.; also common are IOUs for "services" such as a lunch or dinner that you would provide for a certain number of people, and so on.]

NEW BUSINESS

Call for nominating committee: John announced that Amy Wright will chair the nominating committee for next year's officers, to be voted on at the June picnic. He asked that people contact her if they are interested in serving on the committee. You must be a paid-up member of the club and not be running for office yourself. You can use the email address: nominations@dfasv.org (the messages will go to Amy).

Call for nominees: If you want to run or want to nominate someone else, send a message to the e-mail address above. If you are already on the steering committee, please e-mail your intentions as to whether or not you will run again.

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. Amy Wright volunteered to report on the environment task force.

All Clubs Unity Picnic sponsorship: John described the annual Unity Picnic, held in July. Since we do not have a business meeting in June, it's on our May calendar every year to vote on sponsorship and funding of the event. The event will be in Emma Prusch Farm Park in San Jose. The \$150 fee includes a barbecue that is free to all club members who attend. Each club has a booth and can pass out information and membership forms, so this is a great opportunity for our club to recruit new members. Mary Gill moved that we sponsor the event and authorize the \$150 expense, Gerry Hunt seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

Ballot initiative assignments: John noted that at the August DFA-link meeting in election years we always do a presentation on the ballot initiatives. Each initiative is presented by a Dean Club member using a template that John provides (the template makes the task much simpler). Presentations are no more than 5 minutes long. John urged club members to choose the initiatives they would like to report on and let him know which ones they would like to cover; hopefully, each will be covered by a different club member. In an e-mail before the meeting, John had provided three links: one to possible ballot initiatives for November, one to the election calendar for state elections, and one to the election calendar for county elections. Amy Wright noted that there is a helpful website called Pete Rates the Propositions. Possible ballot initiatives:

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/initiative-and-referendum-status/initiatives-referenda-cleared-circulation/>

Election calendar for state elections: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/upcoming-elections/general-election-november-6-2018/general-election-calendar/>

Election calendar for Santa Clara county:

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Info/Nov2018info/Documents/Abbreviated%20Election%20Calendar.pdf>

Endorsement interview schedule, 8/10/18: John pointed out that close of filing for most offices locally will be August 10. Any candidate can request a Dean Club endorsement for the position he or she is running for; club members who want to endorse in a particular race can ask a candidate to request that the club endorse in that race. The endorsement committee will be meeting before August 10 in order to try to schedule interviews with the many Democratic candidates, a process that can take a lot of time. So far this year, the club has been asked to endorse in the Cupertino City Council and Alum Rock Unified School Board races. The committee consists of John and Barbara Comiskey, Emilie Gatfield, Ben Stetson, and Karen Porter.

No on Measure A donation request: Last month the club endorsed the No on Measure A initiative in Santa Clara. Background: The measure 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 a form of rank-choice voting. The No on A campaign and Asian Law Alliance presented the view that this would not result in better ethnic representation and that six districts would be needed, and the Dean club endorsed their position. Since then, former Assembly member Paul Fong has requested a donation to the No on A campaign. Emilie Gatfield moved that we donate \$50. After some discussion, Ben Stetson asked to amend this amount to \$100, which Emilie accepted. Emilie then moved that we contribute \$100, Gerry Hunt seconded the motion, and it passed with one abstention.

GOTV efforts at the DVC for key House races: Mary Gill announced that there will be phone banking at the Democratic Volunteer Center in Palo Alto (960 San Antonio Road) all four days of GOTV to help turn out Democratic voters in key House districts. In some of these there is a crowded field of Dems and a danger of two Republicans winning. Hours: June 2 and 3, 11:00 to 5:00; June 4 and 5: 11:00 to 7:00. Calls will be to CA-10 (Denham), 21 (Valadao), 22 (Nunes), 48 (Rohrabacher), and possibly 39 (Royce) and 49 (Issa). On June 5, there will be an election party starting at 7:00, when phone banking ends, with food and drink provided as people watch the election returns.

OLD BUSINESS/TASK FORCE REPORTS

Candidates and initiatives: Mary reported that the Blue Wave Writers (including Dean Club members Joyce Freiburg, Mary Takahashi, and Marcene Van Dierendonck) wrote 3600 postcards in support of Michael Eggman in CA-10 in the last three weeks. The group got very creative and added stickers, hand-made art, various color patterns, etc. and it turned out to be a really fun project. John commented that he has heard that canvassers are reporting that hand-written postcards are effective because people remember getting them (as opposed to printed mailers) and so remember the candidates' names and/or other information about the races (making their job a bit easier).

Social justice: Emilie Gatfield announced that on Wednesday, May 30 at 9:30 a.m., there will be a rally to condemn comments by Judge Aaron Persky's legal counsel Jim McManis about Emily Doe. The rally, organized by the Recall Judge Aaron Persky committee, will be in front of McManis' office at 50 W San Fernando Street, San Jose.

Good government: Since Nancy Neff had to be on a conference call and could not attend, Mary Gill reported on the California Clean Money Campaign activities. The Open Source Paper Ballot Voting System did not get funding from the state legislature, unfortunately (denied by both the Assembly and Senate budget committees). While this was very disheartening, the Clean Money Campaign will keep working on this and hope to get funding next year. On a more positive note, Kevin Mullin's bill, AB 2188, the Social Media Disclosure Act, passed its Assembly committee hearings and will be voted on in the full Assembly this week. It needs a 2/3 vote. If you haven't signed the petition

in support, please do so at cacean.org, and if you can make calls this week to help get the bill passed, please join the CallFire team working on this:

http://yesfairelections.ngpvanhost.com/events?postal_code=&radius=&event_type&date_start&date_end=2018-06-01

Political outreach: John reported that he has been continuing to attend resistance group meetings and encouraging the people on the central committee and others to do the same. He has been impressed with the energy of the events and the number of people who attend, and he has also been encouraging them to form Democratic clubs. Early next month, some of the members of Orchard City Indivisible will get a charter for their new Democratic club, Avalanche. John will print badges for them and deliver them to the new club members.

Club building: No report.

Health care: Gerry Hunt reported that SB 562 (single-payer) is almost surely not going to be voted on this year.

Economic justice: No report.

Environment: Amy Wright reported that she will look at future projects collaborating on beach clean-ups (for instance, in Pacifica) as a possible club activity. Some club members said they would volunteer for this. Mary reported on the meeting at the Santa Clara Valley Water Board recently about Cal WaterFix and the Delta tunnels. Several hours of testimony was almost all in opposition, from environmental groups, public officials, and others, including Dean Club members Swanee Edwards, Meg Giberson (who had submitted a lengthy and well-documented written comment prior to the meeting), and Mary. However, four out of seven board members voted for the WaterFix: Gary Kremen, Barbara Keegan, Nai Hsueh, and Tony Estremera. (Directors Kremen and Estremera are up for re-election in November.) Ben Stetson noted that they had voted previously to reject the twin tunnels, and that the *San Jose Mercury* among others had also opposed. There was a discussion about possible club reactions. Ben Stetson suggested that we send a letter in opposition to the vote to our district directors. John said that the steering committee will work on drafting a letter.

Education: John reported on the situation at the Alum Rock Unified School District, in which the embattled board has announced that it will fire the superintendent who has been trying to hold them accountable for the numerous problems there. The state is watching the board's activities closely. The Dean Club will be endorsing in this race.

Club membership: Ben Shapero reported that we have 242 members (including 39 "paid plus members" who have paid for more than one year and 124 who are currently in arrears), 717 Facebook members, and 312 Yahoo members. There are 4 new "paid plus" members and 10 new Facebook members so far this year. John mentioned the problem we've been having with the Yahoo group, where instead of posting messages immediately they are bundled and delayed; that is, the digest feature is not working properly. John is

trying to get Yahoo to correct this problem, but the support system is not working, and John has had trouble reaching anyone at the company. He will keep trying.

Announcements

❖ Amy Wright reported that the county still needs poll workers (who receive \$115 for training and the day of work).

❖ R L Miller from Climate Hawks Vote, who is also chair of the state party's environmental caucus, will be the speaker at the next DFA Link program Monday, June 11, at the Democratic Volunteer Center, 960 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. Potluck at 6:30 and meeting at 7:00.

Adjournment: At 8:25 p.m. Emilie Gatfield moved that we adjourn, Ben Shapero seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill